

Prairie FARMER

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TAKING IT IN: West Brooklyn farmer Tony Eggers likes to check out new technology at Precision Planting's Farm Progress Show exhibit. "They have a lot going on there, and it's a very educational booth," he says. "The more educated farmers become, the more interested in stuff like that they become."

Tech buff's gala



Farm Progress Show powers up

MAKE plans now to attend the 2007 Farm Progress Show, where you can walk the paved streets of the permanent biennial site in Decatur. The show runs from Aug. 28-30.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 13-17; kids 12 and under are free. Check out this issue for adult show admission discounts, or visit your county Farm Bureau office.

Matt Jungmann, show manager, expects a packed exhibit field, which has grown by another street this year just to accommodate extra exhibitors. There are more than 400 exhibitors this year, spread over 75 acres. Harvest and tillage demonstrations will run all three days.

On Wednesday night, take in a concert with Tracy Lawrence and Tracy Byrd. Buy advance concert tickets for \$12 at www.farmprogressshow.com/concert or call 866-279-7469. Tickets are \$15 at the gate.

Be sure to check out www.farmprogressshow.com for further updates and show information.

■ Look for your official 2007 show program in this issue!

By HOLLY SPANGLER

WHEN Tony Eggers walks onto the grounds of the Farm Progress Show later this month, he'll have a mental list of attractions to see and exhibits to visit — most of them having to do with new technology.

"I enjoy the innovative stuff," says the West Brooklyn farmer and Mycogen sales representative. "I'm interested in what's next and what's new."

And in scouting out new technology, Eggers will plan a stop at the Precision Planting booth. Precision Planting is a company started by Illinois farmers and innovators Gregg and Cindy Sauder back in 1993, to help farmers improve seed spacing, depth

Key Points

- Precision Planting combines sales with education at show.
- Look for new technology at show exhibits and field demos.
- Precision Planting will unveil new planter monitoring system.

and overall accuracy. Today they employ 45 people in the production and distribution of proprietary meter components, the MeterMax meter calibration system and Keeton seed firmers.

This year, they will exhibit at the Farm Progress Show for the 13th time.

The Sauders' booth has become one of the most popular at the show, in part because the staff plans a variety

of educational and interactive demonstrations. You'll see a tractor and planter actually planting corn, a root pit where Gregg gives scheduled seminars, and a soil bin where visitors can see side-by-side row units running in sand to reveal depth and spacing problems.

Gregg will also be talking about their eSet vacuum disks, which have gotten rave reviews in the countryside for helping create picket-fence stands.

This year, the Sauders will demo a new product: their 20/20 SeedSense planter monitoring system. The system measures the amount of row bounce and down force, and helps determine the proper amount of down pressure for specific soil conditions and types.

"We'll be running a 1790

John Deere planter that's equipped with the new 20/20," says Precision Planting's John Larkin. "Everybody will have a chance to play with the new system."

For the Sauder family,

the Farm Progress Show has become a family affair. They bring in a camping trailer and their seven kids are there, each with a job to do. "Some just to go sample the food!" Larkin laughs.

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