

Dale Livingston CUSTOMER STORY



Dale Livingston on his farm in Nokomis, Illinois.

PROFILE

NAME	Dale Livingston
LOCATION	Nokomis, Illinois
FARM SIZE	1500 acres
CROP	Soybeans, corn, and winter wheat
PRODUCT	AgGPS EZ-Steer system

LIVINGSTON'S AgGPS EXPERIENCE:

- Quick return on investment
- Greater productivity, less stress
- Easy to transfer between vehicles

With the cost of fuel increasing to almost \$3 a gallon, farmers everywhere are looking for ways to decrease their fuel consumption and keep their operation costs under control.

Dale Livingston from Nokomis, Illinois, has found a system that does just that. It's the AgGPS® EZ-Steer™ assisted steering from Trimble. It combines a friction wheel with GPS guidance from the AgGPS EZ-Guide® Plus lightbar and turns the steering wheel for you. You use less fuel because you no longer overlap (or skip, for that matter). "I think by one year of use I'll make my money back ... with the cost of fuel going up to almost \$3 a gallon and the cost of inputs rising, I think it pays ... especially spraying."

Livingston has been farming 1500 acres in Nokomis, "out in the middle of nowhere", since 1983. He grows soybeans, corn, and winter wheat.

Livingston has been using Trimble® GPS products for some time, purchasing an AgGPS 132 receiver with the PSO lightbar option in the late 1990's. "Basically I got it to start spraying with and we used it to field cultivate and put down anhydrous ammonia."

When the AgGPS EZ-Steer system was released in 2004, Livingston was quick to recognize the big-picture benefits. "It gives you time to look at how the operation is going and if you need to change something, instead of just driving and looking forwards you can look at the implement or whatever you're pulling behind you. You can see a little problem before it becomes a major problem ..."

The EZ-Steer system enables Livingston to work more productively and with less stress. "If there's dust blowing you can just turn it on and go until you get to the end of the field ... you don't overlap because you're not worried

about missing it ... it drives straighter than I can drive ... it just makes life less stressful for me ... and I can send somebody that maybe wouldn't normally do a job to do a job if I need to, and I don't worry about it because I know they're going to be right on with the EZ-Steer system."

Livingston has used his EZ-Steer system to "install field tile, field cultivate, drill soybeans and we've done spraying with it ... and we've cut wheat with the combine with it ... and we have cut beans with it this fall." Being used for all these operations, it's important that the system can be switched easily from vehicle to vehicle. "It takes about 15 minutes to transfer it from vehicle to vehicle ... maybe a little faster than that ... and it's easy to setup and once you get it setup you can teach yourself how to get around it." In saying that, Livingston plans to invest in another EZ-Steer system "I hopefully will have another one by next Spring ... so I don't have to move it so much from vehicle to vehicle, implement to implement."

By reducing skips and overlaps, as well as driver stress and fatigue, the Trimble EZ-Steer system provides definite cost savings and helps farmers control their operation costs.