

Trimble expands precision ag tools

By DAN CRUMMETT

If you're reaching for the stars in agriculture, Trimble Navigation Ltd. has launched a raft of new equipment to keep you in touch with an increasingly large cloud of navigation satellites and to allow you to use that communication to save money and boost your yields.

Using improved technology from its construction and water management functions, Trimble pushed itself further into the leadership of precision agriculture support with its 2009 product launch that offers navigation aids for just about any pocketbook or technology comfort level on the farm.

The crown jewel of the 2009 Trimble product line is the new AgGPS FmX integrated touch-screen display that can work on its own as a guidance system or as part of an automated system to provide tractor and implement steering and variable-rate technology at the planter or applicator.

The FmX screen is 35% larger than the industry standard, and the unit includes a pair of Global Navigation Satellite System receivers that can take cues from U.S. GPS satellites, as well as the Russian GLONASS system. The unit also includes an integrated radio to allow real-time kinematic sub-inch accuracy performance. The basic FmX starts at \$5,995.

The company's EZ-Guide 500 lightbar guidance system gets a variable-rate application, or VRA, option this year that allows producers to apply fertilizer, seed or anhydrous ammonia only where it's needed as long as a prescription map is available. Other releases in Trimble's Office Management section provide software for creating prescriptions for inputs that work in tandem with the VRA system. Entry cost is \$2,995 for the EZ-Guide 500 plus \$750 for the VRA option.

With the new navigation equipment comes the addition of 110 new models of farm equipment listed in Trimble's inventory of AgGPS Autopilot platform kits. This brings total machines compatible with the hydraulically controlled automated steering system to more than 450 models and nearly 20 brands. The autopilot system plugs directly into the vehicle's power steering system and offers guidance, and roll, pitch and yaw compensation on the roughest ground.



INTEGRATED TOUCH SCREEN:

Trimble's new AgGPS FmX integrated touch-screen cab display is 35% larger than the industry standard and sports two receivers capable of taking cues from a number of satellite navigation systems throughout the world.

Key Points

- Trimble offers new products in precision agriculture equipment.
- The new AgGPS FmX has an integrated touch-screen display.
- EZ-Guide 500 lets producers apply seed, fertilizer, etc., only where needed.

The company also launched a pair of new stand-alone positioning receivers for 2009, the AgGPS 262 and the AgGPS 162.

The AgGPS 162 provides differential GPS information to precision agriculture equipment and a synthetic radar output to keep variable-rate controllers accurate without additional speed indicators

or sensors.

The AgGPS 262 is a low-profile, combined GPS receiver and antenna, offering a choice of accuracy levels. The 262 is a replacement for the Trimble's AgGPS 252 receiver and does not require new cabling or configuration.

For more information, go online to www.trimble.com/agriculture.

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