

Gizmos & Gadgets

Products and services for the farm and ranch.

Compiled by Paige Nelson, field editor

Metal RFID tag

Shearwell Data Livestock Systems has introduced its Metal Cattle eID (electronic identification) Tag, a first-of-its-kind radio frequency identification (RFID) cattle ear tag made out of stainless steel. This easy-to-apply tag combines the retention reliability of a metal identification tag with a built-in RFID chip. RFID technology allows users to swipe the RFID chip with an RFID reader, then enter or access on-farm management data like calving, health, weaning or any other records with ease.

Using a permanent laser mark process, tag numbers or owner contact information is applied directly on the metal side, so the animal can be identified chuteside even when an RFID reader is not available. Shearwell Metal Cattle eID Tags meet official USDA identification standards.

Each tag costs \$2.99, and tags are supplied in strips of 20 tags.

For more, visit <https://www.shearwell.com/cattle-tags>.

Cattle location technology

Wandering Shepherd prides itself on its revolutionary autonomous livestock-monitoring technology. It recently launched the Wireless Rumen Bolus™—Large



Breed. Much like a rumen magnet, Wandering Shepherd's 24 mm-by-40 mm wireless bolus is given orally and spends its lifetime in the rumen of the mature cow or bull.

During its 10-year lifespan, this battery-operated and hotspot-enabled bolus sends updates to the livestock owner via any internet-enabled device, providing the owner with animal ID, supply chain traceability, body temperature range, location, calving detection, heat detection and illness detection. Geofencing allows the operator to locate the animal within the pasture or be alerted if the animal is outside its designated pasture.

A 99.9% retention rate offers reliability and reduces labor costs associated with application.

The Wireless Rumen Bolus—Small Breed is geared toward younger animals, including baby calves. With a lifespan of three-plus years, this 18 mm-by-30 mm bolus offers illness protection by sending

temperature alerts as soon as a temperature spike is detected and again once normal temperature is achieved, in addition to location data and, in the case of replacement heifers, heat detection.

For more

information visit <https://www.wanderingshepherd.com/>.

Free utility audit

Lumen Utility Consult ensures companies are getting the best possible rates on their utility bills for free. Send Lumen up to three years' worth of each utility bill you'd like them to review. This can include: electricity, natural gas, garbage and recycling, water and sewer, telecom, and/or freight. Within seven days Lumen will contact you with an estimated savings amount. Thus far, Lumen reports it has found \$46,000,000 worth of savings and worked with customers in 17 states.

Lumen uses accounting, tariffs, laws, rate adjustments and ordinances to find refunds and savings. By changing the way companies are billed for their utilities, Lumen can reduce those bills.

For more information visit <https://lumenutilityconsult.com/>.

AI-powered cattle feeding

Precision Livestock Technologies (PLT), a leading provider of software and hardware solutions related to livestock feeding and health, has announced the first system to use artificial intelligence (AI) to predict cattle feed intake and make feeding predictions, the Bunk Management System. Using machine-learning techniques, based on more than 150,000 discrete pen days, the company developed its AI-based algorithms to take into account



Bunk Management System

feeding rates, times, cycles, cattle behavior, ration type and weather.

The Bunk Management System replicates the capabilities of a hyper-observant and highly trained cattle feeding professional.

Using this system, clients can automate feeding decisions and help employees make corrections before costly mistakes are made. Instead of a "one size fits all" approach, PLT allows producers to specifically tune ration output to match specific feed protocols.

Another powerful aspect of AI technology is its ability to continue learning. As more data are generated through expanded use of the product, the technology will continue to improve, become more accurate and decrease feed costs across the board.

For more visit <https://www.precision-livestock.com/>. **ABB**

Editor's note: Paige Nelson is a freelance writer and cattlemaster from Rigby, Idaho.