

Positive outlook for Farm Show and Agriculture

Chelsey Larson

St. Cloud, Minn. - The 2012 Central Minnesota Farm Show is just around the corner. Meant to reflect the current trends of the agriculture industry in Central Minnesota, the Farm Show is sure to include new booths and vendors.

Ryan Anderson, Bremer Bank Ag Banker states that "Trends in agriculture as I see them would be the continued strong commodity prices and resulting profit potential for farmers. However, the increased commodity prices continue to drive up land rents and farmland values resulting in compressed profit margins. This, in addition to elevated crop input costs such as fertilizer and fuel have resulted in farmers continuing to look to expand and grow their operations and for ways to operate more efficiently which is a big reason why the Central MN Farm Show is so well attended. Everyone wants to see the new technologies and products on the market."

Although it may be most beneficial to farmers to see these new technologies first-hand at the Farm Show, one doesn't need to work on a farm to be interested. It has been 36 years since Greg Theis, Greg E. Theis Remodeling, chair of the Farm Show Committee, has been on a farm. "Every year I am excited to see the technology at the booths," he said.

Just one example of a new piece of equipment is the use of GPS. Crop farmers are using GPS to help locate specific geographic coordinates to determine where they need more or less fertilizer. It helps the farmer save money on fertilizer costs and also reduces the headache of manually figuring out where the exact spots are.

Theis explained that technology is becoming so advanced that a tractor can actually drive itself down the field in a straight line. All the "driver" needs to do is turn the wheel to head the other direction.

Expect to see more than technology at the Farm Show. This year attendees can look forward to seeing a vast array of different booths and vendors. The committee tries to keep the show geared strictly towards agriculture, but they do include 10 percent of what they call “off-the-wall” vendors. “We don’t want it to become a home show, but we do want to offer multiple flavors,” says Theis.

Bremer Bank’s Anderson can confidently say he is optimistic and thinks there is a positive future for the agriculture industry in Central Minnesota. Just as the farming industry is moving forward expanding with technology and growing in size, so will the Farm Show.

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