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Questions about precision?

Go to any conference on the subject, talk
about it to farmers and there are always
questions.

Since the first issue of this magazine
we've been asked to provide a forum for
comments and questions - some of which
appear below.

If you've a question on precision
agriculture our precision farming specialist
Kerstin Panten will try and find a solution for
you.

*Send us a letter/Email/fax to the editor
(see column to left).*

Can I start precision farming without starting up in GPS?

"Yes, you can, but why do it? GPS isn't something to be frightened of,
it's relatively easy to run and not all that expensive.

Are our own hand-drawn maps of fields now redundant?

"No - never discard any old information. It can be - at the very least - an
additional source of information. You need to get your existing information
geocoded (all that means is you need to record the exact location of where
each sample was previously taken in the field) each piece of information
also needs to be labelled for entry into your computer database or GIS
(geographical information system).

How do I get started in GPS?

"It's easy! Just begin by thinking about the variability that exists in your
land. Recognise the difference (see article on assessing soil in this issue)
and begin to map it out. Collecting information (and formally recording
what you already know in your head) are the first steps.

