

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Alexis Zeigler, Living Energy Farm
alex@conev.org, tradelocally@yahoo.com
540-205-0433

New Harvesting Technology Developed in Virginia Could Impact Farming Globally

Harvesting Equipment Demonstration and Press Conference

When: Friday, October 13, 1 - 4 PM and Saturday, October 14, 10 AM - 3 PM

Where: Heritage Farm, behind Sargent Museum at the Louisa Historical Society

214 Fredericksburg Avenue, Louisa, VA 23093

Harvesting equipment spanning hundreds of years will be on display, including the Simple Harvester and modern small harvesting machines.

A new combine harvester that costs eighty percent less to build and can harvest wheat, rice and other grains could change the economics of grain farming on a global scale. The new “Simple Harvester” was built at an off-grid, renewable energy development center in Virginia called Living Energy Farm. It promises to make grain farming economical for small farmers who cannot afford large-scale, industrial harvesting equipment. The new technology may also make it possible to build large combine harvesters that are both cheaper and can travel more quickly through a field.

Video clips of a prototype Simple Harvester in operation are available upon request.

People everywhere rely on grain for food. Modern grain harvesting equipment is expensive and complex. Grain harvesting technology has evolved from one machine to the next. The term “combine” is derived from the fact that modern machines ‘combine’ many machines that were historically separate. Each new innovation was added to old technologies, and combine harvesters grew very complex with dozens of moving parts. The Simple Harvester overcomes that legacy and harvests grain effectively with only a few moving parts. As the name implies, the Simple Harvester is dramatically simpler than any other combine harvester ever manufactured. The Simple Harvester is much cheaper to build, easier to maintain, easier to operate, and can harvest a wide variety of grains under a wide variety of conditions.

Climate change is challenging farmers all over the world as more extreme weather makes growing food more difficult. Small farmers produce most of the world’s food, but cannot afford expensive harvesters. The Simple Harvester can make grain farming economically viable for small farmers in many regions where grain farming has not been feasible in the past. The Simple Harvester can help make global food supplies more secure. The technology used in the Simple Harvester can also be used on larger combine harvesters, thus making these larger combines much cheaper to build.

The Simple Harvester is the only combine harvester ever developed that can be pulled by draft animals or a small tiller, and can be manufactured in welding shops in villages far away from large industrial manufacturing facilities. The Simple Harvester may have revolutionary impacts on modern agriculture.

The Simple Harvester is protected under a global Patent Pending. The developers of the Simple Harvester are hoping to establish a foundation that can facilitate the transfer of the technologies developed at Living Energy Farm to small farmers as well as making this technology available to established farm equipment manufacturers.