

Connection

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January 2020

Cameras keep eye on livestock

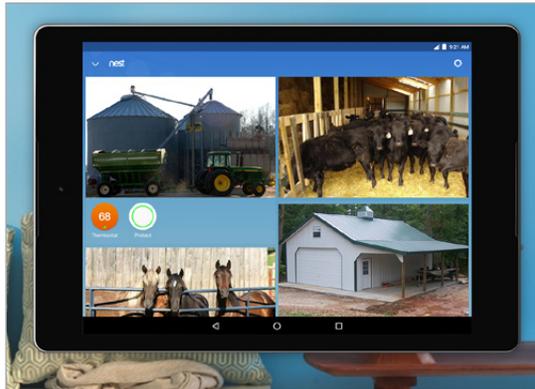
Technology makes it easier for farmers to keep an eye on their livestock and homeowners to monitor their property.

With Nest Wi-Fi connected cameras, you can see and hear livestock or monitor grain bins and farm equipment on your smartphone or tablet. Homeowners can use Nest cams to watch their property or keep tabs on children playing outdoors.

Nest Cam indoor and outdoor models combined with an outdoor Wi-Fi network keep an eye on what matters to you.

With advanced motion-sensing technology, if something is up, it sends an alert to your smartphone or tablet. Nest Cams stream securely in 1080p HD. Optional cloud storage maintains recordings for 5, 10 or 30 days and offers a user-friendly interface to review footage.

Technology Solutions is an authorized Nest Pro



selling and servicing the Nest and Google Wi-Fi connected smarthome suite of devices.

To see a demo or learn how Nest cameras can enhance your farming operations or protect your home, contact the professionals at Technology Solutions at (563) 374-1322.

Holiday Tech Expo drawing winners

Congratulations Tech Expo drawing winners:

Google Chromecast: Troy Mohr, Wheatland; USB Mobile Power Bank: Peg Kedley, Lowden; 64GB USB Flash Drive: Pam Schau, Calamus; Anker Bluetooth Speaker: Hally Haley, Calamus; F&B Mug: Barb Ihns, Lowden; Mark Kalarovich, Wheatland

Thank you to everyone who attended our Technology Solutions' Holiday Tech Expo last month.

Almanac calendars

2020 F&B almanac calendars are available. Stop by the F&B office or Technology Solutions to pick up a complimentary calendar.

Holiday hours

F&B Communications and Technology Solutions will be closed Jan. 1 for New Year's.

2020 student scholarship opportunities

If you know a bright student who gets good grades and is highly involved in their school and community, then they are likely a good candidate for the F&B Communications scholarship and one of several other scholarships available to students who live in a household that subscribers to F&B services.

This spring F&B will award one \$500 scholarship to a deserving high school senior based on scholastic achievement, citizenship and school and community involvement. This is the eighteenth year for the local F&B program.

F&B is also teaming up with the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) to give applicants an opportunity to win one of several \$2,500, awards and other national telecom scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$7,000.

Additional scholarships through F&B's trade associations with Iowa Communications Alliance and Aureon are also available.

For more information on scholarships and the various application forms, visit www.fbc-tele.com/scholarship or contact F&B at (563) 374-1236. Area school guidance counselors should also have application information for students.

How to apply

Go to: www.fbc-tele.com/scholarship

Application deadlines

Aureon (\$1,000 to \$3,000):
March 1, 2020

F&B Communications (\$500): March 6, 2020

Foundation for Rural Service (\$2,500):
March 6, 2020

Iowa Communications Alliance (up to \$6,000):
March 11, 2020



Windows 7 support ends this month

When Microsoft released Windows 7 in 2009, they committed to provide at least 10 years of support for the product. The specific end of support day for Windows 7 is Jan. 14, 2020. After that time, technical assistance and automatic updates that protect your PC will no longer be available.

Microsoft recommends that anyone using Windows 7 move to Windows 10 immediately.

Ideally, a new computer running Windows 10 is the best option; however, it is possible to purchase and install an upgrade on an existing Windows 7 computer.

A Windows 7 PC will continue to operate after support has ended, but your system will become more vulnerable to security risks and viruses.

If you are still running Windows 7, stop by Technology Solutions in Wheatland or call (563) 374-1322 to learn about replacement and/or upgrade options.



GET FASTER INTERNET AND MAKE THE WHOLE HOUSE HAPPY

Think about all the devices and Internet activities in your house on a typical day. They probably add up to a lot more total broadband usage than you had even a year or two ago. If your speed is no longer adequate, you may be experiencing annoying slowdowns such as video buffering. There's a quick way to solve this problem.

Call (563) 374-1236 now to sign up for a faster Internet plan by upgrading to the next level of service FREE for 60 days!*

*Service availability and Internet speeds will depend on location. All prices subject to change. If no request to downgrade is made before 60-day trial ends, trial Internet speed will become current Internet speed and upgrade pricing will apply. Available to residential users only. Contact us for complete details. Offer good through 1/31/20.

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BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS
Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 3 pm

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS HOURS
Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Saturday 9 am to noon

PHONE NUMBERS
Business Office
(563) 374-1236 or (563) 574-1236
Trouble/Repair
(563) 374-1238 or (563) 574-1238
Internet Tech Support (24/7)
1-888-832-4322
Technology Solutions
(563) 374-1322

WEB SITE
www.fbc-tele.com

EMPLOYEES
General Manager: Ken Laursen
Assistant General Manager: Aaron Horman
Office Manager: Ariell Connelly
Administrative Assistant: Carla Olson
Customer Service: Michelle Harrison, Amanda Horner, Kelly Scott

Plant Supervisor: Derek Hendrickson
Plant Technicians: Scott Butt, Drew DeLoe, Jeff Ohnemus
Technology Solutions: Brooke Cavey, Chandler Gannon, Riley Holst, Matt Morris

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GPS mapping project

During the months of January and February, F&B will be working on updating our plant records in the Calamus and Wheatland exchange areas.

You may notice F&B staff near your home as we work to complete these updates.

This process involves GPS mapping the location of the fiber optic terminal on the side of your home and taking photos of this equipment.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office.

Jan. 28 is Data Privacy Day

Given the frequency and magnitude of identity theft, it's vitally important to do what you can to protect your personal information. Jan. 28 is designated as Data Privacy Day, which serves as an excellent reminder to stay vigilant.

The National Cyber Security Alliance offers these tips to help manage your privacy:

Secure your devices: Use strong passwords, passcodes or touch ID features to lock your devices.

Think before you app: Information about you — such as the games you like to play, your

contacts list, where you shop and your location — has value, just like money. Be thoughtful about who gets that information and how it's collected through apps.

Stay up to date: Make sure your security software, web browser and operating system are updated regularly, which is the best defense against viruses, malware and other online threats.

Learn more at staysafeonline.org. Click on "STAY SAFE ONLINE" and get tips on Online Safety Basics, Managing Your Privacy and more.