



# New Products

► Introducing products, services for cattlemen; compiled by **Linda Robbins**, assistant editor



## Mineral for breeding

BioZyme Inc. brand VitaFerm® is now offering its highly bioavailable Concept-Aid® breeding mineral in a convenient Power Block delivery system.

The new mineral combines 20% natural protein with highly available organic copper, zinc, manganese and high levels of vitamin E for free-choice supplementation.

The block is specifically formulated to target cycling, embryo production and conception when fed to cattle 30 days prior to calving through breeding. The addition of the company's proprietary Amaferm® advantage — a natural feed additive that acts as a probiotic to increase digestibility to maximize

the energy value of feed — has also been research-proven to increase energy available to the animal, resulting in more milk production and an increased ability to initiate and maintain pregnancy and fertility. The mineral is especially beneficial in artificial insemination and embryo transfer breeding programs.

One 40-pound (lb.) block is recommended for 10-20 head of cattle. The rate of consumption is 1 lb. per head, per day.

Visit [www.vitaferm.com/products/concept-aid-power-block/](http://www.vitaferm.com/products/concept-aid-power-block/) for more information.

## App to monitor indoor and outdoor conditions

AcuRite® has announced the My AcuRite weather environment system, a versatile, customizable and expandable platform that allows agriculture professionals to accurately measure local conditions, share and analyze data, upload to weather communities and receive notifications of changing conditions.

The cloud-based platform delivers the company's environmental measurement technologies to a consumer's laptop, tablet or smartphone. An intuitive, data-packed app and web interface connect serious weather

observers with actionable information about their specific location.

In addition to providing a crystal-clear picture of outdoor conditions, the app can be expanded to deliver a variety of environmental monitoring functions and customizable notifications.

Features and capabilities include precision weather measuring, including rainfall tracking, wind speed, wind direction, temperature, humidity and barometric pressure; the ability to track, analyze, export and archive historical weather data; broadcasting to weather communities, plus the ability to share weather data within the company network.

The apps are available online at <http://acurite.com> and on Amazon. The smartphone app is available through the Apple App store and Google Play.

For more information visit [www.acurite.com/my-acurite](http://www.acurite.com/my-acurite).

## Aerial surveys

Coptrz has launched aerial surveys for precision agriculture via drones. The surveys

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## BOOKS & LOOKS

### Organic guide

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) has announced the publication of its *Organic Farmers' Guide to the Conservation Reserve Program Field Border Buffer Initiative*. The guide is intended to be a free resource for organic farmers interested in accessing the USDA new Organic Buffer Initiative.

NSAC's guide includes eligibility and application information, program basics, detailed descriptions of key conservation practices and associated payments, as well as two producer profiles and resources for additional information.

The buffer initiative, which is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as part of the Conservation Reserve Program's (CRP) Continuous Sign-up (CCR), aims to establish up to 20,000 acres of new conservation buffers.

Through the Organic Buffer Initiative FSA provides farmers with rental payments, cost-share payments, and, in many cases, incentive payments for land that is set aside for conservation buffers for a period of 10-15 years. The initiative helps organic producers limit the impacts of pesticide drift, enhance their conservation systems, and meet National Organic Program (NOP) certification requirements for natural resource and biodiversity conservation.

The guide is available for download at [sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/2016\\_5-CRP-organic-field-border-buffer-guide-FINAL.pdf](http://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/2016_5-CRP-organic-field-border-buffer-guide-FINAL.pdf).

### Feed value estimator

BioZyme Inc. has created a free online tool for cattle producers that estimates feed values based on feedstuff nutrient content and current market prices. BioZyme's Feed Barometer utilizes a software program designed by Normand St. Pierre and his colleagues at Ohio State University to evaluate multiple feed ingredients for a selected group of nutrients.

For its Feed Barometer, BioZyme has selected crude protein (CP), net energy for gain (NE<sub>g</sub>) and effective fiber (eNDF) as the most important nutrients driving the feed ingredient value for beef cattle. The software program uses multiple ingredients in its appraisal set to reflect current market conditions, therefore avoiding the risk of basing evaluations on just a few ingredients.

Producers can access the online tool by visiting the company's website ([www.biozymeinc.com](http://www.biozymeinc.com)) and selecting its VitaFerm® brand product pages located at <http://vitaferm.com/regional-feed-barometer/>.

Producers can then select a region within the United States to view region-specific Feed Barometers for various forage/fiber sources, energy feeds and protein feeds.

The system shows the reported price and nutritional value for each nutrient in that region, then calculates through a sliding graph whether the feed is considered "overpriced," "neutral" or a "good buy." The prices represent wholesale commodity prices, and generally do not include freight or added value from a feed manufacturer.

For more information visit [www.biozymeinc.com](http://www.biozymeinc.com).

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are quick, easy to interpret and cost-effective, according to the new company.

Previously, aerial surveys were possible only on large-budget farms with access to helicopters. Now, any agricultural project of any size can use unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to help increase crop yield and improve operational margins.

Drones are able to deliver topographical, near-infrared and visible-spectrum maps, allowing farmers to develop complex overlays to identify areas for improvement. The team will be able to help advise any farmer seeking to use UAVs for precision farming techniques on which model is best for their needs. Many have swappable components, making them an ideal multi-tasking tool for any farmer.

For more information email [info@coptrz.com](mailto:info@coptrz.com) or visit [www.coptrz.com](http://www.coptrz.com).

### Updated ATV

Can-Am has introduced the Outlander XT that includes many value-added, performance-enhancing parts that offer a functional purpose, benefits to the rider and an improved appearance.

The ATV has an 89-hp, 80° 976cc liquid-cooled, eight-valve Rotax V-twin engine, while



2017 Outlander XT850

the Outlander 850 family is powered by a 78-hp, liquid-cooled, 80° 854cc V-twin engine.

The Tri-Mode DPS steering system features three modes (MIN, MED and MAX), allowing riders to select the desired amount of steering assist to adjust to the terrain requirements and to their riding style. All modes offer less assist at high speed to keep maximum steering feel to the rider and more assist at low speed to reduce steering effort.

New for the 2017 model are 14-inch (in.) [(35.6 centimeter (cm))] cast-aluminum wheels. The cast-aluminum eight-spoke wheels on the XT models have a unique, custom-like finish compared to the standard model and an ultra-strong centerless design. The XT models will include an all-black wheel. The 26-inch ITP TerraCross tires

supply versatile traction in both hardpack and softer terrain. For an edgier and more rugged trim, the XT models include heavy-duty front and rear bumpers.

Also new for 2017 is the RF Digitally Encoded Security System (D.E.S.S.<sup>™</sup>) that has been improved and redesigned on all Outlander ATVs. Each ATV includes both a performance key and regular key. A factory-installed anti-theft device is standard equipment.

The Outlander XT 1000R, 850 and 650 are offered in painted White & Black, water-dipped Brushed Aluminum and the industry-exclusive Mossy Oak Break-Up Country Camo finish.

For more information visit [www.brp.com](http://www.brp.com).

### Haying tools

Vermeer Corp. has announced the release of the RR140 rotary rake along with the TD100 and TD190 tedders. These new hay-handling tools are designed for small to mid-size operations looking for tedders or rakes to help boost hay production efficiency.

The RR140 Rotary Rake has a raking width of 13.9 ft. and is designed to boost speed and efficiency by allowing operators to rake fast in wet or dry hay in a variety of crops.

The RR140 is a versatile, side-delivery rake featuring 11 arms that are each equipped

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with four double tines, providing uniform raking actions that gently stir the hay for faster drying while also maintaining the nutritional value of the crop. Hydraulic adjustments keep the tines off the ground, minimizing ash content in the windrow.

The new tedders are built for speed, convenience and reliability, and priced for the budget-conscious customer. The TD-Series models offer a 10-ft. tedding width on the TD100 and a 19-ft. tedding width on the TD190. Both models feature convenience, including toolless height adjustments and an adjustable crank for changing the pitch angle in a matter of seconds.



Vermeer TD190 tedder

For more information visit [www.vermeer.com](http://www.vermeer.com).

### Receiver and signal

John Deere is taking satellite-based guidance to higher levels of accuracy, repeatability and signal pull-in speed with the introduction of the StarFire 6000 receiver and SF3 signal. With the combination of the StarFire 6000 Receiver and SF3 signal, customers can get Real Time Kinematic (RTK)-like accuracy without having to invest in an RTK system, or if they are operating in fields without an RTK network.

In addition to improved accuracy and repeatability, the StarFire 6000 delivers improved uptime that keeps precision ag systems running in challenging conditions. By using the latest navigation algorithms, the StarFire 6000 can track up to three StarFire satellite signals at once, choose the one that will deliver the best performance, and automatically switch to an alternate signal to help maintain accuracy and performance if the primary signal is blocked.

An improved Rapid Recovery feature allows for a quicker return to high-accuracy performance if the GNSS signals are lost due to shading from trees, buildings or terrain. StarFire 6000 RTK customers also receive up to 14 days of RTK Extend,<sup>TM</sup> which allows



John Deere StarFire 6000 Receiver

machinery to keep operating with guidance even with a lost or interrupted signal.

The StarFire 6000 Receiver has a built-in USB port to install software updates in about three minutes compared to more than 20 minutes with the previous receivers. The receiver also has a built-in 8-GB data-logger to capture and store data for improved troubleshooting and diagnostics.

The company has maintained its plug-and-play integration of the new receiver, making it compatible with current and former displays and other technologies.

Current StarFire iTC and StarFire 3000 customers can easily upgrade to the new StarFire 6000 Receiver and SF3 signal this year. This newest guidance technology can be factory installed on Model year 2017 sprayers, combines, tractors and other platforms.

For more information contact your local dealer or visit [www.johndeere.com/ag](http://www.johndeere.com/ag).

