




# How Can Smart Agriculture Technologies Protect Agricultural Ecosystems?

**Technology can make agriculture smarter.**

Farms all across Alberta are embracing new forms of "smart" technologies that enhance animal health, increase **land productivity**, protect **agricultural ecosystems** and **biodiversity**, and help solve problems. These technologies use science to reduce the impact of human-made products on the **environment** and make the **food system** smarter.

One farm embracing these new technologies is Vermeer's Dairy Farm in Alberta. Find out what four of the new farming technologies being used by Vermeer's dairy farm involve: 

## FITBITS FOR COWS

When a cow is walking around more, it is a sign that the cow is in heat and ready to breed. At Vermeer's dairy, each cow has a step counter, and the farmers get a **notification** when the cow is walking a lot more, which means it is in heat.



## RUMINATION TECHNOLOGY

Rumination is how cows create milk. When a cow stops ruminating, it is a sign that the cow is sick. Vermeer's dairy is using these trackers on their farm, and it helps them find sick cows

**3 days faster.**

## SAMCO CORN SEEDER

The Samco corn seeder is an innovative new way of seeding corn, which layers a strip of **biodegradable** plastic overtop of the corn seeds. This plastic magnifies the sun's rays and protects the sprouts from frost, and eventually biodegrades into the soil.

## TWITTER

Social Media is everywhere in this day and age, and it is providing real benefits to farmers. Vermeer's dairy farmers reach out and communicate with other farmers on twitter to

**share**

stories, advice, and help each other solve problems

