Precision farming tools worth a look

What’s New from the shows

Tiling made easy

If you can drive, you can tile, with Ag Leader’s new Intellislope Tile Plow Control System. You survey the field with RTK GPS by driving the path where you intend to install the tile. Then, you enter the desired minimum and maximum target depths, and minimum grade for the tile into the Intellislope controller. As you operate the tile plow, the Auto Tile program will control the plow automatically. Base list price: $9,995. See www.agleader.com.

Upgrade your GPS base station

LEICA introduces GeoAce as a state-of-the-art RTK base station for precision farming. Enhanced features include the ability to receive either RTK signals from satellite or signals from cellphone networks. You can move the station from field to field, or mount it in one central location. Depending upon conditions, you could receive signals within a 16-mile radius from the station. List price is $9,000. Call Leica Geosystems, Heerbrugg, Switzerland, 877-800-MOJO (6656), or see www.agguidance.com.

New Raven field computer

THE new Raven field computer, the Envizio Pro XL, is a larger version of Raven’s Envizio Pro field computer. Envizio Pro XL has a brilliant-color, non-glare, 10.4-inch touch-screen display that allows you to better see the field on the screen as you plant, spray, spread, harvest or till. It also has simple and advanced mapping capabilities and will generate a wide variety of application reports. Envizio Pro XL runs many Raven precision farming programs including SmarTrax, SmarTrax RTK, SmartSteer, AutoBoom, AccuBoom, Sidekick Pro, AccuFlow, AccuFlow HP, OmniRow, OmniSeed, Switch Pro, SmartYield and Slingshot. Base list price: $3,995. Call Raven, Sioux Falls, S.D., at 605-336-2750, or visit www.ravensimple.com.

Slide into assisted steering

TEEJET Technologies offers UniPilot, a new, mechanical steering option that gets you into assisted steering for much less than converting to a hydraulic system. The assisted steering feature works with the Matrix Pro computer controller from TeeJet. Guide with wide area augmentation system (WAAS), RTK or cellular GPS signals. Company representatives claim the out-of-the-box installation is easy. List price is $4,000 for the steering unit by itself. Call TeeJet Technologies, Wheaton, Ill., at 630-665-5292, or see www.teejet.com.

YOU’VE likely all heard the story about the middle-aged farmer so convinced he would never use auto-steer that a few years ago he wouldn’t even get off a tour wagon to go check out displays. Now you couldn’t get it away from him without using force. See if there are some tools here that you could fall in love with easily.