

Apps on your Smart Phone

As more and more of the population upgrade their cell phones to smart phones the growing question has become, what apps do you have? We now have the latest weather forecast, movies, Facebook, ESPN, diesel pulls and sci-fi games like Galaxy Empire at the touch of our fingers. What better way do you have to entertain the little ones than to hand them your smart phone? I am seeing more and more parents handing over their phones to their kids when they are talking to someone or just waiting in line. If we are going to let them play games on our phones, why not find them a good agriculture friendly and agriculture education game?

One of the goals of the Kentucky Poultry Federation is to educate the public about the poultry and eggs industry. One way we can start to educate the public is through games and entertainment. And if they learn something along the way, it's a win-win. Armed only with my iPhone, I started to hatch my plan. The game must meet the following criteria that I have set: it must be free, it must be entertaining and it must be agriculture and poultry friendly. I have found three games that I would recommend you to check out today: Egg Punch, Hay Day and Farm Frenzy 3.

- **Egg Punch:** the goal is simple, get your feathers back! You roll around the farm inside your egg shell trying to collect your feathers that other mischievous animals have stolen. The game play foundations are a mini-golf type game.
- **Hay Day** is a Sims-based farming game. The game lets you start small and grow your operation which includes different crops, dairy cows, chickens and sheep. As you become a better producer, you are able to process your farm products and sell them at the farmer's market.
- **Farm Frenzy 3** is a fast pasted game of raising chickens, gathering eggs, getting your eggs and other farm products to market.

This is just one way to tell our story of agriculture in a friendly and entertaining way. We all need to get better at telling our story whether its "hen to home" or "from farm gate to consumer plate." We as agriculturists feed the world...who better is there to tell that story?

What Apps do you have?

With Christmas rapidly approaching some last minute shoppers have not completed their shopping. Do not fret; I know the perfect gift for the special someone that has just upgraded to a new smart phone. What is it you ask? It's an iTunes or a Google Play gift card. The cards are available in multiple denominations, so it's just the right size and color. With this gift, you are sharing the joy of millions of songs, ring tones, movies, games, apps and more.

I have changed my criteria for what apps I am going to recommend with this installment. The apps must meet the following new criteria: it must be free, it must be entertaining or helpful around the farm, and it must be agriculture and poultry friendly. I have listed two apps for you to try that will help you around the farm. They are **Connected Farm Mobile and Units Converter**. I have also found two games that I recommend you to check out today they are; **Diesel Pulling** and **Tractor Driver**.

- **Connected Farm Mobile:** This app uses your phone's GPS. You can use this app to plot your water sources, field boundaries, corner stones, and calculating acres of your fields. The app also allows you to map roads, creeks, and paths used by your livestock. It's a handy little app that helped me determine the total pasture acres of all my small fields.
- **Units Converter:** This app will help you convert different units of measurements. The app will convert anything from mass/ weight, length speed as well as torque, volume/dry/ liquid, electrical charge/ current and density. This app will help you around your house, shop and your farm.
- **Diesel Pulling Challenge:** With this game, you buy a stock truck and start pulling the sled down the track. As you earn points you are able to buy parts to upgrade your truck. You can work your way through four pulling classes. For those who do not have an apple product, an app that is comparable is **Tractor Pull**. I will give you a little free advice - always buy diesel first! You do not want to spend all the money you have earned upgrading your truck to break that 300ft mark, only to find you do not have any fuel.
- **Tractor - Farm Driver:** This is a task-oriented driving simulation game. The app allows you to drive around the farm pulling different cargos. The game takes a little time to get the hang of driving the tractor and a little more time to get the entire load to the destination without dumping part of it along the way.

As the percentages of farmers in America continue to decrease, we all have to get better at telling our personal story about agriculture. For that reason, while waiting for your next appointment and the person beside you ask "is that a tractor game you're playing on your phone?" You can reply "Yes it is; I am learning how to feed the world one app at a time. You never know when you are going to have the chance to tell your story, so have your 30 to 60 second elevator speech ready.

What Apps do you have?

The much anticipated next publication of "What Apps do you have" is here. As I have stated before, the Apps I recommend must be free and educational, entertaining or useful around the farm. Technology is just one way we have to telling our story. Doing this is becoming more important, as the average person is at least two generations removed from the farm. As

agriculturists, we all have to do our part to inform and educate the public and sometime even our own family.

Spring has finally arrived. As schools are taking spring break around the state many of you have received visits from “the cousins.” Their parents have sent them down to the farm to learn about hard work, responsibility, and of course an opportunity to see and work with the animals. A conversation about where there food comes from is one topic you get to discuss with them. After explaining to them that the animals are not pets and they are raised to feed world, they may ask why and say “mom gets our food from the store, why don’t you? I know that’s where our food comes from because I get to go with her sometimes.” You respond with: “Well you know that the food in the grocery store has to come from somewhere. Most of the items in the store come from local farms like this one. On your drive here to visit, you passed many farms that send their products to local stores. Those farmers even send their products to your school. The dairy farmer supplies your milk, the cattle farmer supplies beef, the hog farmer makes that good barbecue, and the poultry growers supply your favorite: CHICKEN NUGGETS!”

Each one of us has heard of scenarios just like this one. It is essential that we continue to invite and encourage more people to learn where their food comes from. I encourage you to talk to your local elementary schools about agriculture. You can all use agriculture friendly games and Apps to educate and inform your friends and family, as well. The three Apps I am recommending for you to check out are as follows: **US Poultry**, **Farm Up** and **Milk Cow**.

US Poultry: This new app was released in March by the US Poultry & Egg Association. This app has a wide variety of educational information, products, news and social media updates. This app is a must have for teachers, educators or anyone who wants to know more about where there food comes from.

Farm Up: This is a Sims-based game where you buy an old run down farm and build a profitable operation. You have to make every day choices whether to rebuild, upgrade, or sell part of the farm or buildings on the farm.

Milk Cow: This game is fun for all ages. The goal of the game is simple: fill the milk pail. You can race the clock to beat your best time or compete against your friends to see who is the fastest milker around.