On Farm Connectivity Information Service

**Description**

# On Farm Connectivity Information Service



The National Farmers' Federation is proud to support the Australian Government's On Farm Connectivity Program (OFCP). To help farmers navigate the connectivity investment landscape and make informed decisions for their business, the On Farm Connectivity Information Service is delivered by the Regional Tech Hub to provide free and independent advice on producers' connectivity and agritech options.

- **On Farm Information Service:** a bespoke service to farmers, helping you understand the connectivity options available based on your location, needs and budget. In addition answering all your questions about the OFCP program.
- **Building connectivity literacy:** a range of online resources designed to help you best utilise connectivity and agritech solutions.
- **Learning through case studies:** a look at how farmers have used the OFCP grant and ways technology have benefited their operations.

The ON FARM CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM is currently closed for round 1, with the second round opening later in 2024.

Watch the On-Farm Connectivity Program (OFCP) webinar held on Thursday, 17 October at 12pm AEST to learn about the second round of the Australian Government's $33 million OFCP grant.

Watching the webinar, you will learn:

- How you, as a primary producer, can access up to a $30,000 rebate for connectivity and agritech equipment.
- Insights from agritech experts Bill Mitchell (2024 Agtech of the Year winner) and Dan Winson (Founder of Zetifi) on how to begin exploring agritech solutions for your farming

operation and the key questions to ask potential suppliers.
- How the Regional Tech Hub team is providing expert advice and support to primary producers across Australia through the On-Farm Connectivity Program.

This webinar offers practical guidance to help you upgrade connectivity on your farm, whether you're just starting to explore options or ready to move forward.

# On Farm Connectivity Program (OFCP)

## Information on Round 2 of the OFCP

The Australian Government's On Farm Connectivity Program (OFCP) is a $30 million initiative over two years to support primary producers in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in adopting connected machinery and sensor technology.

Providing a rebate of 50 per cent of the cost of eligible equipment, including installation and training, with grants up to $30,000 (excluding GST), the OFCP covers digital technologies such as soil moisture probes, water flow and pressure monitors, livestock monitoring systems and pump controllers as well as, associated connectivity equipment.

Round one applications for the OFCP are now closed, as all funding has been fully committed.

On August 6th, an announcement was made by the [Communication's Minister that round two will open very shortly](#).

Updates to the program for round two include:

- Increased funding to $18 million available (+$3 million increase)
- Higher revenue cap: The revenue cap for primary producers has been increased to $4 million, averaged over the past three financial years.
- Lower minimum rebate: The minimum rebate amount has been reduced from $3,000 to $1,000 (GST exclusive), broadening accessibility.
- Extended activity timeframe: A single 'up to 120 calendar days' timeframe now replaces the previous two 60-day periods.
- ABN registration requirement: Primary producers must have an ABN registered for at least 12 months to be eligible.

## What is the On Farm Connectivity Information Service?

The Regional Tech Hub works directly with producers using the independent On Farm Connectivity Information Service to help them make informed decisions around the connectivity technologies best suited to their business. The service complements the On Farm Connectivity

Program by allowing producers to research their connectivity needs before applying for the grant.

Whether it be determining how to extend connectivity from the house to the machinery shed or yards, or how to support some of the highly sophisticated production networks and systems they wish to adopt, the Information Service provides practical, tailored solutions.

Producers are urged to make use of this free, independent advisory service, so they can confidently participate in the On Farm Connectivity Program and access rebated support for the cost of eligible equipment, including installation and training, to boost the productivity of their business.

## How to get in touch with the information service?

To book an appointment to speak with the Regional Tech Hub about the program, please visit our Contact page.

You can also find more information on the Australian Government website.

## Who is eligible for the OFCP grant?

The full eligibility terms and conditions for round 2 are still to be announced. Please keep a watch of this space or the department's website.

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## What equipment is eligible?

Eligible connectivity equipment or solutions can be found in the Catalogue of eligible equipment. Eligible connectivity solutions can be delivered through LPWAN, satellite, cellular and/or Wi-Fi technology.

There are five broad categories of eligible connectivity solutions and associated eligible equipment:
• Low Power Wide Area Networks (LPWAN)

- Connectivity equipment
- Environmental monitoring
- Farm management
- Remote automation and control

Other eligible expenditure items include subscriptions for data aggregation platforms and software, training costs, delivery, and installation costs.

## How does the grant process work?

The process for a rebate is multi step as follows.

1. Consult with an approved supplier about your needs and identify eligible equipment you wish to purchase.
2. The supplier will then need to first apply to the Business Grants Hub and get confirmation that the program eligibility criteria have been met before selling the equipment.
3. Once the application has been approved, the equipment must be purchased within 60 days.
4. The supplier then needs to submit a claim for the rebate.

| Primary producer pays 50% or $8,000 | → | Eligible equipment including installation and delivery valued at $16,000 supplied by Eligible Equipment supplier | ← | Eligible Equipment supplier claims a rebate of 50% or $8,000 |
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## How can I become an approved supplier?

To become an approved supplier for the On Farm Connectivity Program, your company would need to apply during the EOI process to participate in the program.

The EOI process is current open for Round 2, with applications closing on Sunday 29 September 2024 at 11:59pm (AEST). Late applications will not be accepted.

To apply please visit the department's application form.

Click here for the RD2 EOI Supplier Guide.

Please monitor the department's website for announcements or email via OFCP@communications.gov.au.

## What resources are available?

Producers can utilise the Regional Tech Hub's 1:1 communication channels to ask questions and seek expert advice. You can get in touch by booking a time to speak with our team, contacting our 1800 hotline, or fill out a simple form and we will get back to you with more information.

The Australian Government's On Farm Connectivity Program page provides a variety of resources including the approved supplier list.

We also have a variety of resources available for the program, developed to cover the topics surrounding agriculture connectivity and technologies. More great resources are found on the page below, available for download.

- **Examples of use of technology on farm**
    - Use-case-1_Longline-Fishing
    - Use-case-3_Walnut-Farm
    - Use-case-4_Marketing-Manager
    - Use-case-5_Oyster-Farmer
- **Factsheets and useful guides**
    - Agri-4.0-connectivity-digital-innovation-australia
    - OFCP Producers Q&A (Round 1)
    - OFCP Suppliers Q&A (Round 1)
    - On-Farm-Connectivity-Stakeholder-Toolkit
    - Article_Regional-Tech-Hub
- Useful website links
    - AgTech Finder – An independent marketplace helping Australian farmers and producers search, sort, and compare AgTech solutions. An initiative of Food Agility CRC.
    - Farms of the Future Program – A NSW DPI initiative providing training and resources on agtech adoption.

# On farm resources

### Webinars

Visit our YouTube channel to watch our latest webinar videos with information on the OFCP program. Learn how farmers are using the program to improve connectivity and utilise Agritech solutions to benefit their operations.

RTH YouTube page
**On Farm Connectivity Guide**

Learn the steps in your on farm connectivity journey, what are important questions to think about before talking to suppliers and a comprehensive list of key phrases in Agritech. Developed in partnership with nbn Co.

Download

**Building A Farm Connectivity Plan**

Farmers today are increasingly integrating digital agricultural practices into their operations. This factsheet guides you through the steps and considerations when improving or establishing connectivity on your farm.

Download

**Farm Connectivity Tech Types**

In modern agriculture, farmers are presented with a plethora of technological options, from IOT to low powered wide area networks. This guide provides an introduction to the use cases, benefits and limitations.

Download

**Picking The Right Tech Solution**

When it comes to selecting a communications network for a farming business, there is no one size fits all. This guide looks at the types of questions you may need to ask a supplier when picking a connectivity/ agritech solution for your farm.

Download

**A Farmers Guide To Equipment**

Enhancing on-farm connectivity requires a suite of equipment designed to ensure robust and reliable communication and data transfer. In this guide, we delve into the purpose of each piece of equipment and its role in agricultural operations. Learn about options for your business.

Download

**Environmental Equipment**

Leveraging advanced connectivity for environmental monitoring on farms enables precise and real-time management of agricultural resources, leading to better yields and sustainable practices. Here's an overview of various environmental monitoring use cases.

Download

**Farm Management Equipment**

Effective farm management is increasingly reliant on connected technologies. This guide explores various use cases for each piece of equipment, detailing their functions, key benefits and the connectivity requirements for optimal operation.

Download

# On Farm Connectivity Program in action

On Farm Connectivity: Comprehensive on-farm security system

On Farm Connectivity: Digital water monitoring infrastructure

On Farm Connectivity: Automated and portable cattle weighing system

On Farm Connectivity: Water monitoring on remote NT station

# Chat to us at upcoming events

**Agforce Conference:** 1-2 October 2024

- Brisbane, QLD

**MLA Updates:** 10 October 2024

- Perth, WA

**Aust Agrifood Summit:** 29-30 October 2024

- Wagga Wagga, NSW

**Agtech24:** 20-21 November 2024

- Emerald, QLD

**West Tech Fest:** 2-6 December 2024

- Perth, WA

# Want to know more?

Reach out to the On Farm Connectivity Information Service if you have any questions about how the program works or what connectivity solutions might be right for you. Simply, visit our website, book an appointment, or call us on 1300 081 029.

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