



The Cross Slot® Drill Down

CROSS SLOT NORTH AMERICAN NEWS AUGUST 2013

Cross Slot – The World Leader in No-Till Technology

Crop Failures & Wet Weather

At the recent North Dakota State Fair it was interesting to visit with many farmers who had experienced a poor spring seeding season. The wet spring conditions resulted in many farmers seeding between 20–30% of their crops.

We also heard many stories where seeding had been 100% successful – only for the crops to be rained or hailed out.

At the end of the day if you don't get a crop in the bin then no matter what way you look at it, you have had a "failure".

From my point of view, I would separate these into two categories: a failure resulting from weather; and failure resulting from poor seeding equipment. When the weather is against you, there is not much you can do.

However, if your equipment is against you, then it is time to reassess its value to you.

We were surprised at the number of farmers who were criticizing (*language edited*) their seeding equipment and how it had failed them in these wet, spring conditions.

We heard all sorts of reasons for this including, but not limited to the following:

- *the ground was too wet*
- *my machine wouldn't handle the wet residues*

The vitriol wasn't reserved for one equipment maker, but across many renowned brands.

The short answer is, that as farmers, you are leaving money on the table when your gear fails you, especially when it is preventing you from taking advantage of the available moisture.

Maybe it is time to stop leaving money on the table and talk to us about getting Cross Slot on to your farm and start future proofing your income.

We have two machines in ND ready for winter wheat seeding for those still keen on getting some crops in for winter.

In most cases you need less than a 1% increase in yield to justify an investment in Cross Slot versus a machine at 67% the cost.

We can email you a spreadsheet to do your own assessment.

Be aware that there are times when Cross Slot is not going to seed for you in wet, muddy conditions, but you can be assured it will be out there still working when most other equipment is sitting in the shed.

Two of our Cross Slot owners in ND have recently harvested 90 plus bushel, high quality barley, despite difficult wet seeding conditions.



Kiwi Farm Tours ex North Dakota

North Dakota farmer, Kent Pfenning and his New Zealand wife Stephanie Ledoux have started running farm tours to New Zealand.

These involve groups of up to ten people and include fully organized tours (pick-up, transportation and accommodation).

The duration is for 8–10 days and will include farms visits to Cross Slot owners.

The tours will run from November through to March, ideal for those who want some relief from the northern winter.

For more information on these tours contact **Kent** on kentpfennig@yahoo.com or **Stephanie** on pasturedeggsnd@gmail.com or phone **701-516-7282**. Stephanie will be visiting the Big Iron show in Fargo, ND.

As Kent says, "everyone wants to go there, but no one finishes their plan". No excuses now, and these tours are not limited to ND or SD farmers.

2013
Upcoming
Trade Shows

10–12
September
Big Iron
Fargo
North
Dakota

23–25
October
Missouri
Dairy
Grazing
Conference
Springfield
Missouri

6–9
November
Agri-
Trade
Exposition
Red Deer
Alberta
Outdoor Site

Cross Slot® – Delivering and Creating Value!





Camelina and Canola as part of a Rotation

We are starting to see many farmers in the Pacific Northwest using Canola as part of their crop rotation plans.

The success of Dusty, WA farmers, Jerry and Mike Stubbs has shown that canola can be an excellent economic part of the rotation plan.

We are now also starting to see successful winter canola seeding in low rainfall areas like Lind and Ritzville, WA.

To date much of this seeding has been done from early July through to September using the Cross Slot custom seeders. The dry hard ground conditions are a challenge for many seeding systems but Cross Slot has had excellent results in getting canola seeded and emerging.

Another alternative to consider is Camelina. Camelina is even more user friendly than Canola in that it is more temperature tolerant (both ends of the scale), can survive in lower rainfall and requires less fertilizer than canola.

Camelina can produce more and better quality oil and the leftovers (meal) are very high in omega 3, making them excellent for animal feed.

Lacrosse, WA farmer, Steve Camp is well known for his Camelina production where he uses the oils for fueling all of his farm vehicles including his lawn mower.

Steve is happy to share his practical knowledge and experience for those wishing to learn more about Camelina.

He can be contacted on 509-549-3235 or email sbcamp@pionnet.com.

The following link is an excellent summary of the properties of Camelina.

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS073E/FS073E.pdf>.

This report was produced by the extension team at Washington State University.

CRP Takeout with Corn

In the last newsletter we talked about the CRP ground that Mark Jennings, Washburn, ND had planted corn into.

In July we managed to take a look at how things were progressing.

Anybody who knows Mark will know that he is always thinking about how to get the best returns from his land.

He is always trying out new initiatives and taking out CRP with corn is one of these.

This is the third year that Mark has experimented with corn on CRP, and the first year he has done it with his new Cross Slot.

His first two years he used a conventional branded corn planter. This was no easy task going into unworked CRP ground and resulted in nearly 50% of his seed on the ground, and very poor emergence from what did get in the ground – giving effectively around 30% emergence.

The vagaries of CRP ground presented some challenges for Cross Slot as well, especially from a spacing point of view – it wasn't pretty – however Mark got over 90% of the seed in the ground along with a similarly high emergence rate!



Nowhere near perfect spacing but great emergence.

In order to find the best to plant, Mark has experimented with five varieties. All short season 75–85 day varieties that have good early seedling vigor, are cold tolerant and were amenable to no-till. Some of Mark's ground suffered from frost in early July resulting in some minor frost burn.

Two of the varieties struggled emerging out of 2–3 foot CRP but the others had no difficulty. There is still some work to do before the crop gets in the bin. All through the growing season the area has been short on heat units and a warm fall will be needed to finish the crop off. We will report in the November issue as to the final yields that Mark achieved.



Contact
your nearest
Cross Slot
representative:

**Baker No-Tillage
USA Limited**

CEO

Gavin Porter:
Pullman, WA
1 888 663 7773 Toll Free
porter@crossslot.com

**SALES &
SERVICE**

Kevin Larson
Willow City, ND
701 871 1398
larson@crossslot.com

Storrer Implements
Iola, KS
620 365 5692
robert@storrerimplement.com

Cliff Merchant
Falher, Alberta,
Canada
1 780 837 6502
merchant@crossslot.com

Murray Abel
Lacombe, Alberta,
Canada
1 403 872 0612
abel@crossslot.com

Jim Cole
Lacombe, Alberta,
Canada
1 403 896 2586
cole@crossslot.com

**Second Hand
Drill for Sale**

For more
information,
contact
Gavin Porter
by free phone
1888 663 7773
or by email at
porter@crossslot.com