

# Autonomy is Coming

Dave Krog Salin 247, Inc. Ames, IA



## Agriculture is the best industry on the planet – let's make it better





## How do we make it better?

Farmer health & safety Rural development Healthy foods Soil health Water quality GHG emissions

Crop yields Production costs Profitability & growth

**Sustainable** 

Agriculture





We don't need big, heavy, expensive equipment





# **Salin 247** is building a platform for smallscale, light-weight, electric-powered, autonomous crop production machines



#### Salin 247 Platform has hardware & software components



## We use a wide range of technologies



- Robotics operating system (ROS)
- OpenAl software
- RTK GPS
- Brushless DC motors & controllers
- Lithium iron phosphate batteries
- Electric-powered hydraulics system
- Pneumatic system
- Mattrack tracks
- Custom configured on-board computer
- Wifi modem
- Precision Planting sensors & software
- Martin Till row cleaners



## Questions we are working to answer

- Will all crops eventually be grown with autonomous machinery?
- Will farm machinery get smaller over time?
- Will farm machinery be electric-powered?
- How will farmers be supported in their use of autonomous farm equipment?
- What will be the role of machine learning with autonomy?



#### First time in 85 years this field planted without a tractor





## What does the future look like?



Small Light weight Electric Autonomous

#### **Growers will decide**



# Thank you

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David McGavin





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Jetacide™
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Example: Inject herbicide to terminate cotton ratoon.

#### Liquid Coulter<sup>™</sup>

Example: Slice through crop residue with aqueous fertilzer.































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#### Using light energy to control weed seeds

#### Jon Jackson, Global Neighbor



## **Weed Seed Destroyer**





#### **Light Energy Flora Control**

- Apply energy (light) to plants or seeds
- Short durations of light
  - -2-10 seconds
- Wavelength Combinations:
  - Peak of Photosynthesis A or B: Blue
    - At high concentrations: 10X to 70X sunlight
  - Unnatural (not in sunlight): Mid IR
- Alter plant and seed growth:
  - Beneficial at low levels
  - Damaging at higher levels



2021

31



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#### Stopping weed seeds from germinating

- Efficacy Studies:
  - Ohio State Study: > 99% efficacy on pigweed seeds
  - Central State Study: 97-99% efficacy on common weed species
  - -Others studies show > 95% efficacy





## **Weed Seed Destroyer**



- Runs chaff only through light tube
- Damages certain cells without destroying whole seed
- Uses only 10HP on 32' head
- Only moving part is auger





#### Effects on Germination of Redroot Pigweed Seeds

Doug Doohan & Cathy Herms, HCS, OARDC/OSU, 1680 Madison Ave, Wooster, OH 44691





# Research Collaborations: Texas A&M, LSU, Central State, U-Idaho, and others







## **Development Status**

- Tested on soybean, wheat, rice chaff
- Morning Glory, Fox Millet, Ragweed and Pigweed, hemp Sesbania, Johnsongrass, Prickly sida, Barnyardgrass, annual rye grass
- Flow and efficacy verified through independent testing
- First field unit on JD680 in TN
- Next unit JD670 in IA
- Research units at Texas A&M, U of Idaho, Central State
- Interest from most areas of US, Europe, Australia





#### Thanks and any questions?

#### Jon Jackson, Global Neighbor

