

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT



There seems to be an “ag-lag” when it comes to quality farming applications for iPhones or Androids. Plenty of agriculture-related games are available for download, but what about the farmers who do this for a living and—although love their work—know that it isn’t always fun and games? Here are some of the better—and free!—apps to offer a helping hand around the farm.

*To find equipment...*your local dealer most likely has a free app for your phone. The application has dealership updates, an overview of equipment on their yard and the phone numbers of their employees. They’ll usually have a link to their primary brand. For example, PrairieCoast Equipment has their own app, and provides quick links to the John Deere website.

*To identify any weeds...*download Weed ID, a free app for Android phones developed by the University of Missouri. Search for any ubiquitous weeds that might be growing among your crops by checking options off a detailed list of characteristics. If you already know the name of the foe in your field but are curious to learn more, you can also find it by typing in the plant’s common or Latin name. Pictures and plant details (where it likes to grow etc.) are then provided.

*To mix sprays...*and kill those weeds you identified, download Taplogic’s Tank Mix Calculator for iPhone or Android. Provide the number of acres you are planning to spray and the size of your tank in gallons and spray rate (how many gallons per acre). The next step is selecting your chemicals from a lengthy, alphabetized menu and then let the app calculate. It will determine the number of loads required (full and partial) and the chemicals to water ratio for an accurate—and money saving—application.

*To fix a breakdown...*use Miller Electric’s Miller Weld

Setting Calculator. Free and downloadable for Android phones, this will help you to figure out the right polarity and temperature when starting a repair job. You’ll have to select whether MIG Solid Wire or MIG Flux Core, whether you’re using a stick or TIG, and the metal you’re working with. Select “Get Settings” and this app will suggest an amperage range, the correct polarity and the proper depth of weld.

*To clean up around the farm...*the iScrap App, for iPhone or Android is your easy-to-use solution. Specializing in scrap steel, this Canadian-based app provides the latest, updated prices for scrap steel. Using GPS, iScrap can also find the nearest scrap yard or auto wrecker in your area and—using the app—you can request a metal recycling bin from the yard of your choice. If you’re wondering about any mystery metals around the farm, take a photo and send it to the closest recycler. They’ll provide you with an answer and a price. So what’s the cost of all this information at your fingertips? Nothing, it’s free—which is priceless.

*If you have a sick animal on the farm...*you can use Bayer’s Compendium of Veterinary Products downloadable from iTunes and compatible with iPad and iPhone devices. Claiming to be the most complete and concise collection of references available—and a good aide for vets and farmers alike—this free app provides a comprehensive list of 5,000+ drugs. Included is instruction on how to properly use the product as well as withdrawal times.

Finally, for anyone who can’t handle being off the farm for long periods of time, you can always download one of the many farming simulator games out there. Grow and harvest crops, tend to animals, manage employees. Yes, there is even an app for that!●

- Kaitlyn Gisler