



## Using the On Farm Connectivity Program to adopt more precise auto steering on tractors

The Australian Government's On Farm Connectivity Program is helping sugar cane farmers like Rick Garnham in Queensland take advantage of connectivity solutions to boost productivity on their properties.

Rick and his family are sugar cane farmers on the coast of Queensland. In the past, they have used Global Positioning System (GPS) enabled auto steer tractors without a modem to cultivate their sugar cane fields.

Through the Program, Rick has been able to install a modem on his tractor, enabling more informed auto steering. This form of auto steering is more precise, using and collecting data such as coverage maps.

One of the suppliers Rick has worked with previously, who is also an Approved Supplier under the Program, advertised a modem to provide a connectivity component for existing tractors.

Rick said the process wasn't difficult to follow and the program helped him to access the modem at a reduced cost.

'The application process was pretty straightforward and my supplier provided me with the assistance I required,' he said.

The modem on the tractor will help with proactive management of Rick's sugar cane farm, by streamlining the farming process. This includes when his farm is passed down to subsequent generations who will be able to use the data stored online, instead of the previous hard copy records, to better drive their farming practices into the future.

Rick said he encourages other farmers to take advantage of the Program.

'It's a great way of getting ahead in farming,' he said.

The Program has been a valuable initiative for farmers, reducing the financial barriers to improving connectivity across farms. The On Farm Connectivity Program is set to benefit more farmers, with a third round due to open later in 2025.