



on track to improved profit and lifestyle

## CTF UP-2-DATE newsletter

### May-June CTF Solutions team highlights

- Development of GPS training manuals for future consultant and grower workshops
- Visited all of the northern sugar growing regions testing use of imagery in sugar cane
- New techniques for getting the most out of your yield data have been developed and tested
- Topographical surveying offered as a service by CTF Solutions
- Development of [www.ctfsolutions.com.au](http://www.ctfsolutions.com.au)

### Make use of your Yield Monitoring data

Many farmers have taken steps towards precision agriculture adoption through the implementation of yield monitoring within their farming system - **but what use has it been?**

Yield monitoring is one relatively easy method of identifying variability across paddocks and provides farmers with an opportunity to ask themselves questions about those results. For example, why did certain areas within the paddocks perform worse than others? And more importantly, what can be done to ensure it doesn't occur next season? Each yield map is valuable.

Another major use for yield monitoring is trials on your own property. We see your whole farm as a 'research station', and yield monitoring and satellite images are important tools for measuring responses to treatments.

However very few growers are actually getting the full potential from yield maps, and on our travels, we see most yield data stored in filing cabinets. This must change if you want *continuous improvement*. Combining satellite images with yield maps can increase the understanding of causes, and clarify the best response to make.

There are simple and effective ways of using your yield monitoring data. After each season, the data can be used to map high and low yielding areas across your farm. The maps are GPS referenced so you can easily identify particular areas on the ground, which assists in the assessment and analysis of changes occurring across your paddock. Maps have shown poor drainage areas, paddock history, problem weed, pest or disease areas, trials, and areas that had run-on water, etc.

Another useful thing to do is collate yield data from the whole farm and map it together so it can be examined from a whole farm perspective. This can give clues as to the causes of variation. Very few software programs supplied from the manufacturer will do this.

If you have collected more than one year of yield data, then further analysis can be conducted. The yield data can be collated to discover areas of *consistently* low, average or high yielding crops; or areas that are *not consistent*. Most software from the manufacturer does not have the capacity to do this either.

Examples of the use of several years of yield monitoring come from Victoria and Queensland. Working in conjunction with CTF Solutions, four to five years of past yield data have been analysed to discover areas of consistently poor, average and above average yields. The paddocks will be sown this winter into strips to trial differing amounts of fertiliser applications.

CTF Solutions views this type of progression as imperative. We urge farmers to make use of yield monitoring data they have invested time and money on, and ensure it becomes a regular part of crop management decisions. We have the software and know how to assist with the processing of yield monitor data, and subsequent analysis and recommendations.

**STOP PRESS**..... We plan to have a **yield monitor unit for hire this winter harvest**, for around \$1/ac. This includes hire of the unit and processing of the data. If you are interested please give **Tim** a call (0428157208) or email [tim@ctfsolutions.com.au](mailto:tim@ctfsolutions.com.au) **ASAP**.

## GPS Training

An important component of any CTF and Precision Agriculture adoption is the use of GPS. To be of any benefit, all maps of properties should be referenced. This makes it possible to discover areas of interest on the maps and go to those areas on the ground through the use of a GPS. There are many farmers who have purchased a handheld GPS but aren't confident in using it or are not using it to its full potential.

**CTF Solutions** has developed GPS training manuals that provide basic and easy to understand instruction on how to operate GPS's. If you and/or your neighbours/group are interested in attending a training workshop, please contact us for further information.

## Using High Resolution Satellite Imagery in Sugar Cane.

In May-June, the **CTF Solutions** team visited Ayr, Mackay, Townsville, Ingham and Tully. They met with State Development and Innovations, Mackay Sugar, CSR Sugar and local cane growers to discuss and show the potential benefits of high resolution imagery in sugar cane. The archive IKONOS imagery we purchased showed significant variations in crop growth such as poor irrigation uniformity, logging, compaction, soil type, and varieties. The benefits of this information were identified immediately by local sugar cane growers. As a result, many areas will be captured over the coming summer.

In future **CTF Solutions** will be working in collaboration with a number of these groups to initiate the use of imagery in sugar cane. Applications for funding to further test the imagery and adoption of CTF systems in cane have been submitted. **Contact Don for further info: [don@ctfsolutions.com.au](mailto:don@ctfsolutions.com.au) (0427 113 127)**

## CTF 05 Conference

A reminder that the Australian Controlled Traffic Farming Conference is coming up very shortly. It will be held at University of Queensland, Gatton from **20-22 July 2005**.

The program includes presentations on their farming systems by 24 growers from across Australia and across the grains, cotton, sugar and vegetable industries. The conference is a farmer focussed forum and provides a great opportunity for everyone across Australia to meet and discuss your experiences.

**TO REGISTER** log on to the website [www.ctf05.org](http://www.ctf05.org) or call **Sally Brown (07 3201 2808)**, or **Don Yule (0427 113 127)**

## CTF Solutions Website Launched

The **CTF Solutions** Website has been officially launched. The Website address is [www.ctfsolutions.com.au](http://www.ctfsolutions.com.au). The website features who we are, what programs our company offers, benefits of Controlled Traffic Farming, links to our collaborators and organisations that may be of interest to you. It also has copies of each newsletter, and in future will have a library of publications for download.

## June-July CTF Solutions plans

- *Sustainable farming systems project for the Fitzroy Basin Association at Capella and Clermont in Central Queensland - deliver satellite imagery, discuss with growers and plan system changes.*
- *Visit Victoria and expand the GRDC project area using satellite imagery to improve farming systems.*
- *Sustainable farming systems for the Eastern Downs project with Condamine Alliance (Queensland).*
- *CTF Solutions is a major sponsor of the Australian Controlled Traffic Farming Conference. We will all be there and hope to see you, your staff and your friends and neighbours.*
- *Purchase of yield monitor for hire to farmers this season.*
- *Topographical surveying of farms in Central Queensland and the Eastern Darling Downs.*

**CTF Solutions** is a grower-orientated organisation. We need your support and input to provide the service excellence that we strive for.

Please contact us with your comments and ideas. This is your Newsletter, please tell us what you'd like to see more (or less) of!

To contact the **CTF Solutions** team, or to arrange a visit, logon to [www.ctfsolutions.com.au](http://www.ctfsolutions.com.au)

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