GPS systems for positioning and machine guidance are steadily being adopted in agriculture, with NSW farmers using this technology to reduce costs and increase crop yield. GPS systems enable modern farming techniques such as controlled traffic farming, inter-row sewing and variable rate application of inputs, such as fertilisers and pesticides, to be brought into practice.

CORSnet-NSW is a network of Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) that provide the correctional data needed for the accurate use of GPS and other Global Navigation Satellite Systems.

CORSnet-NSW provides a positioning framework for NSW farmers that makes these GPS systems more accurate, reliable and easy to use.

Satellite positioning with a single GPS receiver is only accurate to within a few metres. But by accessing correctional data from a reference receiver or CORS the accuracy can be improved to the 2 cm level.

Wagga Wagga farmer Andrew Dumaresq – a leading innovator in the Riverina region - has been using CORSnet-NSW for some time.

Andrew Dumaresq:

“We mainly use CORSnet to run our equipment, our sprayer – we use it basically 12 months a year spraying. We also use it on our harvester at harvest time. Our main job is also at seeding time where we use it for a bit of inter-row sowing and for entire accuracy – it’s just quite simple. It’s a base station that we don’t have to maintain.

“As technology moves along, CORSnet will deal with those issues - I don’t have to.

“Currently using a 262 receiver which is on the roof of the sprayer which is plugged into our modem up here which is run off the CORS network, we plug that in in the morning, it takes 2 or 3 minutes to boot up and fix a position and it’s right for the day.”

CORS networks are different from other correction services because the corrections provided are based on all surrounding reference sites rather than just one. This improves the accuracy, reliability and continuity of service. It’s one less thing for farmers to have to worry about.

Studies have shown that adopting improved farming techniques using GPS systems will help to reduce fuel use, minimise soil run-off, use less fertilizer and pesticide and result in less overlap. It also reduces driver fatigue meaning better safety, higher productivity and overall efficiency.

CORSnet-NSW is rapidly expanding across NSW in order to provide accurate, reliable and easy positioning solutions to regional areas. For the latest coverage information, visit our website at www.corsnet.com.au