



The Cross Slot® Drill Down

CROSS SLOT NORTH AMERICAN NEWS NOVEMBER 2011

Cross Slot – The World Leader in No-Till Technology

Second Hand Drills & Equipment

We now have one Cross Slot owner left looking to upgrade to a new machine and is looking to sell his retro-fitted Flexicoil 6000 frame fitted with Cross Slot openers. For information contact us directly by email or phone.

Tradeshows

Minot, NS
Ag Expo
25–27 Jan 2012

Spokane, WA
Ag Expo
7–9 Feb 2012

Cross Slot Conference 2012 Western Europe

The 2012 Cross Slot conference will be held from June 16- 24 in Western Europe and will include visits to Cross Slot farmers in Germany, Switzerland and France. We will have more information available for the conference early in the New Year.

2011 has tested the limitations of Cross Slot in both wet and dry conditions

The wet spring conditions tested Cross Slot and proved that the technology would handle conditions where other technologies would not. Kevin Larson, ND figured it was time to get out of the field when his seed cart started to sink into the ground, even though his 45 foot Cross Slot toolbar was still capable of working... this was re-enforced by an article published in the Western Producer newspaper, Canada 22 September 2011, titled, “Cross Slot drill treats mud like trash”... for the full article click and paste on <http://www.producer.com/Search/Article.aspx?aid=40286>

The dry and hard rocky ground conditions this fall in Washington State also tested our top end tolerances. Custom seeders Jon Olson and Dale Kopf experienced some difficulties with the dry powdery chem fallow soils in the St John area early in September. The main issues being some plugging mainly on the liquid fertilizer side where some leakages had occurred. Jon Olson also had to deal with some hard rocky ground and this resulted in some disk and blade breakages.

Despite these frustrations both custom seeders were able to get seeding done on behalf of their clients. Some clients commented that their existing seeding systems would not have got any seeding done in the conditions that Jon and Dale were working in. I recently took a look at these crops and am very pleased to see the emergence that has occurred.

Our design engineer, Dave Robinson was in Washington during September and he was able to take a look first hand at the chem fallow conditions and challenges. He is now back in New Zealand designing a new liquid fertilizer delivery blade as well as a new longer seed delivery blade that will help reduce plugging and improve seeding in these conditions.

The wet conditions did have some upsides, including some excellent yields in the Pacific Northwest. We have heard news from farmers of yields well over 100 bu/acre in parts of the Pacific Northwest.



*Emergence from Chem Fallow Soils
St John, September 2011*



Future Cross Slot Owners & Stanley Cup Champions



As everyone knows an investment in Cross Slot is for the long haul.

Well we did the same whilst in Alberta and have made a modest sponsorship in a little league ice hockey team, the Clive Blackhawks.

The Blackhawks play in the Central Alberta Dynamite Hockey League for 4-6 year olds and have had a 3 win-3 loss record so far this season.

Cross Slot looks forward to building a long term relationship with the Blackhawks and watching them grow and succeed.

“How much time and money is wasted waiting”





Red Deer Agri-Trade Show, Alberta, Canada

We recently displayed at the Red Deer, Alberta Agri-Trade show. The show was well attended with over 70,000 visitors attending. We had Cliff Merchant's Parkland Cross Slot new 40 foot toolbar (47 openers on 10 inch spacing) on the site and this generated excellent interest. We also had Jim Cole and Murray Abel from Prairie Cross Slot on the stand.

Two questions were continually asked by those visiting the site... how does it go in hard ground and rocks and how does it handle wet residue... one attendee said that he had to wait until his residue dried out before he could start his daily work and in some cases this could be as late as 11.00 am. That is some serious loss of downtime due to inferior technology and equipment.

The wide open ground in the area also prompted interest in wider machines with several enquiries and quotes requested for 60 foot wide machines. As a result of this interest we have also opened up discussions with two local manufacturers to build frames and toolbars in Alberta.

For those in the PNW... we caught up with Russ and Pat Evans... they are enjoying their new roles in Calgary and send their regards to everyone.



Crop Nutrition Planning

Ron Volk, Western Ag Labs, North Dakota

Last newsletter we talked about “above” ground crop management via Plant Health Nutrition.

In this newsletter we want to briefly touch on “below” ground management via Western Ag Labs and their soil analysis tool for determining below ground soil nutrients before seeding.

This is an alternative farm management soil analysis tool to assist farmers in making crop nutrition plans.

The technology uses PRS™ Probe and PRS™ Forecaster

The PRS™ probe “sees what the plant sees” by simulating the roots of a plant.

As such, the PRS™ probe measures the bio-available nutrients to the plant, and not just an index of the soil's nutrient content.

For more information, contact Ron Volk at Western Ag Labs:

phone: 701-459-2424 or 701-263-1529

address: 333 East 1st street, Sherwood, ND 58782

email: moreinfo@westernaglabsnd.com or rvolk@srt.com

website: www.westernaglabsnd.com

The PRSTM-probe uses ion resin exchange technology to absorb all nutrient ions simultaneously from your soil sample in the same way a plant root would.

The PRSTM probe measures the actual quantity of bioavailable nutrients (i.e., biologically meaningful) in soil as compared to an index of available nutrients.

The PRS™ Forecaster allows farmers to try out a variety of crop nutrition plans via simulations. The farmer can change a variety of factors simultaneously and the Forecaster will automatically update the yield potential, nutrient requirements, and economic assessment.

Then, a customized plan can be made to optimize crop yields and manage price and weather risks.

Retirement – Rich Baden

Rich recently retired after 20 years working with the Spokane Conservation District.

Cross Slot would like to thank Rich for his efforts and contribution and wish him all the best for the future.

The Spokane Conservation District, thanks to Rich and the team, have created and implemented a number of unique initiatives to help improve farming in the Pacific Northwest.

Other conservation districts would be well served following some of these initiatives if conservation is a true outcome of their goals.

Cross Slot looks forward to working with Rich in whatever new roles he undertakes.

“Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”

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Section 179 & Financing

Remember Section 179 deductions still apply to financing equipment like Cross Slot. We can also provide assistance in financing Cross Slot equipment. Contact us for more information on this.