



News

November 2011

Calendar

14 November

CTF Talk at 11:00, Agritechnica-Forum 1 Smart Farming in Hall 16, Stand D11, Hanover, DE.

30 November

RTK-GPS auto steering seminar, Foulum, DK.

1 December

Site specific lime application by use of the Veris MSP sensor, Osnabruck, DE.

11 January 2012

On-farm workshop, Cambridgeshire, UK.

19 January 2012

Workshop on CULTAN - injection of slow acting N-fertilizer, Niedersachsen, DE.

22 February 2012

On-farm workshop in The Borders, Scotland

June 2012

European CTF research and farm visits, Sweden

More info: www.ctfeurope.eu

Editor: Hans Henrik Pedersen, CTF Europe.dk

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CTF Europe is still growing after 4 years

Hans Henrik Pedersen, DK.

Our group was formed at Agritechnica 2007. Interest in reducing soil compaction by confining field traffic to the least possible area has spread across Europe, and we now have members in more than 15 countries. Together with Martin Holpp and Hans Ole Rasmussen I look forward to presenting both scientific and practical experiences with CTF at Agritechnica 2011.

If you are there, do not miss us in Hall 16, Smart Farming Stand D11 Monday at 11:00.

Swiss and European CTF trials

Martin Holpp, Agroscope, CH / Agrartechnik Witzenhausen, DE

For improving soil health and for reducing erosion risks, no-tillage techniques are gaining popularity. Topsoil compaction can reduce emergence and delay plant development. We have investigated the potential of CTF and no-tillage compared to ploughing and to conventional no-tillage. Results from the first three years show that traffic has a negative impact on soil physical parameters, even with low tyre inflation pressure. Yield differences are not as pronounced as in other CTF trials. This may be due to the difficult and slow recovering Luvisol soil. At the Smart Farming event I will summarize the status of other CTF trials in Germany, UK, the Netherlands, Sweden and Slovakia. Please visit Agrartechnik Witzenhausen in Hall 19, stand F24 for more info.



Romanian CTF experiences

Hans Ole Rasmussen, Tormac Agro, Romania.

In 2008 we implemented a 9 m non inversion tillage CTF system at Tormac Agro. We farm 4,700 ha of mainly heavy clay soils. Our main crops are canola, wheat, sunflower, corn and soybeans. When starting up 3 years ago our Case Quadtrac tractors were heavily loaded when pulling our 9 m cultivators at 6 km/h. They now easily pull the same cultivators at 8 km/h. For the heavy field work fuel use has decreased by approximately 30%.

We do not have random trafficked land for comparisons, but with our present yield levels I estimate a 10% yield effect of CTF. Even with a conservative estimate of 5% the yearly added production approximately equals our investment in GPS and new machines.

As we experience less need for tillage, we are experimenting with no-till and strip-till technologies which we expect will lead to further savings and perhaps increase our production as well.



Cultivation and drilling of winter wheat at Tormac Farm.



Tormac Agro is testing strip cropping. Every second 9 m strip is planted with corn and the others with soybeans.

In the non trafficked areas the blue colored water infiltrates much better than in the wheel tracks.

UK workshop 2 Nov

Tim Chamen, UK.

Approximately 50 farmers, students and advisors attended our Masstock sponsored workshop. Attendees were taken through the CTF conversion process as well as being given visual impressions of the role of soil structure on water movement within soils.

The main reasons for the host farm Compton Beauchamp Estates to consider CTF were reducing tillage inputs while improving yields and field access. Participating CTF practitioners underlined reduced cultivation, fuel savings and improved efficiency as their main reasons for adopting CTF.

RTK guidance is also an underpinning technology for data management, allowing farmers to retrieve information for many different purposes.



Visual soil inspection on the host farm. The left sample has not been trafficked post harvest (0 post harvest). Compared to the cloddy structure of the trafficked samples the non traffic sample shows immediate seedbed and water infiltration advantages.

Congratulations Tim

For the last six years CTF Europe partner Tim Chamen has worked on his PhD thesis, which was accepted by Cranfield University in June.

On the web site, CTF Europe members will find a link to his thesis, aspects of which will be published over the coming months.



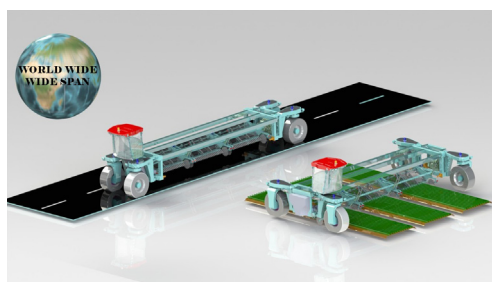
The effect of tracks and wheels on soils and crops were covered in Tim's research.

A Wide Span carrier. How will you like it?

Hans Henrik Pedersen, DK.

Tim has just finished his PhD while in March, I started mine at Aarhus University. As described in the last newsletter, the Danish Business Innovation Fund has granted support for the production of a Wide Span Machine. At the University we seek potential future users of these machines (6-12 m wide) to interview concerning their design and function of a Wide Span carrier. Answers will be treated anonymously.

Please contact me if you are interested in Wide Span technology.



The prototype Wide Span machine will leave only one track for each 9.6 m. When in transport position, the aim is to be within the dimensions defined by traffic regulations. CAD-drawing: ASA-Lift A/S

Is there a more sustainable soil management system than CTF?

Tim Chamen, UK

Let's just think a moment about what we are doing to soils. Over the past 80 years we have seen a 15 fold increase in the pressures we apply at 400 mm depth in the profile. These loads are seriously threatening our subsoils. Traditionally we have used tillage to loosen these pressures but cultivating to just 300 mm depth can take 100 hp/m!

Over the past few years, over 30 farmers in the UK, 20 in Denmark, 5 in Sweden and an increasing number in Germany, the Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe have adopted the CTF mindset. Can you think of a better way of managing soil compaction?

Visit our blog on ctfeurope.eu to have your say.

Partners in CTF Europe

Tim Chamen

CTF Europe Ltd, UK
Ph: +44 1525 405121
Mobile: +44 7714 206048
tim@ctfeurope.eu

- Worldwide research data, CTF system design, CTF Demonstration at Colworth

Hans Henrik Pedersen

CTF Europe.dk
Mobile: +45 2171 7737
hanshenrik@ctfeurope.eu

- Auto steering systems, GPS accuracy

Sander Bernaerts

DLVPlant, NL
Ph: +31 6 2654 4106
Mobile: +31 (6) 26 54 41 06
sander@ctfeurope.eu

- Vegetables, Organic farming

Christoph Bomes

ppm Agrarberatung, DE
Ph: +49 4231 85451
Mobile: +49 (171) 3676479
christoph@ctfeurope.eu

- Min-till and no-till. Fertiliser systems

Jana Galambosova

Slovenská poľnohospodárska univerzita v Nitre, SK
Ph: +42 1907 631 696
jana@ctfeurope.eu

- CTF research, soil properties, precision farming,

All partners are helpful in basic CTF agronomy and technology.