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"Instead of making the field fit the technology, we've made the technology fit the field," says John Boughton, AutoFarm regional sales manager. Boughton is understandably excited about the release of a new "Curved Path" GPS Steering option from AutoFarm. With new "Curves," the AutoFarm AutoSteer RTK GPS steering system will be capable of delivering sub-inch-accurate, repeatable curved-path steering on irregularly shaped fields.

"In a nutshell," Boughton adds, "Curved Path provides customers with the means to use GPS precision steering on all of their land, whether flat, square, contoured or terraced. I believe we're the only ones who can do that at this time. It's an excellent demonstration of the firm commitment made by AutoFarm to cover the full gamut in precision guidance."

The AutoSteer Curves "Record and Repeat" feature allows the user to design paths in curved or straight rows, or a combination of both, then repeat the paths with hands-free automatic steering and sub-inch accuracy that will optimize efficiency and yield, and reduce operator fatigue.

Curves also features unique "Real Time Mapping" that will provide the tractor operator with a bird's-eye view of the curved path being followed, all on a moving display on the AutoFarm in-cab touchscreen.

Lars Leckie, director of product marketing at AutoFarm, adds, "There is a significant difference in the current

curve or contour steering and new Curved Path from AutoFarm. The AutoSteer Curved Path feature takes into account the constantly changing radius of concave and convex curves. It matches the implement to previous passes to eliminate the overlaps and gaps typical with the contour steering systems currently in use."

AutoSteer Curves is an optional software feature for the AutoFarm AutoSteer system, which has already become the market leader in sub-inch, repeatable GPS steering. AutoSteer is well known for its ability to eliminate skip rows and overlaps, make perfect guess rows and operate 24/7 even in dust, fog, heat or windy conditions.

Previous automated steering applications have been concentrating on straight lines only. Now, AutoSteer Curves brings sub-inch accuracy to repeatable curved paths, a quantum leap ahead of straight-line-only systems and light bars.

According to Leckie, "With new Curves, we've hit the market with something others have been trying to do but could not. Curves continues the AutoFarm goal of offering easy to use, technologically advanced GPS steering applications for agricultural equipment. This new feature can be easily uploaded to existing AutoSteer units already in use with a nominal fee."

Tony Azevedo, farm manager at StoneLand Co. in Stratford, has used the AutoSteer system on his tractors and reports very satisfying results.

"The performance has been excellent. Before we got the systems, we had to rely on the marker arm to center the

next pass and a driver that could drive very straight. We couldn't do more than 100 to 120 acres a day, and it all had to be in daylight. Now we can work 24 hours a day, even in fog, and we do twice the acreage," he said.

AutoFarm, division of IntegriNautics Corp. in Menlo Park, manufactures and markets agricultural global positioning system (GPS) guidance systems based on its experience in automatic aircraft landing and other aerospace technology.

AutoFarm can be found on the Web at www.gpsfarm.com or reached at (866) 4-AUTOFARM.