

Where We Worked

At the turn of the 20th century farmers used simple machinery powered by mules, horses or donkeys to farm approximately 100 acres. Family farms were diverse growing a variety of crops and raising an assortment of livestock. Days were long and every member of the family contributed to the job at hand- farming.

Walk into a local hotspot, like the Goodland CO-OP, you will hear local farmers discussing agribusiness, rain, latest ag market prices, equipment and fertilizer. Today's farming is a modern food industry encompassing the farm itself and the entire chain of agriculture-related business.

Modern farmers grow food for the world not just for their local communities and this requires modern technology. Global position systems (GPS) allow for precision farming—meaning straight lines and high yields. GPS and wireless communication technology is also used on new pivots irrigation systems. In Sherman County, Jeff Deeds farms 8,000 acres and he uses technology to more efficiently run his operation, which is 30 miles from his home. He tracks water usage and pivot position with a phone app. The John Deere equipment that Jeff runs is largely automated, and he can sit back and track the steady stream of data that is fed to him as he moves through his fields. Goodland's local John Deere dealer employs an I.T. person to help program the equipment and educate farmers about this advanced technology.

Due to the expansion of bio-technology, which produces genetically engineered crops with high yielding traits and resistance to pests and weeds, the modern farmer needs larger equipment. The manufacturing and selling of farm equipment alone is a multibillion dollar industry.

As an Ag community, Goodland has all the necessary growing ingredients to produce a bountiful harvest.

How do you use technology in your job? Does your family have a connection to agriculture? Tell us!