

AFGRI TECH TALK

TECH SAVVY - PADDOCK READY - FUTURE FOCUSED

A reminder AFGRI are here to help this harvest

AFGRI Equipment would like to remind our customers we are there to assist them this busy harvest period. Most of our branches are operating at extended hours over this period to ensure we can meet our customer's needs. From an AFGRI standpoint, a large focus before harvest started was to ensure we had high levels of relevant harvest parts stocked across our 14-branch network. This paired with the recent shipment and allocation of All Makes parts to the branches would ensure customers can maintain high levels of efficiency in the paddock and minimize downtime as

much as possible. Group aftermarket manager Ken Paolini said our priority, same as every harvest, is our customers. "Maintaining up-time is essential for our customers," Ken said. "We, at AFGRI, want to assure our customers we are here to make sure everything continues to run smoothly." Also, a reminder for those who have signed up for AFGRI's Precision Ag Support Centre, their number is (08) 6274 2424 and they are also operating at extended hours over harvest. AFGRI would like to wish those currently harvesting and those yet to start, a great harvest for 2018.

Apprentice day opens doors to careers in Ag

AFGRI Equipment had the pleasure of hosting our first apprentice open day this month, recruiting for our 2019 intake of apprentices and parts sales trainees. After an impressive initial intake of 24 apprentices and seven parts trainees in 2018, AFGRI were looking to hire another 25 apprentices as well as five parts sales trainees to start in 2019. After a phenomenal response to our recent ag college visits and recruitment drive, 30 applicants from a pool of around 200 were invited to attend our open day. Around 80 people altogether including parents and AFGRI employees attended the event, held at our Middle Swan head office. The day allowed applicants to learn more about the company and the roles they were applying for as well as ask any questions they may have. Of the 30 applicants invited, 14 were selected as apprentices for AFGRI and three as parts sales trainees with vacancies still available for parts sales trainees in Carnamah and Boyup Brook. Prior to the open day, seven apprentices had already been selected. Applicants will start working at their allocated AFGRI branches in the new year, with some starting earlier. AFGRI HR manager Gabi Duguid said the event was very enlightening for those who attended. "The day was brilliant," Gabi said. "It allowed applicants and their parents to learn about our company and see how established and how dynamic our company is. "From discussions on the day, everyone was very impressed... in particular, with our career progression paths and our investment in training and career development." The event started with a presentation led by Gabi and group aftermarket manager Ken Paolini with a special address from operations director Gollie Coetzee. This was then followed by a presentation from two lecturers from Central Regional TAFE as well as a question and answer session with some of our current apprentices and parts sales trainees. Representatives from our branches also attended the event and conducted formal



Operations director Gollie Coetzee addressing candidates and their parents.

interviews with potential applicants after lunch. Ken said the event helped to promote the rewards involved with a career in agriculture with AFGRI. "As we continue our drive to keep reinvesting in regional areas, we aim to ensure we continue to have an experienced and skilled workforce to meet the needs of our customers," he said. "Whether its career progression paths or working where they grew up (applicants from regional areas), the open day allowed us to effectively communicate the benefits of the opportunities we have available." The successful applicants will undertake their TAFE training at Central Regional TAFE's campus in Moora, with apprentices studying a Cert III in Agricultural Mechanical Technology and parts sales trainees a Cert III in Automotive Parts Sales. Aside from their TAFE training, they will also receive on-the-job training at their allocated branches as well as online technical training through John Deere University. For more information on our 2019 intake, contact HR manager Gabi Duguid on 0472 838 819 or email apprentice@afgri.com.au.

AFGRI TECH TALK

TECH SAVVY - Paddock Ready - Future Focused

Upgrades to MY19 JD 6R tractors announced

John Deere is updating their line-up of 110 to 250 hp 6R Series tractors with new features that will transform the way producers operate tractors. Three new optional features to enhance the cab tractors' performance and control include the all-new CommandPro™ Control multi-function joystick with IVT transmission, variable ratio steering and a 155L/minute hydraulic pump. CommandPro is a customisable, ergonomic joystick that enables operators to control tractor speed, direction and implement functions from a single control lever. This allows the operator to spend more time looking out front of the machine instead of down at the controls allowing for a better, less-tiring experience. Configurable buttons also allow operators to customize the control to best fit the job at hand which can then also be saved as profiles for next time. Tight turns are now also easier with new variable ratio steering. This allows for wheel rotations to be reduced by one-third when travelling at speeds less than 14 km/h. Additionally, less steering effort and arm movement are required to turn the machine during loader work or when making a headland turn. This feature requires a John Deere AutoTrac™ Ready equipped tractor and can be activated using a Generation 4 CommandCenter display. For 6145R to 6215R tractors, a new 155L per minute hydraulic pump can also be added to boost front-loader cycle times and capacity for implements. Other new features include an engine-oil service door providing access without opening the tractor hood, embedded telematics using JDLink services and a 4200 Generation 4 CommandCenter display. The 4200 display is included in the

base equipment package and provides more display surface area for viewing tractor and precision ag functions. It also requires fewer button presses to make changes. The updated MY19 6R tractors also come with 1-year JDLink Connect plus a 5-year JDLink Access and RDA subscription giving customers the ability to monitor their tractor and receive additional remote support. MY19 John Deere 6R tractors are currently available to order. For more information, contact your local AFGRI branch or visit afgri.com.au today.



MY19 6R tractors are now available for order at your local AFGRI branch.

Why WEEDit? Here's what you need to know

Despite our customers currently being busy with harvest, most of our farmers likely already have an eye on next year's operations. With that in mind, we thought it would be wise to showcase WEEDit, a spot spraying product from Croplands, described as the ultimate weapon against herbicide resistance.

How it works:

WEEDit utilises near infrared sensors spaced at one metre intervals along a boom which detect plant chlorophyll in fallowed fields. Each sensor activates a solenoid which controls the release of tank-mixed chemical through a bank of five spray nozzles per sensor onto the target. WEEDit sprays only where there are weeds (on average only 10% of the field) which helps to combat herbicide resistance by allowing the use of chemicals normally considered too expensive for blanket application. The WEEDit controller also has the advantage of displaying live feedback of sensor operation so an operator can see if sensors are functioning correctly in real-time.

Some key features include:

Speed and Turn Compensation - The WEEDit is fitted with two speed sensors which supply boom speed information to the operating system so that it can compensate for varying speeds, including varying boom tip speeds in turns.

WEEDit Electrical System - Weed detection systems place high demand on electrical systems. WEEDit overcomes this by using a 24 volt system which reduces current draw by four times compared to a 12 volt system.

WEEDit Boom and Chassis - WEEDit trailing models offer an in-cab hydraulic folding boom in 24 and 36 metres. Trailing models have a robust chassis with a three metre air suspension axle and automatic ride height valve. All sprayer boom wheels are fitted with new responsive air ride suspension.

For more information on WEEDit and how it will work with your operation, contact your local AFGRI branch today.