

Deere & Company (DE)

\$160.22 (As of 07/06/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$168.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Neutral

(Since: 02/27/20)

Prior Recommendation: Underperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:B

Value: B

Growth: B

Momentum: D

Summary

Deere projects fiscal 2020 net income to be \$1.6-\$2 billion compared with its prior-year quarter projection of \$3.3 billion, reflecting uncertainties related to the coronavirus pandemic. Demand for its products and services and supply chain are also likely to be impacted. Construction & Forestry segment sales will bear the brunt of market uncertainty due to the coronavirus pandemic and its efforts to reduce inventory levels. The Agriculture and Turf segment sales are also likely to decline. However, growing U.S farm income bodes well for agricultural equipment demand. Acquisitions, introduction of advanced technologies in its products and efforts to expand in precision agriculture will drive growth. Deere's cost-reductions actions will help improve margins. Its earnings estimates for fiscal 2020 have been moving upward revisions lately.

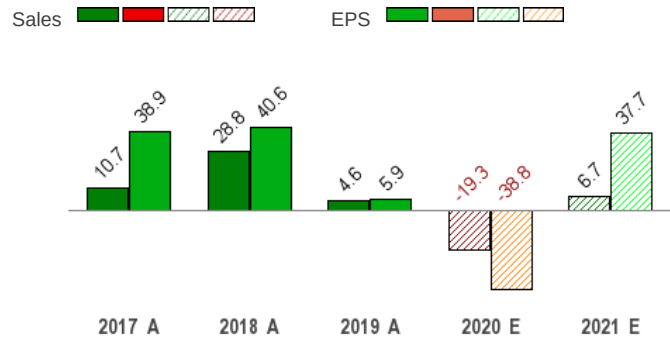
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52 Week High-Low	\$181.99 - \$106.14
20 Day Average Volume (sh)	1,403,063
Market Cap	\$50.1 B
YTD Price Change	-7.5%
Beta	0.95
Dividend / Div Yld	\$3.04 / 1.9%
Industry	Manufacturing - Farm Equipment
Zacks Industry Rank	Top 37% (94 out of 251)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	19.2%
Last Sales Surprise	8.4%
EPS F1 Est- 4 week change	0.7%
Expected Report Date	08/21/2020
Earnings ESP	-8.7%
P/E TTM	18.7
P/E F1	26.4
PEG F1	3.8
P/S TTM	1.4

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	6,296 E	8,538 E	6,967 E	7,318 E	30,029 E
2020	6,530 A	8,224 A	6,470 E	6,918 E	28,142 E
2019	6,941 A	10,273 A	8,969 A	8,703 A	34,886 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	\$1.38 E	\$2.99 E	\$1.91 E	\$1.91 E	\$8.37 E
2020	\$1.63 A	\$2.11 A	\$1.11 E	\$1.24 E	\$6.08 E
2019	\$1.54 A	\$3.52 A	\$2.71 A	\$2.14 A	\$9.94 A

*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and Sales estimates, is as of 07/06/2020. The reports text is as of 07/07/2020.

Overview

Deere is currently the world's largest producer of agricultural equipment, manufacturing agricultural machinery since 1837 under the iconic John Deere brand with its signature green and yellow color scheme. The company generated revenues of around \$24 billion or 60% of total revenues in fiscal 2019 from the sale of agriculture and turf equipment. With a market capitalization of \$52.8 billion, IL-based Deere is the only agricultural and farm machinery player in the S&P 500 Index.

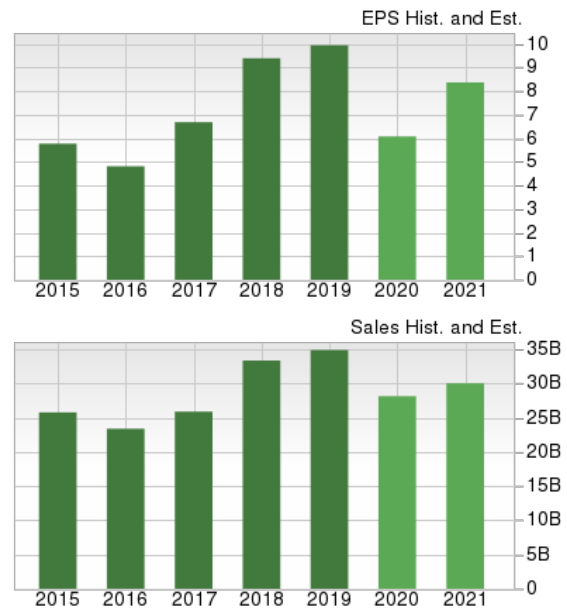
The **Agriculture and Turf** segment manufactures farm equipment and related service parts, including tractors, sugarcane harvesters, sprayers, irrigation equipment, and more. It manufactures and distributes equipment, products and service parts for commercial and residential use.

In the 1950s, the company formed the construction-equipment division, which is currently the **Construction and Forestry** division. The segment generated revenues of \$11 billion in fiscal 2019, contributing 28% of Deere's revenues. The division manufactures broad range of machines and service parts used in construction, earthmoving, material handling and timber harvesting. Deere also manufactures and distributes road building equipment through its wholly-owned subsidiaries of the Wirtgen Group.

The company is considered to have a product advantage in most farm machinery categories as its machines come with better features and are better constructed than its competitors. Further, Deere boasts a broad distribution network. Deere has also been growing in the field of precision agriculture through acquisitions (Blue River, NavCom Technology) and is currently the world leader in precision agriculture. It remains focused on revolutionizing agriculture with technology, in an effort to make farming automated, easier and more precise across the production process. Notably, Deere spends around 8% of sales on R&D.

Deere also finances sales and leases by John Deere dealers for new and used agricultural, commercial and consumer, and construction and forestry equipment through its Financial Services segment (10% of fiscal 2019 revenues).

Increased global demand for food, shelter and infrastructure from a burgeoning population will continue to drive Deere going forward.



Reasons To Buy:

▲ The U.S. farm sector seems to be showing early signs of stabilization following the passage of The United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) and the phase 1 trade agreement with China, which instilled farmer confidence. The agricultural sector had so far been grappling with low commodity prices, sluggish farm incomes and the impact of the trade war. Per the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) latest available projections, net farm income is anticipated to improve 3.3% year over year to \$96.7 billion in 2020. In inflation-adjusted terms, the projected net farm income in 2020, if realized, would be 5.4% higher than 2000-18 average (\$91.7 billion). This will make farmers resume spending on agricultural equipment, which will drive the top line.

Recovery of the agricultural sector, acquisitions, introduction of advanced technologies in products, expansion in precision agriculture and margin improvement plan will aid Deere's results.

- ▲ In North America, all agriculture and turf facilities remained operational during the fiscal second quarter and the company expects to recover any delayed shipments throughout the balance of fiscal 2020. Planted acres for soybeans are expected to rebound this year, while corn acres are projected at the highest level since 2012. Agricultural facilities in Europe are largely operational after experiencing some short-term disruptions. In Brazil, farming conditions have been favorable as the first crop is mostly harvested and expected to set a record for soybean production, despite some persistent dryness in the southern growing regions. Crop exports have been particularly strong, while a sharp depreciation in the Brazilian real has boosted margins for the industry. Further, in late January Brazilian Government announced a new financing program which will provide greater clarity on funding options for farmers and trigger demand for equipment sales for the current fiscal. These developments is likely to boost Deere's near term results.
- ▲ Deere is assessing cost structure by reviewing organization efficiency and footprint assessment, which in turn will help improve margins. The company initiated a voluntary separation program during first-quarter fiscal 2020, in sync with its efforts to create a more efficient organization structure and reduce operating costs. The company will also focus on driving capital-allocation decisions that further prioritize products and services as well as advance solutions offerings, while also accelerate after-market parts and services. Deere has implemented actions to strengthen its financial position and preserve liquidity. These actions include raising \$4.5 billion in medium- to long-term funding, reducing operating expenses and decreasing capital spending.
- ▲ Deere remains well poised for growth over the long term, backed by steady investments in new products and geographies. Profitability is likely to remain strong, on upward trends in population and urbanization growth, continued income growth, and dietary improvements. On a long-term basis, the tax reform is expected to be beneficial to Deere's financial outlook. The company has taken actions to reduce inventory and enhance its positions in the current leasing portfolio and overall leasing strategy. This will increase long-term sustainability of leasing business model.
- ▲ Deere will benefit from concerted focus on launching products with advanced technologies and features, which provides it a competitive edge. The company remains focused on revolutionizing agriculture with technology in an effort to make farming automated, easy to use and more precise across the production process. As customer's needs continue to evolve, it will trigger the need to replace old equipment. Their growing reliance on advanced technology to run their complex operations smoothly will continue to fuel Deere's revenues. Moreover, the company's efforts to expand in precision agriculture will be a game changer. In fact, Deere's continued investment in precision technologies support customer demand in the current situation.
- ▲ Deere acquired the world's leading road-construction equipment maker, Wirtgen, for \$5.2 billion in cash and debt in December 2017. The buyout significantly enhanced the company's exposure to global transportation infrastructure. Before the deal, Deere did not manufacture any road building equipment such as pavers and compaction equipment. John Deere becomes the first manufacturer to have crushing and screening, and mobile equipment. The buyout is in sync with Deere's long-term strategy to expand in both agriculture and construction. The company is focused on realization of synergies. Deere also acquired PLA, which will assist the company in providing innovative, cost-effective equipment, technology, and services to customers. In October 2019, Deere entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Unimil, a privately held Brazilian company in the aftermarket service parts business for sugarcane harvesters.
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Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ Deere projects fiscal 2020 net income to be \$1.6-\$2 billion compared with its prior-year quarter projection of \$3.3 billion. The guidance reflects uncertainties regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the demand for the company's products and services, and supply chain and operations. Further, the coronavirus outbreak has impacted agricultural exports to China. It also remains to be seen whether China will be able to honor its terms of the Phase 1 trade agreement since most agricultural exports to China from North America tend to occur around the harvest season. This will remain an overhang on the company.
- ▼ Deere expects Agriculture and Turf equipment sales to be down 10-15% for fiscal 2020. Industry sales of agricultural equipment are expected to be down 10% from last year in the U.S. and Canada, reflecting increased uncertainty in the U.S. and more challenging conditions in Canada. Sales in Europe are expected to be down 5% to 10% due to lower yields for arable farmers and a difficult market for dairy producers as dairy prices have been negatively impacted by the closure of schools and restaurants, and the overall disruption to the food supply chain and near term changes in consumption. South American industry sales of tractors and combines are projected to be down 10% to 15%. Despite relatively positive fundamentals in Brazil, farmers have adopted a cautious stance due to uncertainties related to COVID-19 and possible implications stemming from the Phase 1 U.S.-China trade agreement. Meanwhile, there remains an ongoing economic uncertainty in Argentina. Asian sales are forecasted to be decline moderately due in large part to the pandemic-related shutdown in India. Industry sales of turf and utility equipment in the U.S. and Canada are expected to be down 10% for fiscal 2020.
- ▼ Activity in the overall construction sector has slowed, which in turn is weighing on the Construction & Forestry segment. The segment's sales for fiscal 2020 are expected to plunge 30-40%, year on year. The outlook reflects market uncertainty due to the coronavirus pandemic as well as efforts to bring down field inventory levels. Industry construction-equipment sales in the United States and Canada are likely to decline 20-30% for the fiscal, reflecting sharp declines in oil and gas activity, rental capital expenditure, as well as overall moderation in general economic activity during the fiscal second quarter. In forestry, global industry sales are expected to be down 15-20% due to weaker demand in North America and Russia.
- ▼ Deere continues to face challenging conditions in Canada. In contrast to the United States, the company's inventories, remains elevated in Canada. This is primarily due to challenging industry conditions, namely existing trade barriers on Canadian canola and a declining exchange rate. Even though net farm income in Canada is expected to increase this year, it will still be below long-term averages. Further, in Latin American markets like Mexico and Argentina, Deere continues to face near-term challenges thanks to adverse policies impacting the agricultural sector. Moreover, some of Deere's facilities are reducing operations and, in some cases, are temporarily shutting down operations to curb the spread of the coronavirus. This will also dent this year's performance.
- ▼ Over the last three years, Deere's total debt has gone up at a CAGR of 4%. Deere has liabilities of \$11 billion due within 12 months, and liabilities of \$34.3 billion due beyond 12 months. The company has a cash balance of \$9 billion and \$7.2 billion in receivables in the fiscal second quarter, which seems inadequate to cover its liabilities. The company's times interest earned ratio has been going down over the past few years and is currently at 3.4, lower than the industry's 3.7.

Deere's sales and margins will bear the impact of the coronavirus outbreak in the near term. Construction & Forestry segment's performance will be hurt by weak construction activity.

Last Earnings Report

Deere's Earnings And Revenues Beat Estimates In Q2

Deere posted second-quarter fiscal 2020 earnings of \$2.11 per share, beating the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$1.94. The reported figure slumped 40% from the prior-year quarter's earnings per share of \$3.52.

Net sales of equipment operations (which comprise Agriculture and Turf, Construction and Forestry) came in at \$8.22 billion, down 20% year over year. Revenues, however, surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$8.01 billion. Total net sales (including financial services and others) came in at \$9.3 billion, down 18% year over year.

Operational Update

Cost of sales in the reported quarter was down 19% year over year to \$6.3 billion. Total gross profit for the reported quarter fell 18%, year over year, to \$2.96 billion. Selling, administrative and general expenses dipped 4% to \$906 million from the prior-year quarter. Equipment operations reported operating profit of \$890 million in the quarter compared with the \$1,366 million witnessed in the prior-year quarter. Total operating profit (including financial services) plunged 37% year over year to \$965 million in the fiscal second quarter.

Segment Performance

The Agriculture & Turf segment's sales dipped 18% year over year to \$5.97 billion, primarily due to lower shipment volumes and unfavorable currency-translation impact, partly offset by price realization. Operating profit in the segment decreased 22% year over year to \$794 million, resulting from lower shipment volumes / sales mix, along with the unfavorable effects of foreign-currency exchange. However, this was offset by price realization, lower production and operational costs.

Construction & Forestry sales slid 25% to \$2.26 billion from the year-earlier quarter, on lower shipment volumes and unfavorable foreign currency, partly negated by price realization. This segment's operating profit plummeted 72% year over year to \$96 million, mainly due to lower revenues, partially muted by lower production costs and price realization.

Net revenues in Deere's Financial Services division came in at \$875 million in the reported quarter, down 1% year on year. The segment's operating profit came in at \$75 million, down 56% year over year.

Financial Update

Deere reported cash and cash equivalents of \$8.9 billion at the end of the fiscal second quarter 2020 compared with the \$3.5 billion recorded at the end of the prior-year quarter. Cash generated from operating activities were \$776 million in the six-month period ended May 3, 2020 compared with the cash outflow of \$1.5 billion witnessed in the prior-year comparable period. At the end of the reported quarter, long-term borrowing was \$34 billion, up from the \$28 billion witnessed at the year-ago quarter's end.

Deere has undertaken significant actions also to strengthen the company's financial position and preserve liquidity. This includes raising \$4.5 billion in medium- to long-term funding, lowering operating expenses and reducing capital spending.

Outlook

Net income for fiscal 2020 is projected at \$1.6-\$2 billion. However, the company has stated that uncertainties regarding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic might affect the company's results.

Deere expects Agriculture and Turf equipment sales to be down 10-15% for fiscal 2020. The Construction and Forestry equipment segment's sales are expected to plunge 30-40% for the fiscal year.

Quarter Ending 04/2020

Report Date	May 22, 2020
Sales Surprise	8.41%
EPS Surprise	19.21%
Quarterly EPS	2.11
Annual EPS (TTM)	8.59

Recent News

Deere Declares Quarterly Dividend - May 27, 2020

The company's board has declared a quarterly dividend of 76 cents per share payable on Aug 10, to shareholders of record on Jun 30, 2020.

Valuation

Deere's shares are down 7.5% in the year-to-date period and 2.2% in the trailing 12-month period. Year to date, stocks in the Manufacturing - Farm Equipment industry and Industrial Products sector are down 10.1% and 9.9%, respectively. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and sector are down 5.3% and 2.7%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is down 2.7% in the year-to-date while up 5.7% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 20.98X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 21.26X for the Zacks sub-industry, 21.46X for the Zacks sector and 22.72X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 26.35X and as low as 11.13X, with a 5-year median of 17.68X.

Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our \$168 price target reflects 21.99X Forward 12-month earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for DE:

Valuation Multiples - DE					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	20.98	21.26	21.46	22.72
	5-Year High	26.35	23.16	21.46	22.72
	5-Year Low	11.13	11.88	12.61	15.15
	5-Year Median	17.68	17.8	16.51	17.42
P/S F12M	Current	1.7	1.17	2.75	3.54
	5-Year High	1.8	1.24	2.75	3.54
	5-Year Low	0.97	0.76	1.51	2.54
	5-Year Median	1.39	1	2	3.01
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	13.23	10.22	15.13	11.71
	5-Year High	14.89	13.39	17.29	12.81
	5-Year Low	10.18	8.67	10.63	8.24
	5-Year Median	12.51	10.8	14.71	10.75

As of 07/06/2020

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 37% (94 out of 251)



Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
AGCO Corporation (AGCO)	Neutral	3
Alamo Group, Inc. (ALG)	Neutral	2
BriggsStratton Corporation (BGG)	Neutral	4
CNH Industrial N.V. (CNHI)	Neutral	3
Lindsay Corporation (LNN)	Neutral	1
Terex Corporation (TEX)	Neutral	3
Titan International, Inc. (TWI)	Neutral	3
Toro Company The (TTC)	Underperform	5

Industry Comparison Industry: Manufacturing - Farm Equipment				Industry Peers		
	DE	X Industry	S&P 500	AGCO	BGG	TWI
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	3	4	3
VGM Score	B	-	-	D	C	B
Market Cap	50.13 B	545.36 M	22.04 B	4.23 B	54.34 M	83.63 M
# of Analysts	9	3	14	7	3	2
Dividend Yield	1.90%	0.51%	1.89%	1.13%	0.00%	1.45%
Value Score	B	-	-	C	C	D
Cash/Price	0.19	0.11	0.07	0.09	0.86	0.73
EV/EBITDA	9.89	8.82	12.81	7.75	3.95	11.85
PEG Ratio	3.76	3.57	2.94	6.73	NA	NA
Price/Book (P/B)	4.22	1.29	3.01	1.58	0.23	0.47
Price/Cash Flow (P/CF)	9.69	9.66	11.87	5.40	1.05	9.62
P/E (F1)	26.35	24.82	21.54	24.82	NA	NA
Price/Sales (P/S)	1.36	0.58	2.35	0.47	0.03	0.06
Earnings Yield	3.79%	3.79%	4.39%	4.04%	-84.38%	-74.64%
Debt/Equity	2.89	0.59	0.76	0.67	0.38	2.48
Cash Flow (\$/share)	16.53	1.22	6.94	10.47	1.22	0.14
Growth Score	B	-	-	D	B	B
Hist. EPS Growth (3-5 yrs)	17.88%	11.29%	10.90%	11.29%	-11.80%	NA
Proj. EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-38.87%	-29.65%	-9.51%	-48.75%	41.16%	-34.87%
Curr. Cash Flow Growth	4.09%	-16.08%	5.51%	31.75%	-54.98%	-88.27%
Hist. Cash Flow Growth (3-5 yrs)	3.09%	-12.10%	8.55%	1.73%	-12.10%	-31.97%
Current Ratio	2.20	1.82	1.30	1.49	0.91	1.87
Debt/Capital	74.31%	36.82%	44.46%	40.22%	27.34%	72.41%
Net Margin	7.62%	-1.93%	10.62%	1.39%	-12.50%	-5.58%
Return on Equity	23.01%	0.12%	15.75%	11.59%	-16.48%	-24.72%
Sales/Assets	0.50	1.07	0.55	1.12	1.01	1.19
Proj. Sales Growth (F1/F0)	-19.33%	0.00%	-2.57%	-13.01%	3.78%	-16.62%
Momentum Score	D	-	-	D	F	B
Daily Price Chg	1.47%	0.47%	1.12%	3.37%	4.92%	1.47%
1 Week Price Chg	5.94%	5.94%	3.66%	3.70%	-16.44%	0.74%
4 Week Price Chg	-5.09%	-10.12%	-7.12%	-11.21%	-55.09%	-34.29%
12 Week Price Chg	14.61%	14.61%	11.84%	10.94%	-44.11%	3.76%
52 Week Price Chg	-2.24%	-8.44%	-6.03%	-26.67%	-87.23%	-69.33%
20 Day Average Volume	1,403,063	499,144	2,400,079	499,144	3,577,860	981,305
(F1) EPS Est 1 week change	0.72%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.69%	0.00%	0.00%
(F1) EPS Est 4 week change	0.72%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.69%	-15.77%	0.00%
(F1) EPS Est 12 week change	-13.23%	-22.40%	-8.26%	-31.57%	-498.77%	12.77%
(Q1) EPS Est Mthly Chg	-1.23%	-1.04%	0.00%	1.29%	-3.54%	0.00%

Zacks Stock Rating System

We offer two rating systems that take into account investors' holding horizons: Zacks Rank and Zacks Recommendation. Each provides valuable insights into the future profitability of the stock and can be used separately or in combination with each other depending on your investment style.

Zacks Recommendation

The Zacks Recommendation aims to predict performance over the next 6 to 12 months. The foundation for the quantitatively determined Zacks Recommendation is trends in the company's estimate revisions and earnings outlook. The Zacks Recommendation is broken down into 3 Levels; Outperform, Neutral and Underperform. Unlike many Wall Street firms, we have an excellent balance between the number of Outperform and Neutral recommendations. Our team of 70 analysts are fully versed in the benefits of earnings estimate revisions and how that is harnessed through the Zacks quantitative rating system. But we have given our analysts the ability to override the Zacks Recommendation for the 1200 stocks that they follow. The reason for the analyst over-rides is that there are often factors such as valuation, industry conditions and management effectiveness that a trained investment professional can spot better than a quantitative model.

Zacks Rank

The Zacks Rank is our short-term rating system that is most effective over the one- to three-month holding horizon. The underlying driver for the quantitatively-determined Zacks Rank is the same as the Zacks Recommendation, and reflects trends in earnings estimate revisions.

Zacks Style Scores

The Zacks Style Score is as a complementary indicator to the Zacks rating system, giving investors a way to focus on the highest rated stocks that best fit their own stock picking preferences.

Academic research has proven that stocks with the best Value, Growth and Momentum characteristics outperform the market. The Zacks Style Scores rate stocks on each of these individual styles and assigns a rating of A, B, C, D and F. We also produce the VGM Score (V for Value, G for Growth and M for Momentum), which combines the weighted average of the individual Style Scores into one score. This is perfectly suited for those who want their stocks to have the best scores across the board.

Value Score	B
Growth Score	B
Momentum Score	D
VGM Score	B

As an investor, you want to buy stocks with the highest probability of success. That means buying stocks with a Zacks Recommendation of Outperform, which also has a Style Score of an A or a B.

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