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AGRICULTURAL
APPS

There are 2.2 million Android and 2 million Apple apps; we did some homework and present a few agricultural apps for consideration

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Smartphone apps that make life on the farm easier have gained much interest in the last few years, and choosing the right ones can be overwhelming. We have picked a few of the most useful depending on one's goals, lifestyle, and chosen endeavor.

For when you want to graze livestock appropriately.

Calculating proper stocking rates can be difficult and time-consuming but is an essential task to ensure proper grassland usage. ***Stocking Rate Calculator for Grazing Livestock***, developed by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, is a good tool for determining how long animals can graze a given area. It is available for Apple devices and costs $0.99. The tool calculates the amount of forage left after a set grazing period so users can then determine how long to graze a specific area. The app builds in the take-half, leave-half concept and grazing wildlife considerations. Users will need to know the forage production in pounds per acre, the total acreage, and the percentage of grazeable land based on slope and distance to water. The application calculates the amount of forage available for grazing and allows the user to choose the number of animals and grazing period in months. Animals include cattle, horses, sheep, and goats.

So you want to be a gardener or farmer?

Tended is a free web-based application that allows users to plan any type of garden. The tool enables users to track plant responses to different activities and comparison of yearly harvests. It will work for vegetable gardens, orchards, vineyards, flower gardens, and even small farms. The internet-based app gives users a one-stop destination to design, track, analyze their gardens and learn from others. It can work on a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or even desktop computer. Internet access is required. Users create a username and password to gain access. *Tended* has a Facebook page and Twitter feed. Part of the website is devoted to news about the software. Users will also find articles that give helpful hints, educate about updates to the program, and much more. Visit www.tendedapp.com to check out this valuable software.

Calling Horse Lovers Everywhere.

Keeping track of horse records has just gotten easier. ***EQStable***, developed by Zoetis, allows users to easily record and access information about their horses. Users begin by entering a horse by name and photo. Information that can be recorded includes height, weight, date of birth, breed, color, sex, microchip number, vet details, farrier details, dentist details, and an emergency contact. Users can schedule their horse's feeding times, turnout, exercises, and take notes on stable management. Events that can be entered include vaccinations, dental appointments, deworming, shoeing, and others. The app has the ability to connect with the device's calendar and send push notification reminders about appointments. Users can track rides using the phone's built in GPS receiver. Links built into the app include TheHorse.com (news), Global VetLINK (you must log in), and EQStable Facebook. The free app is available on Apple and Android operating systems.

Build a Virtual Bulletin Board.

Pinterest is a visual bookmarking tool. Users can discover, save, and share ideas with others. This highly visual organization tool is a must-have for anyone searching for a non-paper solution to planning and executing creative ideas around the house, garden, or farm. Many topics can be searched, including gardening, homesteading, livestock care, education, farming, and many more. The tool can be used to search ideas on everything from a meal to home improvement projects and from gardens to rotational grazing. The app allows the sharing ideas through Facebook, email, Twitter, Google+, YouTube, Flickr, and Github. For each pin created, users can include notes for future reference. Pins are grouped onto boards, which makes organization of different topics a breeze. The free app is available for download through any smartphone app store.

Know Your Soil.

Exploring the soil under your feet is easy with *SoilWeb*. The app, developed by UC Davis and the California Soil Resource Lab, allows users to access the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil data with the touch of a few buttons. The app works with a phone's GPS receiver and will display soil data for a specific location anywhere in the Lower 48 states where there is cell phone coverage. Soil information of interest to users includes landform, landscape, percent organic matter, texture, pH, salinity, and sodicity. Users will need to have some understanding of how soil data is reported. Help interpreting the data can be easily obtained by contacting your local UW Extension or NRCS office. SoilWeb is free and can be downloaded from any smartphone app store.

Livestock records in one easy-to-access location.

Records are a vital part of any operation no matter its size. *Livestocked*, an app developed in Australia, allows users to record data on cattle, sheep, goats, alpacas, and/or llamas. It permits the use of multi-species and multi-breeds. *Livestocked* works best for small herds of animals. Each pasture, pen, or paddock is tracked as well as each individual animal. With the free version, users can track animals, pastures, and events such as vaccinations, weights, births, deaths, etc. Users can also enter financial records. For a paid subscription of $9 per farm per month, users can designate multiple users, request analytics, and be able to take photos and videos of livestock. Users must register and provide an email address. A password will be sent via the email address. The app does require some getting used to; however, it would be an asset to any livestock business. *Livestocked* is available for both Apple and Android users.

Counting Your Eggs before They Hatch.

Having trouble keeping your flock data all in one place? *FlockPlenty* can help poultry enthusiasts track hen egg output and feed consumption via easy-to-read daily, weekly, and monthly graphs. The app includes a diary for recording daily egg count, feed consumption, and notes. Users can add birds into the app and keep photos of each bird along with their breed, hatch date, and sex. The accounting feature can be added for $4.99 and allows users to record egg sales and expenses. All information is stored on the device and is available without an internet connection. The app isn't fancy but is easy to use. *FlockPlenty* is initially free and available through the Apple app store.

There are many agricultural apps available. Check out reviews and make sure the app will perform up to your standards before purchasing or downloading. No app is perfect, but the right app can be fun to use and helpful in meeting your goals.

How many applications could Ashley apply if Ashley had an app? We're pretty sure **Ashley Garrelts** *can do most anything. She is a University of Wyoming Extension educator based in Converse County and also serving Natrona and Niobrara counties. She can be reached at (307) 358-2417 or ashleyg@uwyo.edu.*