

Precision Agriculture Gets More Precise as Farmers Edge and The Weather Company, an IBM Business, Leverage Micro-Weather Data for Predictive Modeling in the Field

Agriculture Data Shifts from Farm to Field-Level, Helping Growers Make Decisions in Real-Time

WINNIPEG - 15 Mar 2016: Farmers Edge™, a global leader in precision agriculture and independent data management solutions, today announced a collaboration with The Weather Company, an IBM Business (NYSE: [IBM](#)), the world's largest private weather enterprise. Under the terms of the deal, Farmers Edge has integrated hyper-local forecasts from Weather's superior Forecasts on Demand (FoD) weather forecasting engine into its field-centric approach to predictive modeling. This enhancement of real-time meteorological data analytics is another step towards the digitization of agriculture, an industry in the midst of a radical transformation.

Established growing regions have traditionally relied on static climate data sets collected by an existing fleet of government, city or airport weather stations. Now, with a global network of distributed weather stations in the field, Farmers Edge is providing real-time data from the field that can enable highly precise, predictive models that inform growers' decision-making on: critical crop stages, the timing of field operations, pest and disease pressure, equipment deployment, soil needs and nutrient requirements. Through this collaboration, Farmers Edge continues to marry data science with agricultural science to provide the most accurate field-centric data in the industry.

"Through our work with Farmers Edge, we hope to help the agriculture industry leverage precise weather data in order to optimize critical decisions," said Mark Gildersleeve, President, Business Solutions, The Weather Company, an IBM Business. "Weather is the single biggest variable in business performance, and this deal brings together some of the most advanced weather forecasting science in the industry and a leader in ag-data to create a one-of-a-kind platform to support decision-making to improve yields for growers around the world."

Farmers Edge has established itself as an industry leader in deploying weather stations on farms. By Spring 2016, the company expects to have the largest real-time weather-monitoring network in Canada with over 1,000 automated field-centric weather stations and will be targeting similar deployment in other substantive agriculture markets. The enhanced weather offerings underscored by this collaboration are a part of the larger vision of Farmers Edge to bring cutting edge technologies to growers worldwide.

Through a field-centric technology approach, Farmers Edge enables more productive and sustainable farming, ultimately increasing crop yields. The Farmers Edge Precision Solutions package is a comprehensive turnkey system that includes: Variable Rate Technology, soil sampling and analysis, field-centric weather monitoring, in-field telematics and data transfer, high-resolution satellite imagery, field-centric data analytics, access to an integrated farm management platform and a network of highly experienced, trusted advisors on the ground.

“Though weather is a key factor in the decision-making of today’s farmers, growers have not had access to high-quality weather data that can enable more informed management and facilitate better growing, particularly in data-sparse environments,” said Wade Barnes, President and CEO of Farmers Edge. “We’ve created a scalable solution that works for our global network of growers and one that can be tailored to support the needs of individual fields, from grain production in Brazil to variant weather in Australia. Predictive forecasting models are the next step towards achieving higher global crop yields, sustainably.”

The Weather Company, an IBM Business

The Weather Company, an IBM Business, is the world's largest private weather enterprise, helping people make informed decisions – and take action – in the face of weather. The company offers the most accurate, personalized and actionable weather data and insights to millions of consumers and thousands of businesses via Weather’s API, its business solutions division, and its own digital products from The Weather Channel (weather.com) and Weather Underground (wunderground.com).

The company delivers up to 26 billion forecasts daily. Its products include a top weather app on all major mobile platforms globally; the world’s largest network of personal weather stations; a top-20 U.S. website; the seventh most data-rich site in the world; one of the world’s largest IoT data platforms; and industry-leading business solutions.

Weather Means Business™. The world’s biggest brands in aviation, energy, insurance, media, and government rely on The Weather Company for data, technology platforms and services to help improve decision-making and respond to weather’s impact on business. For more, visit www.theweathercompany.com.

About Farmers Edge

Farmers Edge is a global leader in precision agriculture and independent data management solutions. Leading the development and application of new technologies on the farm, Farmers Edge is defining the future of agriculture through innovation. For more information on Farmers Edge, please visit: <http://www.farmersedge.ca>.

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