

1. Program Summary

The Victorian Government (through Agriculture Victoria) has established the Digital Agriculture Investment Scheme. Grants of a minimum of \$5,000 up to \$50,000 (excluding GST) are available with at least 50% co-contribution from eligible farm businesses to assist investment in eligible on-farm digital technology projects. The Victorian Government is working to ensure that Victorian farmers are at the forefront of the digital revolution to create an agricultural sector that is strong, innovative and sustainable.

Please read the Program Guidelines on the Rural Finance website at www.ruralfinance.com.au/digital-agriculture before completing this application form. Grants are available from the launch of the Scheme on 23 June 2021 until program funds are fully allocated, or the closing date of 31 October 2021, whichever is sooner.

To find out more about eligible projects and further information visit www.ruralfinance.com.au/digital-agriculture

2. Primary Contact Details

Name: _____

Your role in the business (eg. Director, Manager, owner-operator, sole trader etc): _____

Telephone: _____ **Mobile:** _____ **Email:** _____

Have you or another business owner previously applied for this grant? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Business Details

Business / trading name: _____

Business legal / registered name: _____

Primary Industry (eg. mixed farming, cropping, horticulture, cattle): _____

Australian Business Number (ABN): _____

Farm Property Address: _____

Postal Address (if different from above): _____

Shire: _____

Are you proposing digital investment activities on agriculture land that you own, lease, or share farm in Victoria? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does your business have a current ABN that is registered for GST? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does your farm business turnover exceed \$50,000 on average and meet the 'Primary Producer' definition in the Program Guidelines? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is your business a legal entity with an ABN registered as a sole trader, trust, partnership or private company? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you received any funding or rebates for your project? If yes, please provide details of the program and funds received.
(Please note: to be eligible for assistance 50% co-contribution of total project cost is required) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Previous program and funding: _____

Are you aware that any expenditure incurred prior to receiving approval from Rural Finance will not be reimbursed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Bank Account Details (for approved payments to be made into)

Account name: _____

Bank: _____ **BSB:** _____ **Account No:** _____

5. Project Summary

Applications will be considered for digital agriculture technologies that support on-farm productivity and decision making, including hardware, cloud based application/s and/or software and/or network connectivity, plus installation costs for eligible items. Please include a brief description of your proposed project/s below and benefits to your farm business:

Grants from \$5,000 to \$50,000 (ex GST) are available for one or more eligible projects. There is no maximum limit to overall project cost, however the maximum grant amount is \$50,000. The Scheme requires a minimum co-contribution of 50% to the total cost of the project. Only one application is permitted per farm business, so please include all eligible investment costs (ex GST in the table below). Please ensure your service provider is able to deliver and install the project within 6 months of you receiving approval from Rural Finance.

Only expenditure incurred after receiving project approval from Rural Finance is eligible for reimbursement.

Please tick Eligible Project Areas

Animal health and performance
Asset monitoring and tracking
Business model technologies (e.g. blockchain, customer journey analytics)
On-farm connectivity and networks (e.g. LoRaWAN / LPWAN / wireless mesh)
Crop forecasting and prediction
Data visualisation / dashboards
Digital technology that helps manage genomics and plant/animal selection
Drones (excluding drone licence fees)
Farm management platforms (including subscription costs if paid upfront)
Feed solutions
GPS guidance systems for tractors, sprayers, harvesters (can be retrofitted)
Satellite imagery and mapping
Pest, weed and disease management
Robotics and smart machinery / automation
Sensors (e.g. water troughs, fuel tanks)
Smart collars and tags
Smart irrigation and water management
Soil, pasture and plant monitoring
Traceability and provenance
Weather monitoring and forecasting
Other (please list item)

Total Investment Amount (ex GST):	
Proposed Rebate Amount (calculated on 50% of Total Investment Amount): (Minimum amount \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$50,000)	

6. Privacy Consent

We, Rural Finance and Agriculture Victoria, are collecting your personal information to process your application for the Digital Agriculture Investment Scheme.

We will use the personal information you have provided to assess your eligibility for assistance against the scheme criteria and provide the assistance to you if applicable and for reporting, publicity, evaluation and audit purposes. You do not have to provide this information, but failure to do so means Rural Finance which is a brand used by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd ABN 11 068 049 178 ("Rural Finance") and/or Agriculture Victoria will not be able to assess your application.

You authorise Rural Finance and Agriculture Victoria to obtain in connection with this Application, any personal and other information about your expenditure and your business including your assets, liabilities, income and/or expenditure from third parties (e.g. your accountant).

Your personal information will be managed by Agriculture Victoria in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic.) and other applicable laws. For copies of the Privacy Policy or information on how each of Rural Finance and Agriculture Victoria manages privacy, including handling complaints, please refer to: privacy@ecodev.vic.gov.au and/or www.ruralfinance.com.au/disclosure-documents

You have a right to access the personal information we hold about you and can request access to or correction of your personal information or make a complaint by contacting Rural Finance by telephone on 1800 260 425, by email to governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au or by post at PO Box 1313, Bendigo Central, Vic, 3552.

Your personal information is not disclosed to overseas recipients; however may be disclosed to staff in other divisions of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd.

7. Consent and Signed Declaration

I/We authorise Rural Finance to provide the information contained in this application to the State of Victoria, as represented by Agriculture Victoria in the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

I/We authorise that Agriculture Victoria may contact us in relation to the scheme.

I/We understand that deliberately giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

I/We authorise Rural Finance to obtain any information regarding this application from the product/service provider.

I/We authorise the product/service provider to supply any required information regarding this application to Rural Finance and Agriculture Victoria.

I/We authorise Rural Finance or Agriculture Victoria to obtain any information regarding the eligibility of this application from other government agencies.

I/We certify that we own/operate a farm business in accordance with the Program Guidelines.

I/We declare that the Grant will be used for the purpose specified within the Digital Agriculture Investment Scheme Guidelines and agree to supply invoices/receipts to confirm expenditure.

I/We declare that it is our responsibility to ensure infrastructure is implemented in accordance with any relevant Victorian and Commonwealth Government laws and regulations.

I/We understand Rural Finance and/or Agriculture Victoria may conduct an audit/inspection to ensure that any assistance I/we receive under this Scheme has been used in accordance with this Application and the Digital Agriculture Investment Scheme Program Guidelines and not for any other purpose.

I/We agree to participate in any audits confirming rebate eligibility and expenditure or post program evaluation.

By submitting an application as a sole trader, trust, partnership or private company, I have the authority to make this application on its behalf, and do solemnly and sincerely declare that this application is true and correct in every particular and in accordance with the Digital Agriculture Investment Scheme Program Guidelines. I make this declaration with the understanding that if the application is found to be untrue or misleading the matter may be referred to law enforcement and penalties may apply.

Full Name:

Signature:

Date:

8. How to Apply:

Please submit your completed application form and supporting documents to Rural Finance via:

Post: Rural Finance, PO Box 1313, Bendigo Central 3552

Email: governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au

Supporting Documents

Please submit your application form with the following attachments via email to governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au:

1. Evidence of farm property location (eg. rates notice, lease agreement or share farming contract)
2. Formal detailed quote/s from a registered supplier identifying eligible project items. (Please note that emailed or handwritten quotes will not be accepted, and items must be new and not second hand).
3. Latest tax returns for the business/trust/partnership applying (eg. tax return or BAS Statements must demonstrate an average annual turnover of \$50,000 or more for the 2019/20 or 2020/21 Financial year. If you are a new business please attach a copy of your Business Plan demonstrating how your business will reach commercial scale within the next financial year.

Rural Finance processes complete applications in order of receipt. The Primary Contact will be advised within four weeks of eligibility and if program funds remain available. Approved projects must be completed within six months of written approval from Rural Finance. Once the project is completed you will need to submit the following documents to Rural Finance via email before any rebate payment can be processed:

- Paid tax invoices and/or receipts and a copy of bank statements confirming payment
- Photos showing completed installation, and
- Evidence of any certificates eg. electrical certificates, planning and licence approvals if applicable.

Please review the Program Guidelines on the Rural Finance website at www.ruralfinance.com.au and call 1800 260 425 if you have any questions.