

MAY-JUNE 2005



on track to improved profit and lifestyle

CTF UP-2-DATE *newsletter*

March-April **CTF Solutions** team highlights

Over the past couple of months, the CTF Solutions team has been busy:

- Developing property plans, community engagement and catchment-wide solutions for the Fitzroy Basin Association in Central Queensland
- Finding the value and testing applications of satellite imagery with raised bed growers near Geelong
- Visiting WA for the GRDC program update and discussion
- Capturing and delivering imagery for grower groups in Central Queensland, Darling Downs, and Liverpool Plains.
- Presenting to the first group of young CTF growers at Skipton, Victoria
- Producing a series of articles on CTF for Australian Farm Journal—see your newsagent now, or contact us for copies.

CTF Solutions Launched

The beginning of 2005 brought exciting new developments for the CTF team with the launch of **CTF Solutions**.

The aim of **CTF Solutions** is to work with you to continuously improve the profitability and sustainability of your farm business and your lifestyle.

With improved service in mind, we welcome a new director, Dr Jeff Tullberg, a leader in CTF practices with decades of research experience at University of Queensland, Gatton. We also welcome strategic alliances with Stewart Cannon (farm design and paddock layout) and Kim Bowman (agribusiness).

CTF Solutions offers four new programs:

1. Map to Manage—plans your property and establishes a strong partnership
2. CTF for Success—comprehensive change management towards CTF.
3. Information Rich Agriculture—access to the best new technology
4. FarmBusinessCheck-up—continuous improvement

These programs are tailored to your farm business needs to improve your soils and farms, improve your CTF system, and provide access to the latest technology, giving you the most comprehensive farm management service available.

CTF Solutions will contact you in the near future. Alternatively, contact us for more information, and a copy of our new Business Profile.

CTF UP-2-DATE will keep you informed on a bi-monthly basis, with all the latest tips and innovations from **CTF Solutions**. CTF growers are encouraged to share their experiences and ideas as we all move forward into exciting new directions.

CTF Solutions breaks 250,000ha of high resolution mapping.

The end of February 2005 has seen **CTF Solutions** reach a major milestone, with over 250,000ha of Eastern Australian farms mapped with high resolution 1m pixel satellite imagery.

This new technology is one of the standout results of our GRDC-funded research project. The imagery provides high quality data and accurately defines farm issues such as wheel track impacts, layout inefficiencies and waterlogging effects. It has revolutionised farm analysis and on-farm change management, and is a basis for automated farm record-keeping.

With a minimum capture area of 10,000ha, costs can be reduced by pooling resources with neighbouring properties. Our most successful capture covered 43,000ha for 17 growers at crop flowering and 14,000ha late in the season. We analysed each image and the changes between the two dates. Each assessment gave valuable information on what drives these farming systems.

Areas captured include Geelong Central Queensland, Darling Downs, Liverpool Plains, and western Victoria.

From grower feedback, we are confident that this advanced imagery is a great investment. With far greater detail available than with previous lower-resolution imagery, growers have gained a better understanding of the farm and management impacts. This makes significant changes less risky, resulting in more profitable and better farming. Contact **CTF Solutions** for imagery of your area.

CTF Solutions tips for buying auto-steer systems.

RTK (Real-time kinematic) 2cm accuracy (90% of the time) is the ONLY GPS system you should buy. Forget the rest—go for the best. So-called '10cm' systems have proven un-reliable when it comes to repeat passes (i.e. from one operation to another). Don't be fooled into buying 'pseudo' 2cm DGPS systems either—if it's not RTK, it's not suitable.

Dual Frequency is vital. This enables the tractor/base to receive both signals that each satellite sends out. This means much quicker start-up times after a drop-out, and at initial start-up each day - saving you from putting a hammer through the screen in frustration.

Glonass is the Russian satellite constellation that gives you access to additional satellites. This is useful for growers with heavily timbered areas where the trees interfere with the signal. More Glonass satellites will be launched in coming years.

An easy-to-use system, with detailed manuals, is crucial, enabling you to solve most problems on site.

Ask for training as part of the price, and access to a 24hour support line and technical specialists to help you solve any difficult issues.

For specialist advice on your situation, give [Tim](#) a call.

CTF 05 Conference

The Australian Controlled Traffic Farming Conference will be held at University of Queensland, Gatton (near Brisbane) from 20 to 22 July, 2005.

The Conference (with trade show and field day) is a farmer focussed forum designed for growers, advisors, scientists and technology providers to get together and share information.

Conference sessions will include:

- Broad-acre controlled traffic
- Raised bed farming, farm layout, soil and resource management, and environmental impacts
- GPS and guidance technology

- GIS, yield mapping, imagery and spatial information applications
- Change and management of farming systems.

This is the perfect opportunity for everyone from across Australia and across the grains, cotton, sugar and horticultural industries, to share their knowledge and experiences. And a focus on young growers - the next generation.

Book your plane fares now for cheaper tickets, ask your grower or catchment group for sponsorship, and help us strengthen the Australia-wide CTF community.

REGISTER NOW on the website www.ctf05.org or call Sally Brown (07 3201 2808).

Call Don for further information.

May-June CTF Solutions team plans

- Delivering imagery to sugar growers, assessing the value and presenting at the new technologies workshop in Mackay.
- Establishing a new CTF Adoption project with the Condamine Alliance, a catchment group on the Darling Downs
- Presenting at the Soil Biology-Soil Health Conference in Dalby
- Developing our website: www.ctfsolutions.com.au
- Visiting farms across eastern Australia. **Call now to arrange your farm visit.**

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:

www.ctfsolutions.com.au

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