Deere’s winning app combination for seeding

AFGRI has again been running customer clinics on the use of Operations Center in the farming enterprise at various locations around the state.

The value of John Deere Operations Center is that it provides a set of online tools that can be utilized to access farm information at anytime and anywhere. These tools provide customers and their trusted partners with the ability to make collaborative decisions while viewing the same set of data that is stored on cloud-based servers. Customers are able to use these tools to plan work and then to monitor progress and control operations when they begin. The customer clinics have been held to ensure as seeding approaches, our customers will be able to utilize these tools for activities such as creating set up files for their displays and ensuring that prescription files are uploaded and ready to use.

Customers have also been made aware of the suite of free mobile apps that are available in the John Deere App Center. These include the MyOperations™ app, MyJobs app and MyTransfer™ app.

MyOperations™ App
The MyOperations™ app allows customers to see machine and field data remotely from their mobile phone or tablet and receive alerts on the go. Having the app at their disposal will allow customers to always know where machines are and what they are doing. Use of the MyOperations™ app requires an online John Deere Operations Center account with all machines stored under the equipment tab. The machines also require an active MTG to relay locational and performance information through the JDLink telematics system. The MyOperations™ app is suitable for use with any internet connected smartphone equipped with iOS system 10.0 or Android system 4.4 or later.

MyJobs App
The MyJobs app is designed for operators of machinery to be able to receive clear work instructions from and report back on completed work. Farmers are able to see if operators have commenced with tasks, have paused the task, possibly as the result of a breakdown or other reason for stoppage, resumed a task and completed a task. The operator does require a MyJohnDeere account, but this is easy to establish. The job instructions received have visualized field location & shapes, show the job details and can be used to provide directions to the field. These features in MyJobs help to ensure that the job gets done in the right place, at the right time, with the proper machine settings.

MyTransfer™ App
The MyTransfer™ app allows customers to transfer files from their machine displays to their John Deere Operations Center account using a wireless USB Mobile Data Transfer device and a smartphone or tablet. Mobile Data Transfer (MDT) does require a physical presence at the machine from which data is being transferred. MDT can be used by customers who have not yet fully migrated to the JDLink™ Connect wireless data transfer.

While the customer has been the focus of Operations Center clinics, AFGRI has also commenced conducting internal training in the use of the online tools and apps for customer-facing employees. Our aspiration is to ensure that in future seasons, a broader base of support is available during the crucial production period of seeding.

For more information on Operation Center or getting started with an account, contact your local AFGRI branch today. Alternatively, contact the Precision Ag Support Centre on (08) 6274 2424.
Apprentice induction kicks off careers in Ag

AFGRI’s second wave of apprentices and parts trainees, as part of the AFGRI Apprentice Academy, have completed their induction at our Middle Swan Head Office. A total of 25 apprentices and six parts trainees from our WA branches took part in the two-day induction at the end of February. The sessions helped introduce the apprentices and trainees to AFGRI procedures and protocols as well going through their TAFE training and HR safety requirements. The new recruits are working towards receiving qualifications in a Certificate III in Agricultural Mechanical Technology (AUR30416) for the apprentices and a Certificate III in Automotive Parts Sales (AUR31016) for parts trainees. AFGRI operations director Gollie Coetzee said the continued success of the Apprentice Academy ensures our customers’ needs will continue to be met. “If you look at our John Deere products and the advances in technology that have happened and will continue to happen, the academy ensures we can bring in and train the right caliber of personnel to look after the products of our customers,” Gollie said. “It’s very rewarding to see our vision for the academy not only become reality but also established and thriving.” AFGRI aftermarket manager Ken Paolini said the Apprentice Academy has established itself as a fantastic starting point for a career in agriculture. “Our investment in the academy and partnership with TAFE allows us to offer these opportunities, as well as keep youth in regional communities,” Ken said. “Having another 31 students enroll in the academy this year shows the message is spreading and gaining ground. “It’s really encouraging that word is getting around the community and people are taking notice and wanting to come on board.” The days also included live demonstrations of correct safety actions in the workplace including manual lifting, slips, trips and falls, spills, PPE and electric safety. However, it wasn’t all paperwork and tutorials. The group had an evening barbecue where they could all get to meet and socialize with their peers from around the state as well as a bacon and eggs breakfast together. AFGRI HR manager Gabriela Duguid said it was important the group not only learnt about AFGRI but got to know each other too. “Our apprentices and parts trainees will be learning and working together throughout their training and employment with AFGRI so it’s important they get on well with each other,” Gabriela said. “If friendships develop, it helps in many situations down the road whether its problem solving, knowledge sharing and in general, working well together.” The second wave adds to the 26 apprentices and 10 parts trainees inducted from the 2018 class. With the induction completed, the apprentices and parts trainees will return to their branches to learn from those around them before their first block of TAFE begins. The apprentices will start their first three-week block of TAFE in April with two more planned throughout the year whilst the parts trainees will start their first of three two-week blocks in March. For more information on the apprentice academy and working at AFGRI, contact Gabriela Duguid at recruitment@afgri.com.au or call (08) 6274 2400 today.