

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



auto-steer system

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.



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.

- 1 Giving plants more water than they need is wasteful and harmful to the plants.
_____ a _____
- 2 The science used to create new tools and methods is making farming more efficient.
t _____ o _____
- 3 New tractors have a system where the tractor navigates itself.
a _____ t _____
- 4 Using a system that drips water limits waste.
d _____ i _____
- 5 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
