

Controlled Traffic on Springbokflats South Africa

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Born and raised on the Springbokflats, South Africa. Matriculated in 1977. Officer in Infantry Corps of the South African Defence Force during 2 year service. Obtained Agronomy degree in 1983, University Pretoria. Joined family AgriBusiness in 1984. Married to Linette. Son joined the business in 2011. Two daughters studying.

ABSTRACT: Walt Landgoed is a family owned agricultural company located at Settlers in the most northern province of South Africa. Activities are piggery, cattle and no-till farming. We realised that conventional farming was not sustainable and starting using no-till in 1999 after meeting Rob Ward.

Issues with implementation of CTF and no-till were:

- capital investment,
- row spacing (9 or 12m layout) and planting next to previous row,
- extending of front axles on tractors, direction of tramlines,
- header front width and unloading of headers.
- knowledge of CTF from local equipment dealers,
- getting cotton into system and grazing of stubble by cattle.

The system has achieved efficient use of equipment and soil improvement as growing medium of the crops. It has stimulated innovation and made PA easier to implement.

Next points to be addressed in future are

- flotation tyres on self propelled sprayers,
- possible rubber tracks on chaserbin and headers
- mulching of cotton and irrigated maize stubble in a 12m layout.

Some comments on the adoption of CTF in South Africa.

Importance of belief in what you are doing and being open minded for new ideas.