



December 2025

Datum Changes Are Coming — And DigiFarm Has You Covered

The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has officially announced the modernization of the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). This modernization will replace the long-standing North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83) and the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) with new, more accurate reference frames designed specifically for North America.

When datums change, the numbers move, not the ground. Your A-B lines, field boundaries, or survey coordinates might show different values once systems begin using the new frames. Without proper handling, that can cause misalignment or offsets between equipment using different datums.

That is why **DigiFarm will maintain dual-datum support** — allowing users to operate confidently with older equipment or transition smoothly to the new standards when ready. DigiFarm will continue to support both the old and new datums for years to come, ensuring seamless compatibility for your RTK-enabled equipment and data.

As a DigiFarm customer you can continue to run on your existing lines with no changes.

If you are going to run on new equipment, using the new datum we will support that as well.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to one of the dedicated members of our Tech Support team at: 319.531.7574.

Further information

What's Changing — and Why

In October 2024, the NGS officially announced through the Federal Register that new datums are coming for the United States and its territories. These will include:

- NATRF2022 — the North American Terrestrial Reference Frame (replacing NAD83)
- NAPGD2022 — the North American-Pacific Geopotential Datum (replacing NAVD88)

These new reference frames account for the slow but constant motion of the North American tectonic plate and align more closely with modern satellite-based measurements. This will result in updated “absolute” positions when taking measurements, survey readings, recording AB lines as well as boundaries which will impact precision agriculture, surveying, and autonomous systems alike.

Rollout of these datums is expected to begin in 2025 and 2026, with testing already underway. Until full implementation, NAD83 and NAVD88 remain the official standards — and all DigiFarm corrections remain fully compatible.

What Is a Datum?

A datum is the mathematical model that defines the Earth's shape and coordinate system. It is what links your GPS coordinates to real-world locations. Every RTK correction, survey, and field boundary you rely on is tied to a specific datum.

Over time, these models need updating. The continent slowly shifts, satellites become more precise, and measurement techniques improve. That is why the U.S. is transitioning away from NAD83 and NAVD88 — systems that have served for over four decades — toward new, more stable, and globally consistent reference frames.

Check Your Network — Stay Aligned

If you are currently using a state-run RTK or CORS network, now is the time to confirm whether they will continue supporting NAD83 once the change takes effect. Some state networks may transition exclusively to NATRF2022, which could impact compatibility for older receivers or existing data.

If you need guaranteed legacy support, call DigiFarm at: 319.538.0885. Our team can help you stay connected, accurate, and ready for the future of positioning in North America.