

POSTER PRESENTATIONS**A Journey into Controlled Traffic Farming - Two Case Studies from Central Western NSW**

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Three case studies of farmers in the central west of NSW. These properties contrast varying climates north and south of the district. There is considerable difference in rainfall pattern and amounts and it is interesting to contrast the farmers systems and how they tackle the variable climatic constraints. Graeme has been working with no-till and no livestock for over 20 years. He began controlled traffic with lines scratched into the ground from a contractors ute and has now progressed to 2cm autosteer. There have been many lessons learnt, many challenges overcome and aspirations for further directions. I have followed the journey that Graeme has gone through, highlighting the positives of his system, and the things other farmers can learn from his experiences. Graeme has moved to a disc seeder this year that he has manufactured himself.

Stuart has been working with no-till and no livestock for around 10 years. He has been working with GPS technology for many years now, but this season he has matched machinery on a 3m track and has put down permanent lines. He is now operating on 2cm autosteer. Stuart has sown with a converted disc seeder this year and has also made use of the moisture seeking abilities of a tyned airseeder for earlier sowing opportunities. Like Graeme, he has learnt many lessons along the way, faced many challenges and has many aspirations for further directions.

Roger has been working with no-till and no livestock (on farming country) for almost 10 years now. His passion from agricultural college was to be on controlled traffic no-till farming within 10 years, and he has achieved that despite some of the driest years on record. Roger has a well planned farming system and is a very progressive and innovative farmer, utilising the resources available to him. Roger has a clear direction for next season and plans to move to disc seeding technology.

I have followed Stuart's, Roger's and Graeme's journey and highlighted the positives of their system, and the things other farmers can learn from their experiences. Stuart, Roger and Graeme are all very progressive farmers in this region and the contrasts of their locations give them different challenges and positives. They have all tried a variety of alternative crops and their yields are considerably higher than the district average because of their attention to detail and the way their system is working now. They are very interesting to talk with and have lots of good ideas about farming profitably, efficiently and sustainability in this harsh environment.