

“Curly’s equipment is significant because it has multiple uses,” says William Kanitz, co-owner of et-sun in Port Charlotte, Fla. Besides produce farms, the Cyber Clydesdale works well in chicken houses, dairy barns, and on hillsides.

But the two-wheel tractor is just one of many options available for battery-powered equipment, he says. His business is all about battery and solar-powered equipment from manufacturers worldwide. He’s also a dealer for Knekt, a Netherlands company that makes 45 and 55-hp. e-tractors with high clearance and long-lasting double batteries on a front hangar system for efficient row crop farming.

“It’s all about the software,” Kanitz says, and manufacturers are solving challenges to clear the way for battery-powered equipment to compete against diesel equipment.

As part of his business and working with the U.S. Department of Energy, Kanitz compiled a list of electric equipment from around the world, including 51 tractor manufacturers in India. The list includes robotic equipment, drones, lawn tractors, pickups, and recreational equipment such as UTVs and snowmobiles (www.et-sun.com/BatteryBarns). Kanitz also sells vertical racking systems and solar fence systems that are stationary, movable, and transportable on a trailer.

He’s enthusiastic about the future of electric equipment that continues to increase in horsepower and has long-lasting battery systems for up to 12 hrs. of fieldwork.

With incentives from REAP (Rural Energy for America Program), loans and grants are available to reduce customers’ costs for electric equipment, making it competitive with diesel or gas equipment that requires further expenses for fuel and maintenance.

Check out the et-sun website for more information.

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