

## Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 How has technology improved farming in your country?
- 2 What are the negative effects of technology in farming?



GPS

overwatering



## Revolution Farm Equipment

Save time and labor by letting our mechanized solutions work for you. Call for pricing.

### Magic Dripper

Save water with this **drip irrigation system**. It features **smart irrigation control** to prevent **over watering** during rain or high wind. The Magic Dripper promotes healthy plants while using 25% less water than other leading irrigation systems.

### Intelli-Farm Tractor

Make your life easier with the latest in tractor **technology**. Do you lose focus driving your tractor back and forth for hours at a time? Improve your precision with this **auto-steer** tractor. Let **GPS** guide your plows and planters with the **self-propelled** Intelli-Farm Tractor.

### Sow Better

Planting seeds is quick and easy with the Sow Better system for **air seeding**, which accommodates a variety of seeds and bulbs. Relax and let the Sow Better start this year's crop. The Sow Better also prevents **overplanting**.

### Right-Bin

Never worry about misplacing your paperwork again. This **automated bin system** provides safe storage for your products and records. The Right-Bin keeps track of your past and current information in one easy-to-use computer database.



auto-steer system



drip irrigation



air seeding

## Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- |   |                  |   |                            |
|---|------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | — auto-steer     | 5 | — smart irrigation control |
| 2 | — overplanting   |   |                            |
| 3 | — air seeding    | 6 | — automated bin management |
| 4 | — self-propelled |   |                            |

- A a method for organizing harvests  
 B a method for planting seeds using compressed air  
 C planting too many seeds in an area  
 D a watering system that senses and adjusts to moisture levels  
 E able to move on its own power  
 F navigating without a human driver

## Reading

2 Read the product listing from an equipment manufacturer. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1  Smart irrigation control uses 25% less water than other irrigation systems.
- 2  The Sow Better can plant seeds or bulbs.
- 3  The Right-Bin stores information on a computer.

4 Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

- Giving plants more water than they need is wasteful and harmful to the plants.  
\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_
- The science used to create new tools and methods is making farming more efficient.  
t \_\_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_\_
- New tractors have a system where the tractor navigates itself.  
a \_\_\_\_\_ t \_\_\_\_\_
- Using a system that drips water limits waste.  
d \_\_\_\_\_ i \_\_\_\_\_
- Some modern equipment is guided by a satellite navigation system. \_\_\_\_\_

5 Listen and read the product listing from an equipment manufacturer again. What does the Magic Dripper prevent?

## Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between a farmer and a salesperson. Check (✓) the features of the irrigation system mentioned.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> inexpensive   | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> timers             |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> water sensors | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> automatic shut-off |

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

**Salesman:** Ms. Silva, I think you'll be very impressed with this new irrigation technology.

**Farmer:** I don't know. We're happy with the 1 \_\_\_\_\_ we have now. What's so exciting about your one?

**Salesman:** Well, the Magic Dripper saves time and water. And that means it saves money, too. How often do you 2 \_\_\_\_\_ timers?

**Farmer:** Probably 3 \_\_\_\_\_ a week.

**Salesman:** This system will change that. It adjusts itself when it senses rain.

**Farmer:** That sounds nice, but that's not going to save all that much.

**Salesman:** The Magic Dripper will respond 4 \_\_\_\_\_ you or your workers can.

**Farmer:** That's 5 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Salesman:** It has sensors in the soil. So the machine knows exactly when to shut off the drippers. 6 \_\_\_\_\_ timers.

**Farmer:** Well, that does seem more effective than what we use now.

## Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

### USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

*I think you'll be impressed with this ...*

*It saves time and water.*

*Well, that does seem more effective than ...*

**Student A:** Student A: You are a salesman. Talk to Student B about:

- a new irrigation system
- system parts
- benefits of the system

**Student B:** You are a farmer. Talk to Student B about irrigation systems.

## Writing

9 Use the conversation from Task 8 and the product listings to write an advertisement for a new piece of agricultural equipment. Include the equipment's uses, methods, and benefits.

MAGIC DRIPPER

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