

Large-scale cane systems

Dave Cox

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David Cox operates Davco Farming which is an irrigated sugarcane farming business on the Burdekin River, Ayr, North Queensland, Australia. David is an internationally recognised leader in precision sugarcane farming, being acknowledged by the world sugar industry as the developer of the first complete controlled traffic system for sugarcane. He was last year awarded the 2012 'Precision Farmer of the Year' by the USA based PrecisionAg Institute. David is the first non-USA based farmer to receive the award.

ABSTRACT: The Davco Controlled Traffic Sugarcane Farming Systems - From 3m to 2.4m

Davco Farming is a strong adopter of new technology with the ultimate mission of efficient and sustainable sugarcane production. Over the last two decades this philosophy has resulted in the development of the Davco Precision Sugarcane Farming System.

The core components of this system are controlled traffic and zonal tillage. In 1997 Davco designed and started implementation of his 3m Sugarcane CTF system. This necessitated all of the field equipment to be on precisely the 3m wheel spacing.

Significant changes to all field machinery, particularly the harvesting equipment was required. This system has worked remarkably well for 15 years resulting in improvements in crop yield, soil health, soil water holding capacity, and timeliness of operations.

Unfortunately, due to the unavailability of a replacement 3m sugarcane harvester, Davco has had to design and transition to a 2.4m CTF system, requiring again a completely new range of implements, harvester and haulouts. These have been designed using the same philosophies as those which were successful with the 3m system.

This presentation outlines the original 3m system but focuses on the new 2.4m system.