

Cross Slot® – new technology for better farm management

Land sustainability was Andy Russell's original motivation for direct drilling. "I started out using the Cross Slot to protect the soil, but now it's much more than that. The soil would pile up or disappear over the fences," he recalls of the days when wind was a major risk with his traditional cultivation regime.

But now the Cross Slot plays a major role in his overall management system. Cross Slot operator, Douglas Giles, works closely with Andy each season to map out the seasonal cropping, greenfeed and regrassing programme. It gives him the benefits of "timeliness, ease of management and speed of operation – you're not wasting six weeks in the cultivation phase."

Andy and Barbara Russell farm 470ha of Rangitikei coastal country near Tangimoana and Bulls, with soils ranging from light sands to silt loams. Andy describes himself as a pasture farmer, wintering 300 cattle, 1500 to 1600 weaner deer and fattening between 8,000 and 12,000 lambs annually. It's an

intensive system that needs a reliable means of establishing his crops to maintain and maximise production.

Annually, they sow around 90ha of greenfeed and cereal cash-crops followed by new grass – all with the Cross Slot. "I don't like ploughing, or sitting on a tractor for hours on end. The Cross Slot produces crops that all yield up to expectations without me having to risk my paddocks," says Andy. "You can also safely sow high analysis fertiliser with the seed and the no-till system conserves soil moisture. This is more important in the autumn after the barley. If you were to cultivate you'd lose all the moisture."

Andy's wheat exceeded all expectations with a yield of 10.4T/ha on silt loams this year. "I just can't understand why more people don't try no-till. I can utilise my ground to the max, spraying it out and sowing it the next day."

Much more than soil conservation



Andy Russell's 2004 winter sown wheat crop that yielded 10.4T/ha. ▼

Cross Slot Drills can now be leased through Gough Finance Ltd

- ✓ No deposit.
- ✓ Payments fully tax deductible.
- ✓ From \$3,004/month for 48-month lease of 13-run drill.
- ✓ Re-leasing at the end of the term also possible (drills are designed with at least a 10 year life).
- ✓ Unequal seasonal payments available.
- ✓ 100% HP financing also possible through another source.



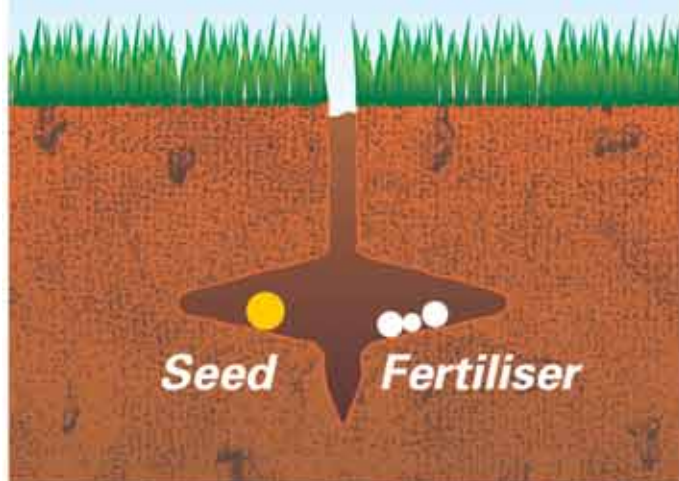
Winter-sown
June 2, 2004

Field results around New Zealand show that Cross Slot drills are hugely cost effective

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