

FARMING TODAY



COAL MINING AND FARMING

Strip mining for coal disturbed much of Somerset County's farmland between World War II and the 1980s. Because many of the coal producers and strip mining operators in Somerset County were also farmers, reclamation of mined lands has been highly successful here. Contrasting photographs of the Calvin Will farm in Berlin, taken in the 1960s and in 2000, demonstrate the results of careful management of mining and reclamation by both the farmer and the strip mining operator.

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At left: Strip mining, 1960s



This page: Reclaimed land, 2000

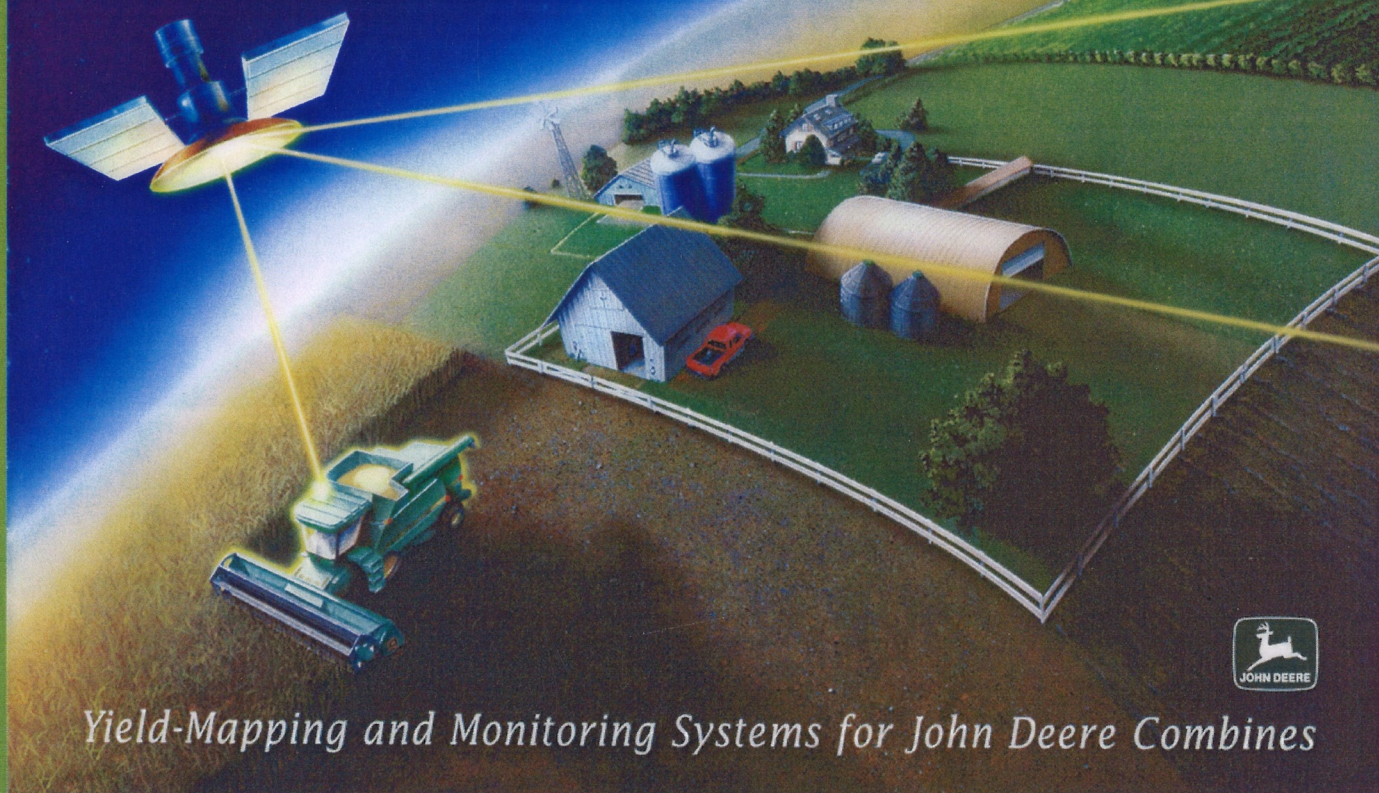
Aerial photographs by James K. Will,
courtesy of the Calvin Will family

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THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Local equipment dealers offer combines and tractors with global positioning systems and yield monitors. With such machines, farmers will be able to practice "precision farming." Based on yield data from each segment of a field, they can apply seed, fertilizer, and weed and pest controls exactly where they are needed.

GREENSTAR™ COMBINE SYSTEMS



Yield-Mapping and Monitoring Systems for John Deere Combines

Greenstar Precision Farming Systems,
courtesy of John Deere

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