



D&D Distributing switches its main focus to AgCam

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By Donna Farris, Special Sections Editor

The technological ability to have another set of eyes behind the combine, on the spray boom or in the calving barn is making its way to more and more farms and livestock operations, said a distributor of AgCam.

D&D Distributors, based in Oto, Iowa, is a distributor of AgCam, a product developed and manufactured by Dakota Micro Inc., based in Cayuga, N.D. AgCam is described as a durable, reliable surveillance system with the ability to be quickly moved from one application to the next.

Specifically designed to withstand the harsh conditions of farming and ranching, the AgCam system has many applications on grain or livestock operations, as well as construction sites and delivery vehicles.

D&D, founded in 1987 by owner Gary Drea, has been an exhibitor at the Dakota Farm Show since 1993.

From 1991 until recently, D&D was known as a distributor for after-market combine parts.

"The combine parts market has changed drastically," Drea said, since the number of combines running today is only about 30 percent of the number running in the early 1990s.

"We were looking for something different and found the AgCam," he said.

D&D still markets combine parts, but primarily markets AgCam at farm shows.

The idea started with a farmer who wanted a camera system to increase visibility when operating his 90-foot spray boom. He couldn't find the equipment for the system he had in mind, so he built his own camera.

Dakota Micro, now in its third year, sells monitors in three different sizes. A wireless option provides a line of sight from 1.25 miles away, a helpful feature when a combine operator, for example, wants to get a view from the auger wagon.

Using fixed antennas, wireless signals can shoot up to 6 miles line of sight, providing a view of calving barns or driveways.

Before AgCam, there was no camera available for rugged use that could provide a good picture, even in dust, dirt or rain.

The totally weather-proof AgCam is the first and only complete universal rear vision system with full color infrared night vision capabilities and photo chromatic lenses to allow for a near perfect picture in any lighting, even in direct sunlight.

"It's a good product and it's growing every year," Drea said.

At the Dakota Farm Show, D&D will have a 14-foot enclosed trailer with six 20-inch flat screens, all playing different video footage displaying AgCam applications.

"We have a guy on a planter, a guy on a combine and some baler footage," Drea said.

The idea is to show how AgCam applications can fit about any possible use that Dakota Farm Show visitors might have, Drea said. AgCam/D&D can be found at the show in booth #659-661.

It's almost impossible for people to walk by the booth and not stop, Drea said.

"I've never seen anything that stops people like this does."

A new and coming application for AgCam is digital video recording for viewing over the Internet. This has security applications, for example, for farmers to check on their place when on an extended trip. Footage of any motion is recorded and can be provided to law enforcement, if criminal activity is involved.

"The neatest thing is that it's gotten to be affordable," Drea said.

For more information about AgCam, see the company's Web site at www.ag-cam.com.

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