

Controlled Traffic Farming (CTF)

– the key to healthy soils, healthy crops and a healthy farm profit



CTF consultancy services in the UK

Introduction

Controlled Traffic Farming is about creating and maintaining healthy soils, healthy crops and a healthy and sustainable farm profit. **CTF**, by confining all field traffic to the least possible area of permanent traffic lanes, typically releases £50-100/ha extra profit from the land through a combination of investment, cost savings and increased yields. Investment is mostly about putting the right machine guidance in place while cost savings range from improved field efficiency, less tillage and significant capital savings on machinery. Increased yield expectation is in the range of 10–20% in most years.

Two levels of consultancy

Level 1

Farm Survey

The farm survey starts with fact finding and eliciting exactly what the client needs in terms of help. Discussions will concentrate on these aspects and on present cropping systems and aspirations for the future. This will include present constraints to production and perceived constraints associated with a transition to **CTF**. These discussions will, if appropriate, include an in depth (literally) inspection of soils on the farm to determine texture and any existing limitations to production or function. Once we have determined what each individual client wants to achieve, we will talk through prospects and the machinery required to realize a sustainable production system based on **CTF**. Primarily this will be derived from the farm's existing equipment, but with a long-term plan (within the normal machinery replacement policy), for continual improvement.

The farm survey will be followed by a report outlining potential courses of action and an estimate of increase in profit that might be achieved with **CTF**.

Level 2

Farm Survey and Action Plan

The Farm Survey will be carried out as for Level 1 but the farm visit will be followed up with an extensive report and action plan. The report will summarize existing constraints and put forward detailed plans for confirmation. Based on the confirmed plans a transition or transitions to **CTF** will be proposed and the costs and expected returns will be itemised and the net change in profit estimated. Where changes to equipment are anticipated, a choice of implements or machines will be listed to provide potential options. The basics of GPS guidance systems will be outlined to equip the customer with an appreciation of the questions that need to be asked of suppliers.

An illustration of the proposed **CTF** system or systems will be provided together with an action plan.

Continuing support

Telephone and e-mail support will be provided with a time limit of 10 hours for a period of 18 months from the date of the delivered Level 2 action plan. Further support will be available through membership of **CTF Europe**, which will be provided free for the first year as part of the Level 2 consultancy service (presently £85 per annum).

Cost

The cost per farm for Level 1 will be £800 plus expenses and VAT

The cost per farm for Level 2 will be £1200 plus expenses and VAT.

The cost of Level 2 is less than the extra profit you might expect every year on 25 ha!

Contact Tim Chamen, **CTF Europe Ltd**, Church Close Cottage, Maulden, Bedford MK45 2AU

Tel: 01525 405121: Mobile: 07714 206048: E-mail: Tim@ctfeurope.eu