Start at School | Years 9 - 12:

Agriculture / Primary Industries subjects | STEM subjects (Maths, Science) | Workplace learning / farm work experience | Part-time or seasonal farm work.

Precision Ag Operator / Mobile Plant Operator

Pathway: High-Tech Machinery, Smart Farming, Real Impact

Precision Ag Operators use GPS-guided machinery and digital technology to perform critical farming tasks such as planting, spraying, and harvesting with pinpoint accuracy. By combining hands-on machinery operation with data-driven tools, they help farms improve efficiency, productivity, and sustainability. This role is ideal for those who enjoy technology, outdoor work, and modern agriculture.

What You'll Do

- Operate and monitor GPS-guided tractors, sprayers, and harvesters
- Use precision technology to execute planting, spraying, and spreading with high accuracy
- Follow digital prescriptions and variable-rate maps
- Collect and record operational and production data
- Assist with calibration, setup, and maintenance of precision equipment
- Troubleshoot machinery and technology issues in real time
- Collaborate with farm managers, agronomists, and AgTech staff

Skills You'll Use

Technical Skills:

- Operation of modern agricultural machinery
- GPS guidance, autosteer, and variable-rate systems
- Basic understanding of precision ag software and displays
- Machinery setup, calibration, and basic maintenance
- Data capture and interpretation

Soft Skills:

- Analytical thinking
- Technology adaptability
- Problem-solving
- Attention to detail
- Safety awareness and responsibility

Alternative Job Titles

- Precision Farming Operator
- GPS Machinery Operator
- Precision Equipment Operator
- Mobile Plant Operator (Agriculture)
- Advanced Machinery Operator

🎓 Study & Training Pathways

VET Pathways: Certificate II in Agriculture | Certificate III in Agriculture | Certificate III in Agricultural Mechanical Technology (apprenticeship) | Certificate IV in Agriculture | Diploma of Agriculture | Advanced Diploma of Agribusiness Management.
Supports entry-level machinery roles and progression to advanced precision or supervisory positions

University Pathways: Bachelor of Agricultural Science - Major in Agricultural Technology | Bachelor of Agribusiness | Combine degree in Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Agriculture | Microdentials and Graduate Certificates in AgTech
Supports progression into farm management, precision agriculture specialist roles, or AgTech careers

📈 Career Outlook

- Strong demand in regional WA (Great Southern & Wheatbelt)
- Increasing adoption of high-tech machinery on farms
- Clear progression to senior machinery, AgTech, or management roles
- Opportunity to work with advanced agricultural technology

🏛️ Typical Employers

- **Farms & Agribusinesses:** Family-owned grain and mixed-enterprise farms | Corporate broadacre cropping enterprises | Large livestock and cropping operations

- **Contracting & Farm Services:** Seeding, spraying, and harvesting contractors | Livestock handling and machinery contractors | Fencing, earthworks, and farm maintenance services
Provides seasonal to permanent progression and supervisory opportunities

- **Machinery & Technology Service Providers:** Agricultural machinery dealerships | Precision agriculture technology installers and support

- **Agribusiness & Rural Support Companies:** Local independent rural supply stores

🌱 Why This Role Matters?

Precision Ag operators serve as the essential link between advanced digital innovation and global food security. They are key facilitators of modern agriculture. By integrating high-tech machinery with real-time data analysis, they transform traditional farming into a highly efficient, sustainable, and professional industry capable of meeting the world's increasing food demands. If you love machinery, tech, and the outdoors, this is a career that puts you in the driver's seat for the future of agriculture.

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Workforce Australia
Local Jobs
Great Southern – Wheatbelt

Food, Fibre & Timber Industries
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