

## **GPS Guiding Farmers to Fuel Savings**

Cane and capsicum grower, Jason Loeskow, saves approximately \$50,000 each year in input costs by using BEELINE Arro guidance systems on his five tractors and double row harvester.

Jason says he saves a total of ten percent in fuel and labour costs and that is before he was to calculate savings in chemicals he has been able to achieve with reduced bandwidths. "With fuel sitting at such high prices, we can effectively save over \$10,000 on 100,000 litres of fuel, and with them not looking to drop any time soon we are definitely better off using guidance to control costs where ever we can."

Whilst the initial cost of getting into GPS auto steer technology is a concern for some farmers Jason says his two BEELINE Arro's and six Swap Docks, which allow easy transfer between all of his tractors, have already paid for themselves in under 18 months.

"We are already square with the cost of the systems. From this point on we can consider any savings we make as extra profit," Jason says.

"We are looking to add an Arro each year in the coming years, as at the moment we can only operate two tractors at a time with the Arro's and no one wants to drive the tractors without guidance."

"These additional systems will pay for themselves each year, from then on we will be profiting from the use of the BEELINEs."

Felicity White, North Australian Area Manager, Agline, the distributors of BEELINE in Australia, has seen growers who go into current growing seasons without guidance do so at a distinct disadvantage.

"Fuel costs are not going to drop dramatically any time in the near future, if ever, so farmers have to adapt their farming operations to ensure they are efficient when it comes to inputs such as fuel. Given most farmers don't have any control on what price they will eventually receive for their grown commodity, they have to work smarter in those areas where they can influence the outcome."

Ian Muir, local sales and service agent for BEELINE in Ayr, has observed that in the Burdekin region the introduction of a GPS guidance system is often the first step to optimising operations and therefore controlling input costs. On Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of August, Ian will be hosting a demonstration of 2cm GPS auto steer on a John Deere tractor marking out at the Villis farm on Beach Rd at Ayr at 3pm.

To register your interest or for further details call Ian on 0414 835 550.