

John Mooney sees a change of references

Off-site monitoring for far away farms

Factors dictating farming practices in the future will be water, land and energy resources which are currently in high demand and/or in decreasing supply. The current benchmark of yield per animal will be replaced by yield per unit of energy or per unit of water.

Due to climate change and expanding populations, areas of agricultural land base will shift and decrease. Farmers will be pushed into remote areas and won't have the necessary numbers or support from suppliers of goods and services currently customary in larger agricultural areas.

To be able to farm in far away locations, farmers will have to access knowledge from elsewhere to conserve travel, time and technician resources. Wireless webcams with audio connections will enable off site experts to guide the on site operator through the proper steps to complete tasks on the farm.





John Mooney, dairy farmer in Masey, Canada, 78 dairy cows and 350 hectares of grassland, has worked with 2 Lely Astronaut milking robots since 2004 and undergone additional training to be self-sufficient since Lely technicians are unable to reach his farm in less than six hours.



Off site monitoring stations could also supervise and track animals. Implants combined with radio frequency identification technology could alert farmers to health and disease in their animals. Neck strap global positioning technology could monitor cow movement and traffic. While, monitoring devices in machinery could alert us to potential mechanical trouble before an actual failure.

The surfaces of big structures like a large barn roof, a tall silo or a large manure storage facility will have to double as a way to generate solar, wind or bio-gas production on the farm. In the future, we may find new energy resources or find new ways to generate power, but water and land will always be irreplaceable resources for the farmer.

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