

## AgTech Officer

- Are you passionate about digital technologies?
- Are you interested in agriculture and primary industries?
- Are you looking to widen your industry experience?
- Are you looking to gain more skillsets?

This is your opportunity to be mentored by subject matter experts in their field to develop the skills required to engage with primary producers, community, and work colleagues to share knowledge and improve uptake of digital technologies.

### POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Program</b>	Agricultural Digital Support Work Placement Program (ADSWPP)	
<b>Position Title</b>	AgTech Officer	
<b>Salary</b>	Salary will vary on experience of candidate. Plus a training package worth over \$30k	
<b>Incumbent</b>	This position is full time commencing in January 2024, ceasing in December, 2024 (12 months duration only)	
<b>Location</b>	Ayr	
<b>Reports To</b>	The Manager – Rob Milla	
<b>Key Relationships</b>	<b>Internal:</b>	All staff
	<b>External:</b>	Landholders, other Trainees, Queensland Farmers' Federation, other extension staff

### **Position Summary:**

The Queensland Government has engaged the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) to facilitate the Agricultural Digital Support Work Placement Program (ADSWPP), which aims to improve the capacity of up to twenty (20) Ag Tech officers. The program will enhance your skills in digital technologies as you complete numerous skillsets to assist in knowledge sharing with agribusinesses and producers to implement the uptake of digital technologies throughout Queensland.

The program will enhance trainees' skills in the digital technologies sector to help agribusinesses with the adoption of Ag Tech within their business. Trainees' will be employed for a period of 12-months to assist the uptake of ag tech through their host organisations, supported by mentoring from experienced advisors and a tailored training program completing numerous skill sets. Ag Tech Officers will also have the opportunity to build professional and local networks with their fellow officers, industry advisors, and in their local communities.

Graduates will be employed for a period of 12-months to assist with the delivery of digital technologies uptake services through their host organisations, supported by mentoring from experienced advisors and a tailored training program.

## Host Organisation and Work Location:

Burdekin Productivity Services (BPS) is a not-for-profit organization owned by its members (growers and Wilmar sugar who contribute levies). BPS delivers independent pest, disease, variety, and agronomic extension services to its members. BPS is responsible for the distribution and management of new varieties throughout the district, as well as delivering a range of extension projects around water quality, irrigation, nutrient management, and soil health. BPS partners with Sugar Research Australia (SRA), universities and external researchers to develop technologies and solutions to address limiting factors in farming systems. These partnerships and the range of activities that BPS staff undertake will ensure that the successful applicant is exposed to a very broad range of technology and agronomy skills. The BPS strategic plan has 5 key strategies, one of which focuses on exploring and adopting technology solutions for farmers to improve productivity and sustainability. If the trainee shows enthusiasm and is able to demonstrate how technology can improve productivity with local growers, there is potential this position could be extended permanently.

The Burdekin cane growing region is based around the towns of Ayr and Home Hill and covers approximately 75,000 Ha of fully irrigated sugarcane, horticulture and broadacre crops. The region boasts plentiful fishing, camping, hiking and outdoor activities. The region is centrally located to allow easy travel to the Great Barrier Reef, Whitsundays, Wet Tropics, and the Outback. The region is very community oriented and has many sporting clubs and social events. Due to the abundance of irrigation water the region offers very stable employment. BPS are looking for an Ag Tech Officer who is passionate about agriculture, keen to learn with the ability to communicate and empathise with growers. BPS has a team of 12 staff that work in advisory roles with a large range of experience and expertise in all aspects of cane production and extension.

## Trainee Role & Responsibilities:

The successful Ag Tech Officer will work with the selected host organisation to support producers to uptake digital technologies and implement on farm.

The Ag Tech Officer will:

- Increase their capacity to deliver digital technology advice by working with landholders to facilitate change on their property. This is achieved by helping people gain the knowledge and confidence required for practice change and providing support to ensure it is implemented cost effectively.
- Work with their organisation's mentor to develop and implement a 12-month work program that supports landholders to adopt practices that improve digital technologies. This work program will need to be approved by both BPS and QFF.
- Actively contribute to the design and delivery of their program, as well as to the design and delivery of extension activities under the guidance of their mentor (s).
- Complete a skills needs assessment. This will allow for activities specified in the work program to be tailored to the Ag Tech Officer's needs.
- Attend designated training programs and demonstrate competency in specified training units.
- Demonstrate skill development to the satisfaction of their mentor and meet agreed performance standards.
- Develop and implement a stakeholder engagement plan to proactively engage with internal and external stakeholders and create their own networks throughout the year.

- Undertake evaluation activities and participate in a public forum to report on outcomes of the program.
- Actively participate and potentially present at events and other forums as requested.

Specific activities relating to the position within BPS may include:

- Providing targeted agronomic advice to sugarcane growers, covering nutrient and irrigation management, pest and weed control, and harvesting best practices as well as supporting delivery of Smartcane BMP.
- Utilising cutting-edge technologies such as GPS, GIS, and emerging irrigation methods to optimize sugarcane production.
- Collaborating closely with local growers through one-on-one support and group extension activities.
- Enhance and build upon existing relationships with sugarcane growers, fostering stronger partnerships to boost productivity outcomes.
- Participate in our extensive trial program, exploring enhancements across all aspects of sugarcane production, focussing on irrigation and soil health.

Ag Tech Officers will be required to attend all training activities as per agreed work program, including:

- The induction workshop (to take place within the first two weeks of commencement).
- The mid-term review workshop.
- All training events identified in the training plan.
- The final evaluation event.

## **Eligibility Criteria:**

### ***Essential***

To be eligible as an Ag Tech Officer, candidates must:

1. Be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or hold an eligible work visa.
2. Be aged 15 years or over.
3. Hold a 'Class C' Queensland driver's license.
4. Be willing to work for BPS in the Ayr region. It will be the Ag Tech Officers responsibility to organise relocation to the host organisation's office at their own cost.
5. Be able to commence work in January 2024.
6. Be committed in participating in the program for the 12-months duration.
7. Be able and willing to travel throughout a region as part of their work. This may include multiple days away at a time.
8. Actively participate in specified training and demonstrate competency in agreed key performance indicators
9. Demonstrate capacity to work independently within a team environment
10. High-level verbal communication skills and demonstrated networking skills.

### ***Desirable***

1. A strong interest and/or passion for agriculture and digital technologies.

**QFF and BPS support equal opportunity employment, Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders are encouraged to apply.**

## Selection Criteria:

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Level of skills and training and personal attributes that could be used to perform the role as an Ag Tech Officer to improve uptake of digital technologies. This could include demonstrated successful completion of studies in Agriculture, Science, or Information Technology (IT).
2. Demonstrated high-level communication skills and a strong ability to engage and build networks effectively.
3. Good understanding of the agricultural industry/ host organisation being applied for.

## Submitting an Application:

Candidates are asked to submit the following information:

1. Current Curriculum Vitae (CV).
2. Cover Letter (maximum two pages), or a 3-minute video clip that responds to the selection criteria and summarises why are you interested in this role and why you should be considered for this role.
3. Your 3 job preferences.
4. Proof of nationality or a permanent residence visa.
5. Certified copies of your academic record and academic transcript if applicable.
6. Two referee contacts.

Please submit the above information on JotForm **by 5pm, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023**.

## Application and Assessment Cycle:

The following sequence outlines the work placement cycle.

Event	Proposed Date
Call for Ag Tech Officer Applications Open	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
Call for Ag Tech Applications Closes	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
Interviews of shortlisted applicants	12 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
Applicants advised of selection outcomes	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023
Proposed starting date	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024
Induction workshop	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024

*These are tentative dates. You will be advised of any changes.*

If you are successful, QFF Project Coordinator Tim Bradley will contact you to discuss the details of your employment and contract. The details will be aligned to the agreement between BPS and QFF, according to the provisions of the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training.

## Further Information:

For any queries related to the Agricultural Digital Support Work Placement Program contact Tim Bradley at [agtech@qff.org.au](mailto:agtech@qff.org.au) or phone 0481 010 756.