



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.

