



Farming For Ideas at the Dakota Farm Show

by Phil McIlrath, KDLT News
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The weather outside may be cold for growing crops, but inside the Dakota Dome it's the perfect season for digging into new ideas for the coming season.

Everything from baby Deeres, to mama's and big papas, the farm show has something for everybody.

As you walk around the show you find that farming has come a long way from just driving the old Deere around the field and knowing how to grow crops. Farming has become more precise, efficient, and environmentally friendly.

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"Today you have to be an agronomist, a marketer, a riverboat gambler of sorts, a chemist and a technology expert to practice production," said Retired Farmer, John Sampson.

Technology expert indeed. The aisles are loaded with high-tech products to take farming into the future. One of those products: grasping wind and solar energy.

Randy Archer, has been considering this option for a while

"I think for any application that you have whether it be a home or what I think it would be a good idea," said Iowa Farmer, Randy Archer.

A good idea for most, but slow to catch on in South Dakota.

"I think it will even if we don't see more incentives and rebates as we see energy costs continue to go up I think we'll see more interest in this kind of technology," said Lead Technician of Cleaner Greener Energies, Dennis Williams.

Another modern marvel, using G.P.S. technology to ensure when spraying or seeding, you don't go over the same place twice. Helping the environment, safety and the bottom line.

"I started custom spraying back in the 70s and literally we had no safety concerns...we weren't taught anything," said Hardi North America's, Richard Hundt.

"I don't know of any farmer that I've talked to in recent history that doesn't want to be a better steward of the environment," said Sampson.

"The moral of the story is the bottom line: the farmer has to be more efficient in order for him to stay alive in the economy that's out there today," said Hundt.

If you didn't catch the Dakota Farm Show you can attend the Sioux Falls and Sioux Empire Farm Shows January 26 -28.

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