

Cross Slot[®] – new technology for better farm management

Much more than soil conservation

They say there are only two things that are certain in life, but Bruce McKelvie has one to add to that list. By using a Cross Slot drill he has not only eliminated the soil erosion on his Tangimoana property, but is now growing summer crops in his sandy soils.

"The reality is it has made it possible to grow these crops with 100% certainty. You can pick your sowing date, that's the key to it," says McKelvie.

Winter is the strongest time of year for the coastal sand country property run by the McKelvie family. In fact winter is what the entire business is geared around.

"When the autumn rains fall on the sand country it comes into its own," says McKelvie.

Bruce and Ian McKelvie took out three awards in the

Ballance Farm Environment Awards, including the supreme award for the Horizons region.

Most seasons are good until Christmas and then it typically dries out. So they began sowing cereal crops using traditional cultivation.

However prevailing westerly winds caused soil erosion so the move to direct drilling was made. They employ contractor Douglas Giles who uses the Baker No-Tillage Cross Slot drill.

"It has transformed the country," says McKelvie. "We can grow summer crops with the Cross Slot. It just grows. But you need to do it properly and that's where Douglas comes in."

No-Tillage sowing methods also mean they can now finish lambs through summer. Summer crops have

reduced animal health issues (like facial eczema) on the sand country.

"The Cross Slot sets the seed at the right depth in the right conditions so everything's in your favour," says McKelvie. "Because you can decide when to do it you have absolute control. The system itself needs real attention to detail – to prepare the paddock by killing the grass, weeds and bugs, but that's where Cross Slot operators like Douglas Giles come into their own."

The system leaves the thatch on the ground so soil erosion is now a non-issue.

"You've got the perfect environment with the crop growing into the thin thatch of dead grass, and then when you come out of maize or the brassicas, you can plonk the grass seed back in, in one pass."

Cross Slot Drills can now be leased through Gough Finance Ltd

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- ✓ Unequal seasonal payments available.
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YOUR RETURNS GROW OVER SUMMER WITH CROSS SLOT



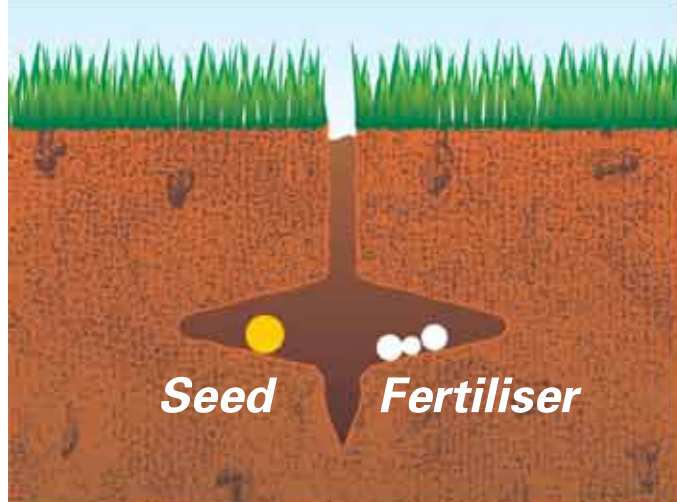
Field results around New Zealand show that Cross Slot drills are hugely cost effective

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