

## New monitoring system

**A**dding to the Precision Ag technology being used on planters and air seeders, John Deere announces a new seed monitoring system – SeedStar 2.

“We’ve retained many of the features of our original SeedStar system,” says Royce Bell, Tactical Segment Manager, John Deere. “And now, SeedStar 2 is fully functional with the GreenStar 2 Display. SeedStar 2 also includes a number of enhancements that feature user-friendly screens, colour graphics, and simple navigation.”

The SeedStar 2 monitoring system is integrated with the GreenStar 2 Display. Planting and seeding functions, seed population, coverage maps, field documentation, and guidance screens can all be displayed together on the GreenStar 2 display. All vital planting information and AMS applications are displayed in one central location. The information is shown in full-colour and is operator intuitive. Icons have replaced text in several areas and screen navigation has been enhanced.

“SeedStar 2 systems have the capability, through a single controller, to perform both the seed monitoring and variable rate drive functions,” explains Royce. “Operators see all vital planting/seeding information, together with AMS applications, in a single display.”

Other operational information on the new monitors include planter/air seeder and crop set-up, row-popula-

tion status, vacuum level, total acreage, diagnostic readings and other important data.

### New RowCommand feature

“In addition, SeedStar 2 is integrated with the new planter RowCommand system which automatically controls individual row units,” adds Royce. “It eliminates the need for a rate controller, the set up is easy, and all information and monitoring is included in the one GreenStar 2 display.

“The new RowCommand system – available this autumn – will help growers reduce seed input costs and stop the yield drag associated with double planting.”

**For more information, Ph: 1800 800 981 to contact your local John Deere dealer.**



## RIISING COSTS PROMPT SWITCH TO VARIABLE RATE

Father and son growers, Roger and Mark Appleyard, used precision agriculture after a few dry years and rising input costs, to maximise the better-yielding areas of their 2500 hectare property, Glendale, near Geraldton in Western Australia.

For the 2008 seeding, the Appleyards purchased a Flexi-Coil 4350 air cart and 50-foot ST820 seeding bar with hydraulic tyne and used five years' worth of yield map prescriptions to apply through the air cart's variable rate metering system.

### Easy to use

“The system was really easy to use,” Mark explained. “We used FlexControl to select the field and assign the three tanks – then the Task Controller did the rest. We also had the ability to override or resume the prescription at any time by the press of a button.

“The system tracks the area you’ve covered on each field and provides read outs on information like ground speed, fan RPM, application rates and even alarms to warn you of low tank levels or sensor failure – all while logging the applied rates to the data card.”

### Correct and consistent depth

The hydraulic tyne on the ST820 allows growers to sow to the correct depth consistently, and its gentler recoil means less wear and tear on moving parts so less maintenance.

The Flexi-Coil 4350 air cart's huge 15,000 litre capacity, and a high volume auger, allows for quicker tank fills. “Using the bigger machine was more efficient. It saved time, labour and fuel,” Mark said. “We usually use three tanks to distribute three separate products, but this year we used two for seeds and one for fertiliser. This meant we could go for longer without refilling the tanks.”



**New precision ag technology helps eliminate overlap and maximises seed placement when entering or exiting headlands.**