

GPS Equipment Bounty Program

By Jeff True CCA, Field Technology Agronomist



GPS equipment has come a long way since the first yield monitor was introduced by Ag Leader in 1992. Ag Leader since that day has five newer monitor models to choose from and everyday they are working to make the next new system better than the last. Today, Ag Leader's yield monitor will also control your planter and shut off row units to minimize seed overlap to almost none while it controls 3 other components at the same time as it drives for you. It will also control your sprayer, sidedress applicator and NH3 toolbar. As Ag Leader introduces new monitors and lightbar consoles they need to get rid of the old product. Out with the old and in with the new! Right now Ag Leader will no longer support or repair the YM 2000 monitors and in a few years they will do the same with the PF 3000, 3000 Pro and someday, PF Advantage. This past fall we have experienced failure in the several YM 2000 monitors and with that we could not extract any data or create yield maps. Folks, it's time for change!

FC has teamed up with Heartland Technology Solutions (HTS) with offices in Ames and Harlan. HTS will be our supplier, installation provider and support center for everything Ag Leader has to offer. The technology changes so rapidly that FC could not keep up unless we had our own technology staff full time. HTS have become the experts with this technology and Dennis Hapes is that expert that FC relies on for the answers.

Dennis agreed to have a bounty program to rid the area of old and outdated technology. HTS will give \$100 for any YM 2000 (paper weights) and \$700 for any PF 3000 or 3000 Pro for an upgrade to the new Edge or Insight monitor. The last new arrival in the lineup for Ag Leader's yield monitors is the Edge that can variable rate control one product such as a planter or NH3 toolbar. The Edge has an easy to use 6.5" colored touch screen. This is an excellent entry level yield monitor or for those needing additional consoles with autoswath.

There has been a huge demand the past few years for guided lightbar systems and now the guided steering systems that will steer for you as accurate as 1" repeatable pass to pass with RTK (real time kinematic). For the farmers that have an older EZ Guide or EZ Guide Plus HTS will allow \$100 for an upgrade to and EZ guide 250 or 500. If you upgrade to the 250 you would be able to utilize your old receiver which would save you an additional \$400. The EZ Guide 250 has a limited ability for upgrades unlike the EZ Guide 500 that comes with a larger colored screen and an upgradeable receiver. The 500 would not be able to utilize the older receiver but has much more to offer such as a printable coverage map and is also upgradeable to 2-4 inch pass to pass accuracy. The latest EZ Guide 500 update came out around the 1st of February with the ability to upgrade the console so that it is able to VRT a single product such as a sprayer, planter or any other applicator.

HTS will be offering this program for a limited time this spring and so you'll need to act now for your spring needs before it ends April 30th. For the details of the program and any other GPS equipment related questions please call your FC sales person.

FC Thanks You for Your Continued Support!