CONTROLLED TRAFFIC FARMING NETWORK

Learning from Canada

Controlled Traffic Farming (CTF) is a field machinery management system that uses high-level satellite guidance technology, coupled with autosteer, to confine all vehicles to the least possible area. This creates permanent traffic lanes. In practice, CTF involves matching up machinery widths and aligning as closely as practicable, the track gauges of the running gear on all vehicles.

Building links across the globe

Between 2014 and 2017, a small group of Canadian farmers already using direct drilling techniques came together to compare CTF with their usual random traffic (RT) approaches in spring-sown crops. They showed CTF:

- improved surface soil tilth in medium/heavy soils
- increases in average infiltration rates from 22ml (RT) to 41ml (CTF) per second; but infiltration is very variable across fields
- no measured difference in soil biological activity
- no change in weed populations
- no measured difference in crop emergence
- small relative yield improvement (CTF 102% of RT)
- farmers felt that CTF improved timeliness and efficiency of operations
- the precision of the CTF system increased opportunities for other precision ag. approaches and allowed accurate, reliable, on-farm research to underpin changes in practice
- nonetheless, uptake of CTF in Canada remains low.

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CTF Network

The Controlled Traffic Farming Network is a subscription club, managed by NIAB, providing to its members:

- practical and independent information relevant to CTF
- networking opportunities for new and established practitioners
- visits and events on farms running or implementing CTF systems held regionally.

Join today for only £90/year at niab.com or email ctf@niab.com