

Bluestem Breezes
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Mobile Apps for Agriculture – Part 2

Last week, we began a two-part series on mobile apps geared toward farmers. This listing has been compiled by K-State's Crop Specialist Ignacio A. Ciampitti.

Before reading through the list, remember that brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned. Here begins the second part of Dr. Ciampitti's Mobile Apps information:

2) CALC Apps

The Apps under this category are primarily utilized as support tools and for calculation purposes. This category is sub-divided into: general calculators and crop production.

General Calculators – These Apps include a way to calculate the optimum fertilizer N rate, silage moisture cost adjuster, maturity date predictor based on tassel date, grain yield estimator, tank mix calculator, and crop nutrient removal, among others. The TankMix App (Dupont) and the fertilizer removal App (Ag-PhD) can assist farmers in making quick decisions in the field. Still, always make sure to check with your crop consultants, agents, and Extension specialists because this information is variable depending on the soil types, crop yields, and environments. The Manure Valuator (University of Arkansas) is an App that provides assistance in valuing the nutrient content of manure.

Crop Production – This section highlights Apps related to crop production issues and planting management. The Extreme Beans (University of Minnesota) and the Corn Advisor (University of Arkansas) Apps are both very useful for making decisions for soybean and corn, respectively. Extreme Beans is a useful App for calculating soybean seeding rates and for understanding the effect of diverse management practices on maximizing soybean yields. The Corn Advisor App has different features such as calculating lime and nutrient rates, identifying nutrient deficiencies, diseases, and insects, and providing information about control practices.

3) ECON Apps

This section includes Apps related to agricultural news, weather, and grain prices. There are several Apps that offer all the information related to weather, markets, news, and grain prices in one App. Among some of my favorites are DTN/PF (Progressive Farmer), AgWeb and CVA Coop. To search for the best cash grain prices, Growers Edge and the Cash Grain Bids (AgWeb) are very helpful. Using these, farmers can identify the closest location and the best price for selling grain.

4) SCOUT Apps

This section pinpoints Apps that can assist farmers in preparing maps, taking soil samples (geo-referencing the sampling points), calculating areas, measuring distances, and getting information

about the soil type, among several other features. The ConnectedFarm Scout App is useful for preparing maps, scouting, and geo-positioning points within your field. The ArcGIS App is very useful for calculating areas and distances within your field or for determining the final size for a plot area for research purposes.

5) GUIDE Apps

This section presents Apps that compile information from several production topics such as soil fertility, weeds, insects, diseases, crop management, calculators, and more. The Corn and Soybean Field Guide (Purdue University) is a very useful App. The fplants App portrays diverse forage species and provides a guide to forage ID. The HortPlants (University of Arkansas) App provides an extensive photographic catalogue covering many plants of the Mid-South, such as trees, vines, ground covers, shrubs, and ornamental grasses, among others.

6) GAG Apps

This section depicts Apps that present overall information about agriculture and related sciences (such as weather information). The Crop & Soils App presents the Crop & Soil Magazine in an electronic format. The Kansas Soybean Commission has an App that provides information about the Commission. The Machinery Sizing App from K-State (only available for Android) was developed for quickly estimating tractor horsepower to pull various implements.

Summary

In summary, there are several different agriculture-related Apps with diverse applications and unique features that can assist key stakeholders in the farming decision making process. Brian Arnall, Precision Nutrient Management Specialist at Oklahoma State University has prepared a comprehensive summary of Ag-Apps. For more information, check:

<http://npk.okstate.edu/presentations>

For Dr. Ciampitti's complete mobile apps list, visit the Extension Office (215 Kansas, Courthouse, Alma; kamayer@ksu.edu; 765-3821). For Bluestem Breezes archives, check out wabaunsee.ksu.edu.