**Computer Hacks Every Farmer Should Know**

Back in the day, farmers would use time-tested skills to bring in the herds and harvest the crops. Today, the modern farmer is given a powerful boost by some very high-tech gadgets. When the laptops, GPS and WiFi are working properly, they can be a huge help in tracking crop yields and predicting future growing patterns. However, all it takes is a single frozen display screen to enough to bring your work to a screeching halt. As tempting as it might be to toss that computer into the combine, there are some simple hacks you can perform to get your computer back up and running. Follow these steps to help get you back on track:

**Write Down Your Error Codes**

A computer that refuses to boot up could present an error code on your start up screen. Jot down the error code for reference. Next, check your owner's manual to find a troubleshoot fix related to that error code. If you have access to a second computer, try a Google search with the same error code. You're sure to find many other computer users who have found ways to fix the exact same problem.

**Write Down Your Calibration Values**

Just because you enter data on a computer doesn't mean you shouldn't have a hard copy of that information. Keep a record of any calibrations that might pertain to your yield monitors, acre counters or any other information that you need to enter into a program. Some of the fixes you'll perform for your system could erase all that data. If you have a notepad with the numbers, you'll be able to easily punch those back in as opposed to starting from scratch.

**Forced Restart**

When your computer becomes frozen (and it happens to everyone!), try a forced restart. After turning off the computer, wait a full minute before restarting. This will give your system a chance to fully reboot and reconfigure. Hopefully, this will be the only fix you'll need.

**Power Down**

If the forced restart of the computer doesn't work, try powering down completely by turning off your tractor and unplugging the display. After 60 seconds plug everything back in and restart. If there is still a problem you might want to try a cold boot. For this hack, you'll need to shut down all power. That could mean disabling the tractor's battery cable to remove any possibility of electrical power feeding into your unit.

**Call For Help**

When all of those reboot measures have failed, it's time to call a service tech. They might be able to relate a fix over the phone. When all else fails, bring in the service tech and let them work their magic.

**Always Back Up**

This is a lesson most folks learn too late. You should get into the habit of backing up your data on a regular basis. Most systems allow for a regular backup. You can also make copies of your data onto a flashdrive. This way in extreme failures, you'll always have your data ready to reload in a new system.