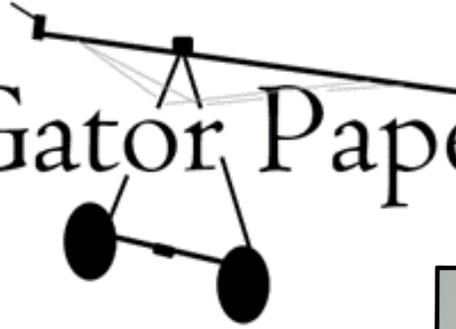


Spring 2019

The 'Gator Paper



Last year, we started our irrigation scheduling program *Water Watch* for customers to try out soil moisture probes with our help. Many growers on the program were very happy with the success it had.

This winter, we have spent time discussing how growers can save money and resources while producing excellent yields. As a result, Farm-Tech is proud to announce expanded precision irrigation offerings! Not only will irrigation scheduling be easier, but can also help reduce water usage! Listed below are our expanded irrigation offerings:



Water Watch-Started in 2018, Water Watch is the all-encompassing brand of irrigation water management that we provide. There are multiple tiers of intensity of management tailored to what we want to focus on with a grower.

***NEW CropMetrics**- CropMetrics is a state-of-the-art software that is designed to work in conjunction with soil moisture probes to better predict water usage and irrigation scheduling. Started in a Quonset in Nebraska in 2009, CropMetrics can predict soil moisture trends, levels, and prescribe water usage based on the probe readings. The software can also be used to create VRI prescriptions and change them depending on what the current moisture levels are in a field.

CropX-CropX is a leading, do-it yourself moisture probe company based in Israel that has been operating internationally in over 50 countries. Their patented "screw style" probe is a design only found on their easy to install moisture probes. Their simple app is used to only show moisture levels and actual irrigation recommendations are based on what the farmer thinks they need.

Drones-Drones have revolutionized many industries including agriculture. We have been using drones for troubleshooting pivots that have suddenly shut down in fields and also checking nozzles for obstructions and other problems. No more walking through tall, wet corn to check for issues on pivots.

Our program *Water Watch* encompasses all of our industry partnerships to determine watering needs for farms. By signing up on one of our programs, growers will get to have exposure to all precision ag solutions for water management and help maximize their return per acre.

Local NRCS offices have told us that most of what we offer can actually be cost shared by the government. Products like VFDs, soil moisture probes, Variable Rate Irrigation, new nozzles, updated pivots can all qualify. Growers looking to do these projects should talk to their local NRCS agents to learn more about what assistance they can provide.



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Notes from the Service Desk

With spring right around the corner, it is time to start planning your spring start up and maintenance needs. Last year, we introduced three different levels of maintenance plans, allowing growers to focus on spring field work while we take care of their pivot. This was a success and we once again plan to offer service plans. Contact the service department and we can go over them individually.

Soil moisture monitoring is growing more popular to assist in the decision process of when to water and how much to water. With water conservation and input costs in mind, we are offering solutions to all the soil moisture concerns you may have as well as Variable rate watering plans. The soil moisture monitors and VRI are just two of many options available through the NRCS for reimbursement with a management plan.

Keeping time management in mind has never been easier to become more efficient with remote access to your pivot, saving you the time it takes to go start and stop your system. We are offering remote management options for all pivot makes and models with command options to suit your individual needs. With all the new products out there we are working every day to assist you with any of your management needs. Please give me a call so we can schedule a time to address any individual concerns.

Service Manager
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