



News

November 2009

Calendar

8-14 November

Agritechnica. Hannover, Germany.

10 February 2010

Repeatable and reliable autosteer on tractors and machines, UK.

19-20 April 2010

Implementation of CTF and NoTill. Coordination of CTF research. Tänikon, Switzerland.

May 2010

Implementation of an 8 m CTF system. Farm visit. Sweden.

June 2010

CTF in forage grass. Denmark.

More info:
www.ctfeurope.eu

This newsletter is available in English, Danish, German and Slovak.

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2nd birthday of CTF Europe

Tim Chamen, UK

CTF Europe was launched at Agritechnica in 2007. We now have over 250 members across 12 countries and CTF is increasingly reported in the farming press. Members include growers, agronomists, suppliers, researchers and advisors.

Since 2007, CTF Europe has held twelve workshops covering grass, vegetable growing, the RTK correction signal, soil conditions and CTF implementation. Venues have included farms, universities and research institutes in Denmark, Slovakia, UK, Germany and the Netherlands and Czech Republic. Four workshops are already planned for 2010. Check the calendar and our web site.

In this Newsletter, we are pleased to announce long term CTF research projects in Switzerland, Slovakia and Germany. We look forward to seeing the results. We hope to see you soon. If not already a member, we would like to welcome you. Together we will get agriculture on the right tracks!

12 m CTF is possible in Europe

Hans Henrik Pedersen, Denmark

A workshop was held in October in Denmark showing options of 8, 9, 10 and 12 m wide machines. Unfortunately two out of three "so called" 40 ft cutter bars for combines are a few cm short of 12 m. Despite this, these cutter bars mean that 12 m is now a realistic option for CTF. Several manufacturers offer 12 m wide harrows and drills.

9 m matching to 30 ft may still be a better option on most farms as 12 m creates many challenges, e.g. unloading combines from adjacent tracks.

A workshop report can be found on the CTF web site.

Krenkerup Estate in Denmark plans to implement 12 m CTF. The last investment was a 12 m drill from Kverneland.

CTF at Agritechnica

Remember to visit the following stands at Agritechnica:

Hall 17 C24: Agrartechnik Witzenhausen

Hall 17 D17: Bayerische Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft, LFL

Hall 12 E40: Gesellschaft für konservierende Bodenbearbeitung, GKB

Pavilion 11/C: World Soil and Water Show

Trimble, Reichardt, Grimme and Väderstad will also host our CTF flyers.



Agritechnica 2007.

World Soil and Water Show

Christoph Bommers, Germany

GKB, the German association for conservation agriculture welcomes you to both Hall 12 and to the World Soil and Water Show in pavilion 11/C. Make sure you visit the Show pavilion where in addition to stands you will find a forum with talks and discussions referring to soil and the effects of tillage. The talks will start with a CTF presentation on Sunday at 13.00. Don't miss

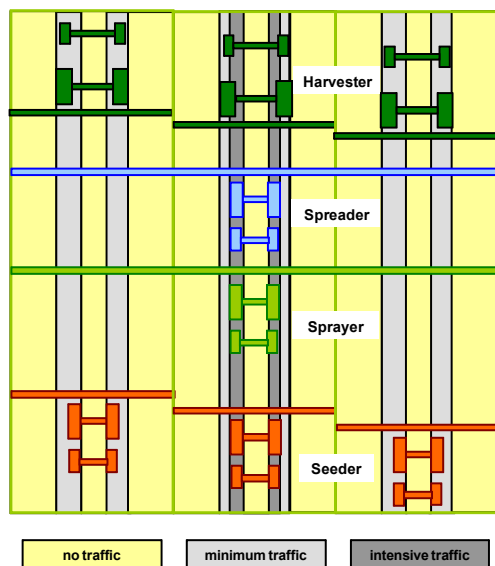


CTF with standard machinery

Martin Holpp Agroscope Reckenholz-Tänikon, Switzerland

At Agritechnica, Agroscope Tänikon and Agrartechnik Witzenhausen present research on a CTF system based on standard track and tyre widths and low inflation pressure tyres. This system is also applicable to smaller fields where 9 or 12 m CTF systems are unsuitable.

A trial, established in 2008, includes plots with both no tillage and mouldboard ploughing. The hypotheses are that plants under the low intensity and low pressure part of the traffic lanes develop in a similar way to conventional no tillage farming systems while no traffic creates a sustainable improvement in soil structure.



Crop and soil analysis will be made in the three zones of zero, minimum and intensive traffic. Working width in the example is six metres.

CTF research activities in Slovakia

Jana Galambosova, Slovakia

A long term experiment will determine the most economically and environmentally efficient technology for growing crops in Slovakia using CTF principles.

The project is carried out by the Slovak University of Agriculture. It is co-funded by the European Union.



Initial measurements at a research field in Slovakia.

CTF project in Bavaria

Markus Demmel, Bayerische Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft, Germany

Water infiltration and water storage become important with the expectation of more frequent and heavier rainfall events and longer dry periods in the future.

A large scale CTF trial has been established in Bavaria covering three typical arable regions and where CTF will be compared with random traffic.

Working widths are 4.5 m, 5.4 m and 6.0 m. The crop rotations include maize and sugar beet grown with strip tillage. Yields, crop quality, soil water balance, energy consumption and work management requirements will be monitored.

CTF implementation in Europe

Tim Chamen, UK

Full CTF has now been adopted on many farms across Europe with crops ranging from forage grass, cereals, oilseeds and potatoes to onions and celeriac. Unlike Australia, most European farmers use two standard track widths while implements range from 6 m to 12 m wide. Farmers have experienced or are anticipating:

- a 50% reduction in fuel use.
- a substantial reduction in machinery investment.
- a reduction in labour requirements.

Why isn't everyone doing CTF?

Don Yule, CTF Solutions, Australia

Slow adoption was the main topic of discussion at the CTF 09 Conference. Still only 12% of Australian growers are doing any CTF.

Growers and technology experts understand the CTF story and the benefits it offers. The engagement breakdown seems to be with agronomists, who used to be generalists. They are now isolated within strict disciplines e.g. weeds, genetics or crop nutrition. Growers are strongly influenced by these specialists.

We have to convince everyone that CTF is the most sustainable foundation for all cropping systems. All machines need matching working and wheel track widths upon which to build these cropping systems. This is not going to put anyone out of a job or threaten anyone's role.

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All partners are helpful in basic CTF agronomy and technology.