

## CTF (and stuff) in New Zealand

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LandWISE is a farmer-focused society established in 1999 with a focus on technologies and management for sustainable crop production.

Also an independent consultant with considerable experience in primary production and natural resources, Dan has particular interests in irrigation efficiency, soil husbandry, precision farming and appropriate technology adoption

**ABSTRACT:** An overview of GPS technology adoption in New Zealand cropping shows that controlled traffic farming is of secondary interest. Very few farmers think of themselves in that light.

Automatic guidance is widely adopted and in cropping tends towards RTK-based systems. The key justifications tend to be the “benefits of driving straight lines” and repeatable positioning for post-planting operations.

However, a number of growers are becoming controlled traffic farmers by default, at least on a crop by crop basis. This is particularly notable in operations that use beds for growing as machinery tends to have matching swaths and a set AB line puts tractors back on the same path.

There are notable cases where a deliberate move to CTF has been taken and has been successful.

David Clark converted 400ha of maize to CTF and made considerable savings in capital equipment, labour and energy and saw rapid soil improvement and evidence of increasing yields over a nine year period.

Chris Butler adopted permanent beds as part of a 260ha salad production system and similarly reduced costs. He also achieved the same production from less area due to a shortened gap between successive crops.

AS Wilcox are entering their second rotation of onion, potato, cereal production with increasing confidence and success. They found yield benefits, reduced soil loss (including to the washing plant) and savings from a reduced number of operations.

The benefits are not limited to large scale farms. One 60ha vegetable farm has invested in a second RTK tractor because of its obvious benefits.