

Agricultural Mobile Apps: A review and update

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In recent years, several institutions have developed mobile applications (or “apps”) for tablets and smartphones with the goal of providing a service to all end users. The agricultural sector has taken a similar path, producing new apps for mobile devices (so called “Ag-Apps”) for agricultural consultants and producers with educational materials and support tools. There is an increasing interest in these “Ag-Apps” and the use of new technologies for increasing the efficiency in communicating and decision-making.

This series of annual reviews and updates on Ag-Apps is provided by our KSUCROPS Crop Production team (led by Dr. Ciampitti) and the K-State Department of Agronomy.

You can look at this entire series of articles by going our web site at www.butler@ksu.edu

Then select the Ag Information/links under the Agriculture section on the left side of the home page.

Note: Most of the apps presented in this series of articles are free to download. Before paying for any app, please check online reviews or consult with any specialist working with that app or someone familiar with the app in order to understand its potential benefits and how it can assist you in your daily farming operation. As a general rule, an app needs to be “easy to use” and “intuitive.” Most apps do not come with a user guide or a manual. Take all these points into consideration before downloading and using apps.

Ag-Apps Classification:

For this series of articles, Ag-Apps are grouped into the following ten classifications with the goal of dividing apps by their different uses and purposes:

ID Apps: For identification purposes (weeds, insects, diseases, and nutrients)

CALC Apps: For calculating purposes (nutrient removal calculations, tank mixes, volume to spray, etc.)

SCOUT Apps: For scouting purposes or for geo-positioning (soil sampling, recording notes, soil types, etc.).

ECON Apps: For checking grain prices, market evolutions, fertilizer price trends, news and finances.

GUIDE Apps: For diagnosing crop production issues in the field, primarily related to field guides (crop management: insect, disease, weed, and more).

LIVESTOCK Apps: Apps related to the animal side, nutrition, health, and information on markets.

IRRIGATION Apps: Apps related to field crop irrigation and water application.

MACHINERY Apps: Apps for associated with agricultural equipment preparation, inventory, providing information of the machine.

GAG Apps: GAG (general Ag-Apps) for general use, weather-related, for meetings, for reading magazines, among several other Apps’ properties.

NON-AG Apps: For general use from e-readers to calculators, email, calendar, picture editing, and more.