



New Products

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

Special-edition utility vehicle

John Deere is offering a new special edition Gator™ utility vehicle geared toward crop and livestock producers who work long days and nights, and require additional storage to keep their tools organized and easily accessible. The XUV 825i Special Edition Gator features two integrated cargo toolboxes ideal for carrying tools or supplies, plus LED roof lights for added visibility.

The two cargo boxes are situated on the driver and passenger side of the 50-horsepower (hp), 812-cubic-centimeter (cc) vehicle. The driver's side box opens from the top and has two divided compartments with a



XUV 825i Special Edition Gator

removable tray. The passenger side box opens from the side and features one open compartment. Both toolboxes boast 75-lb. capacity.

The new vehicle also features two integrated LED roof lights designed for producers who are out early in the morning or late at night. The new lights produce 74% more lumens than equivalent halogen work lights and last 250 times longer.

The model is outfitted with power steering, a deluxe cargo box with polyurea liner, integrated brake and taillights, and an operator protective structure (OPS) with nets. The vehicle is also equipped with yellow alloy rims and Maxxis® Bighorn tires. A power

BOOKS & LOOKS

Parasite control video

A free online video is now available from Merial, a Sanofi company, to help producers access up-to-date information on strategic parasite control and the impact it can have on their bottom line. The video segment, *Understanding Resistance*, explains — in simple terms — the cycle of resistance and offers information on the latest technology in parasite control.

Longrange® (eprinomectin), launched by the company in December 2012, is a prescription product and must be obtained through a prescription from a veterinarian. Its Theraphase™ formulation offers unique pharmacokinetics that allow the product to work for an extended period of time and then quickly leave the animal's system.

The video is online at <http://thelongrangelook.com/resources.php>. Additional educational segments are also available.

For more information, see www.merial.com.

Interstate travel website

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) and the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) have announced the availability of their new website dedicated to simplifying interstate travel requirements for producers, veterinarians and marketers doing business across state lines.

Powered by Trace First, the new website makes it simple to find health requirements before traveling. Users enter their origin, destination and species and the website gives a comprehensive list of requirements. By entering their location they can also find the nearest approved tagging site. The site currently includes cattle regulations in its first phase, with other species planned in the future.

The site is the result of collaboration with state animal health officials to provide accurate results for movement regulations, particularly after hours. The 24/7 access is intended to give instant access to the information and support health protection across the United States.

To access the website, go to www.interstatelivestock.com.

Online land assessment tool

A new online tool can help landowners and land managers better understand their land. The Ag Site Assessment Tool, developed by University of Missouri (MU) Extension, integrates information from multiple sources into a report describing physical, cultural and environmental characteristics of a piece of land.

The North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center provided funding to develop the website. The tool can help farmers determine if waters on their farms are subject to the federal *Clean Water Rule*. While it can give the first indication of a potential problem, MU Extension agricultural economist Ray Massey says, it is not a decision-making tool. Ag Site is housed on Community Commons (www.communitycommons.org), a free website that helps users make use of publicly available data about their communities through mapping and reporting tools.

After generating an Ag Site report, users may print the report, export it as a PDF file or save the report to the Community Commons website to access later. Massey says he and colleagues are continually improving the site, so users returning to it may find more information about their land as new data layers are added.

The free Web-based tool is available at <http://agsite.missouri.edu>.

Livestock grazing videos

Cow-calf and beef stocker producers in the Great Plains now have a new set of tools to help them adapt quickly to a wide range of changing weather conditions and climate scenarios. A new series of eight videos from researchers at institutions in Kansas and Oklahoma has been produced and posted online, said Lana Barkman, extension program coordinator for the Great Plains Grazing Project, a cooperative effort involving researchers and educators from Kansas State University (K-State), Oklahoma State University (OSU), the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, the University of Oklahoma (OU) and Tarleton State University.

The eight videos include two stocking-rate decisions and pasture-management considerations videos featuring Hugh Aljoe of the Noble

and front protection package includes power lift, a heavy-duty front brush guard and fender guard, along with floor mats.

For more information visit a local dealer or www.johndeere.com/gator.

Apps and vehicle functionality

John Deere has introduced new precision ag solutions with Generation 4 CommandCenter™ Premium Activation. The offering combines the three most commonly used applications from the GreenStar™ 3 2630 display — AutoTrac™, Documentation and Section Control — along with vehicle functionality, through the onboard 4600 CommandCenter-integrated display. Premium activation is available on 7R and 8R Series tractors, plus 6R Series and 9R Series tractors.

The Generation 4 CommandCenter integrates a number of different applications, including Section Control, which provides customers with potential input savings by minimizing skips and overlap, and, according to an Auburn University study, can save customers an average of 20% or more on inputs for planting and fertilizing.

Another popular application offered with

the premium activation is AutoTrac machine guidance, which includes new software updates that help improve production. For example, operators are now able to shift AB curves radially at any point in the curve, offering more flexibility to customers with waterways, terraces and other obstacles in the field.

The Documentation feature rounds out the key functions available through the integrated display. With Documentation, operators can manage and track a variety of applications, including capturing and recording all field operations. Also available in the premium activation is wireless data transfer, which uses JDLINK™ Connect to enable efficient wireless information flow from the machine to the John Deere Operations Center.

For more information see a local dealer or visit www.johndeere.com/ag.

Solar-powered generator plus light tower

Larson Electronics has announced the release of a solar powered generator with a pneumatic light tower mast equipped with four 120-watt LED light heads, six solar

panels, a solar charging system, a battery bank and a pneumatic mast mounted on a trailer with outriggers and a removable tongue.

The SPLT-1.5K-750A-30-4XWP120-LED is a 1.5-kilowatt (kW) solar generator system that replenishes 363 amp hours of usable battery capacity per day. This solar system is equipped with four 120-watt LED light heads mounted to a 30-foot (ft.) collapsible pneumatic mast and is equipped with a dusk-to-dawn sensor. This unit is composed of six 265-watt poly-crystalline solar panels, generating a total maximum output of 1,590 watts. The panels are mounted to a rotating axis assembly. They can be rotated until they face inward for transporting and rotated upward when deploying.

The trailer itself houses a built-in wire raceway that brings power from the component control center and batteries to the light mast. At the base of the mast there is an access panel for making connections from the power source to the cabling within the pneumatic mast.

For more information visit www.larsonelectronics.com or call 1-800-369-6671.



Foundation; one evaluating options and response to drought with Walter Fick of K-State; one genetic trends and climate consideration video with David Lalman of OSU; culling strategies for drought management with Megan Rolf, OSU; historical climate patterns in the Southern Great Plains featuring Albert Sutherland, OSU; and nutrition and management of early-weaned calves with Justin Waggoner of K-State.

The approach was to compile the most successful practices used by cow-calf and beef stocker producers in the Great Plains into the series of videos, said Waggoner, who is the K-State Southwest Area extension beef systems specialist.

Two examples of successful practices described in the series include early weaning and maintaining diverse enterprises (i.e., stockers and cow-calf enterprises) to provide flexibility in periods of drought. While many of the strategies are not new, the goal is to encourage livestock producers to be flexible and plan ahead to ensure survivability in as many contingencies as possible, she explained.

The Great Plains Grazing USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Conservation Activity Plan project is supported by Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grant No. 2013069002-23146 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The videos are available at www.greatplainsgrazing.org/enterprise-flexibility2.html.

Online ag safety & health information

A plethora of agricultural safety and health information is available by typing a few key words into a search engine, but trying to synthesize and validate the masses of content can be difficult. The Farm & Ranch eXtension in Safety and Health (FReSH) Community of Practice (CoP) gathers and disseminates practical, research-driven information. FReSH obtains most of its content from the Cooperative Extension system based at land-grant universities, and from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

(NIOSH) agricultural centers. However, FReSH also works with smaller organizations such as Farm Safety For Just Kids and AgriSafe Network to disseminate their resources, as well.

The CoP is a collaborative effort among universities, industry and government, with more than 100 individual members from multiple regions of the country who review and produce agriculture safety and health information. These members work to provide usable resources such as videos, publications, online safety courses and webinars to the general rural population, agricultural producers, and agricultural safety and health professionals. Financial support for the project is provided by the USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), eXtension and CHS Inc.

View the information at www.extension.org/agsafety.

Organic handbook

The USDA has announced the release of a new handbook aimed at helping Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) field staff work with organic and transitioning-to-organic producers.

In the past, NRCS has faced challenges when working with this segment of farmers and ranchers, who must comply with strict standards set by the National Organic Program (NOP). The handbook explains how NRCS conservation activities align with NOP standards, and how NRCS staff can help producers meet conservation and regulatory objectives simultaneously.

Some conservation practices may not be well-suited for organic and transitioning-to-organic operations. For example, where a conventional producer might work with NRCS to adopt a no-till system or to mitigate the harmful impacts of chemical pesticides, an organic producer may instead seek guidance on building soil organic matter or preventing pest pressures in the first place.

“This handbook will be particularly useful for field staff who are more familiar working with conventional producers,” said Greg Fogel, senior policy specialist with NSAC. It can be found online at <http://blogs.usda.gov/2015/11/19/new-handbook-highlights-resources-for-conservation-on-organic-farms/>.