Technology makes our lives simpler and more complex, and yet most wouldn't choose to live without it. It has brought an enormous amount of data to manage, but also increased efficiencies, created savings in labor and allowed more time with family.

This issue of The Manager is packed with ideas of how to use technology to your benefit, as well as full of cautions about its adoption. The January issue serves as a supplement to the Operations Managers Conference Precision Management: Merging People, Cows, Crops and Technology held in Syracuse, NY on January 24 and 25.

PRO-DAIRY’s Rob Lynch starts this issue out with a journey through the farm and the ways technology is used. Cornell’s Jennifer Ifft and PRO-DAIRY’s Jason Karszes present a matrix of questions to consider before adopting new technology. Karszes and David Stafford, RL Jeffres & Sons, Inc., review precision accounting. Cornell’s Ashley Howlett shares how some farms are going retro with a return to handheld radios instead of cell phones to increase communication and safety.

PRO-DAIRY’s Joe Lawrence outlines considerations for setting up on-farm trials to test new crops and provides an update on the re-launched corn-silage hybrid trials. Many of the authors are also speakers at the Operations Manager Conference. The conference agenda is available at prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/conferences/operation-managers-conference.

Judy Moody, Dairy One, will present Using Scales to Monitor Calf Programs; David Greene, Diamond V, will present 10 Tips to Maximizing Your Feeding Program; Erick Haas, Cazenovia Equipment Company, and John Hanchar, Cornell University, Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team, will present Benefits and Costs of Entry Level Precision Agriculture Technologies; and Michael Contessa, Champlain Valley Agronomics, will present Yield Monitoring: The Basis for Precision Agriculture at the conference and have complementary articles in this issue.

Tom Wall, The Dairy Coach™, will present The Eye in the Sky: Why a Camera System at Your Farm is the Best Management Tool Available and open the conference with The Team You Get Is the Team You Build: Create and Maintain a Culture of Engagement, Productivity, and Accountability.

Julie Berry (jrb7@cornell.edu) edits The Manager for PRO-DAIRY.