



The Cross Slot® Drill Down

CROSS SLOT NORTH AMERICAN NEWS FALL 2015

Cross Slot – The World Leader in No-Till Technology

ALFALFA AS A COVER AND FEED CROP – KEY VALUE DRIVER

With Margins being squeezed on the farm these days, farmers are taking a long, hard look at their costs of production.

Kevin Larson, ND has provided some input into his costs and income based on a first year Alfalfa seeding.

Cost & Income From 1st Year Alfalfa Planting

Inoculated seed, not round up tolerant, cost \$4.50/lb of produce, which is 66% seed. He planted 10 lbs/acre for a cost of \$45.00/acre.

No burn down was required because there were no weeds present in early spring. He sprayed after emergence at a cost of \$10/acre.

Cost of seeding per acre will vary depending on how you look at long term depreciation, return on investment, and cost of repairs.

He used 2% depreciation on a new tractor and 4% depreciation on his Cross Slot tool bar and seed cart.

He thinks \$2.50/acre will maintain the seeding unit long term and he uses 3% return on investment as a cost.

His cost of seeding is \$13.50/acre, plus fuel of \$3.00/acre or \$16.50/acre. Labor \$50/hour x 2 hours = \$100.

Custom rates for mowing and conditioning are \$12/acre, done twice, or 70 acres x \$12 = \$840. Custom rates for raking is \$5.00 x 70 = \$350.

Custom rates for baling are \$10/bale. He got 95 bales x \$10 = \$950
Land rent at \$40/acre x 35 = \$1400.

Total costs of \$6142 divided by 47.5 tons produced is \$130/ton.

To pay all costs he needs to value the Alfalfa at \$130/ton. As the protein supplement for wintering his beef cattle on low quality grass hay this is good value.

He plans to take two cuttings next year, then spray out the Alfalfa and seed winter wheat in the fall. Over the long term the deep roots opening up the soil and fixing nitrogen will be beneficial to future crops.

The stand was excellent. The plant establishment was in the upper 90 percent of pure live seed. 20 plants/foot were counted and with uniform seed distribution 21.5 seeds were sown.

The first cutting has some wheat straw in it because of the raking. That will not bother beef cows. Getting value from cover crops once again.

The second cutting only had 60 hundredths of rain during the growing period of July 26 to September 6th. He has over 5 inches this fall so the stand is going into winter in good shape.

Kevin has been advised by his agronomist that after two years of alfalfa growth he will get two years of nitrogen benefit for his wheat.



Alfalfa Emerging



Alfalfa After Cutting

Cross Slot® – Delivering and Creating Value!



Tradeshows

17-18 November

We will be participating at the inaugural Heartland Ag Show Fairgrounds, Minot ND

November Workshops/Presentations

“The Value of No-Till to Budget and Soil Quality”

See details for your area overleaf.

FAQ Updates

Cross Slot has updated the Frequently Asked Questions on the website – ask us any additional questions you have – we will respond to you directly and add them to the FAQ page.



PROGRESSIVE FARMS TOOLBAR BYERS, CO

William Linnebur and his brother from Progressive Farms in Byers CO, farm 20,000 acres about 50 miles east of Denver. They farm in an area with low precipitation of around 14" per annum, much of this made of snow melt. Their current rotation is to farm a third in wheat, a third in corn and have a third in fallow.

The Linnebur's have looked at getting into the Cross Slot technology for some time now and made a trip to WA in 2014 to look at some of the gear in use up there. William has a background in engineering and set about designing a 60 foot double folding toolbar to accommodate 48 Cross Slot openers on 15 inch spacing – the idea being that they could lock every second opener off and plant corn on 30 inch spacing if desired. Several of William's brothers are also skilled in welding and



set about building the frame in their workshop over the spring.

In addition to the photo above, we have posted video of the drill being folded up. Those of an engineering bent will agree that they have done an excellent job in being able to fold a 60 foot drill into a road width just under 15 feet at a height of 15 feet!

Links to the youtube videos:

- <https://youtu.be/vyAUyWXj9no>,
- <https://youtu.be/3rNIKwKme5E>,
- <https://youtu.be/OoC0v6oIHUA>.



Once the Linnebur's get used to their new Cross Slot openers they will be able to bring the fallow ground into play... giving them a huge increase in productivity.

WEMHOFF DRILL

Dale Wemhoff, Grangeville, ID has been a Cross Slot owner for over seven years now... he started out with a 20 foot wide retrofitted John Deere drill. He then decided he needed more width and weight to cover more ground and make for easier seeding in the dry hard conditions of fall.

He and his son Scott, an engineer based with Hillco Technologies (manufacturers of combine levelling systems) set to and designed a frame to give them 30 feet in width for 37 Cross Slot openers on 10" spacing. Hillco built the frame in their Nez Pearce, ID factory.

The new frame will give Dale and Scott the additional weight they need and much easier access when they need to change side blades and disks.



WORKSHOPS/ PRESENTATIONS

“The Value of No-Till to Budget and Soil Quality”

As indicated in previous newsletters we will be doing a series of presentations along the lines of the above.

Bill Ritchie, one of the original Cross Slot founders will lead the discussions and presentations in the following areas in Nov 2015:

- 9 Nov: 2:00–5:00pm**
Comfort Suites
1730 NW 9th Street, **Corvallis OR**
- 11 Nov: 2:00–5:00pm**
Fireside Grill
1095 SE Bishop Blvd, **Pullman WA**
- 12 Nov: 9:00am–12:00noon**
Spokane Conservation District
210 N Havana St, **Spokane WA**
- 13 Nov: time tba**
Venue tba,
Kallispell WA
- 17 Nov: 5:30–7:30pm**
Venue tba,
Minot ND
- 20 Nov: 2:00–5:00pm**
Meeting Room Super 8
Iola 200 Bills Way, **Iola KS**

2ND HAND DRILL

Kalispell, MT Cross Slot owner Doug Manning – after four seeding seasons with his Cross Slot drill – has decided that his no-till experiment has been a success (contrary to comments from other non Cross Slot owners/users).

Doug recently sent us an email saying that he currently farms more land with 1/3 of the horsepower and 1/2 the manpower with his Cross Slot, without any loss to his yields.

This competitive advantage has given Doug the opportunity to significantly increase the amount of ground he will be seeding next year. His current drill is going to be too small for his new operation and he is looking to upgrade to a much larger Cross Slot unit.

To this end he is looking to sell his 24', 10 inch spacing drill with 2x 4000 liter (113 bu) hoppers with scales, and all run blockage.

For more information contact us on porter@crossslot.com or Doug at chaelamanning@hotmail.com.



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Second Hand Drill for Sale

For more info, contact Gavin Porter