



# Primewest Limited

Agricultural Contractors & No-Tillage Specialists



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- All change at Primewest
- ORGANIC!
- Back At West Woodhay

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Year All Change at Primewest	1
Second Tractor	2
West Woodhay	2
Agritechnica	3
Organic Farming	3
Contact Details	4

# Direct News.

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## New Year

### All change at Primewest

Happy New Year to you all, yes I know we're late but we have been very busy over the last few months, expanding the acreage, buying new kit and getting some plans in place for later in the year - more in the next newsletter.

The biggest change is that I will be working full-time for Primewest.

James will still be out and about doing the practical farming, I will try to curb my urge to jump on a tractor, I hope to be out and about more, talking No-Tillage.

James has been busy, he has just signed up 800 acres on a contract farming agreement, it is just coming out of ORGANIC conversion, a big learning curve. Sorry, to those at BNT but its diversification. I am sure we will learn things that will be useful when using the cross slot system and vice versa.

Also James got his hands on the cheque book in December and has changed his beloved John Deere for another JD, this time a 8230

James' first serious ploughing with our new John Deere on the organic farm.



**Paul Alexander**

# Primewest gets a second tractor



Fresh off the lorry  
The new John Deere 8230

It was a cold rainy day but seeing this arrive on the lorry made it a little better.

We thought it was time for a new tractor, with the increased amount of work, more drilling and the addition of the organic acreage which will mean having to plough nearly 350 acres in the autumn and 200 for spring crops.

With more buttons than I know what to do with, more power and the advantage of being able to use Greenstar we are hoping to be even more efficient in the field.

And it wasn't long before it was put to work plough ground ready for spring organic wheat, in surprisingly dry conditions considering the amount of snow we have had.

James Alexander



Yes that is me ploughing!  
Slow Going!!!.....

## Back At West Woodhay

We were back at West Woodhay this autumn (2009) after great success with the crop that won the Newbury and District Best Wheat, it also yielded well, averaging 3.8 tonnes per acre. This time we drilled 100 hectares of second wheat and 80 hectares after beans. The whole farm is now direct drilled, they have purchased a tined drill from the southern hemisphere and have use of a 750A, we drilled following beans because the tined drill was blocking up on the residue and conditions where too hard for the 750A.

We also made two visits to Manydown Farm near Basingstoke this autumn, drilling wheat into grass, firstly we were down there in Mid-September for 200 acres and again Mid-October for another 100 acres. When we returned in mid-October the only fields that had fully emerged were those drilled with the Cross Slot, the farm was using a Simba SL followed by a Horsh Pronto and had worked all of the moisture out of the soil.

A major improvement this year to the Cross Slot blades are tungsten tiles, this enables us to drill twice as many acres per blade. A major cost saving.

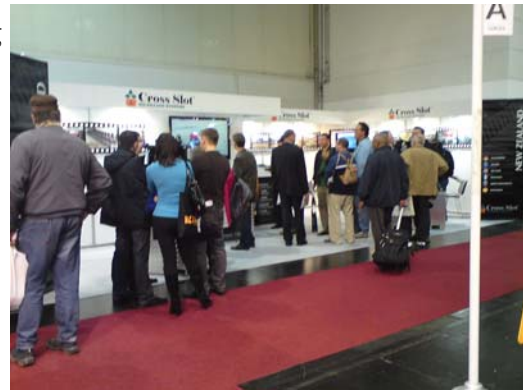


# Trip to the biggest Agricultural show

During November 2009 Primewest went to Agritechnica, in Hanover, Germany. As well as looking around the show which is massive, we were there representing the UK on the Cross Slot Stand. The event has been a huge success for the company with several sales completed and hundreds of prospects to be followed up. Twelve staff from 7 countries and covering eight languages were kept busy by the constant flow of enquiries from visitors to the site.

All the European drill owners where on the stand and eight languages makes for interesting conversation's especially after a few beers in the evening.

As you can see we were kept busy all the time, and with more importance being put on protecting the soil and the pressure on farmers to produce more food, no tillage has become more and more talked about, and even Defra have been heard muttering the word no-tillage.



We didn't have a full drill on the stand but we had two Opener simulators and large video screens.

## Organic farming

In March 2009 we entered into an agreement to share farm the arable ground at Litchfield Farm, Enstone, and also to look after the 70 head of organic pedigree Aberdeen Angus .

Its been a bit of a learning curve, even things like ploughing, it's the only defence we have against weeds so it has to be done well, which is easier said than done on our stoney soils. We have purchased a 3m combination drill, but are still working out which is the best plough, so are trying different ones until we find which one does the best job on all the different soils on the farm. Our first crop of spring organic wheat produced around 1.6t/ac milling quality and most people that saw it thought it was conventional just without any tramlines!





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No Tillage Specialists for



## TEN BENEFITS of True NO TILLAGE

1. **Reduces Labour—Saves Time.**
2. **Saves Fuel.**
3. **Reduces Machinery Wear.**
4. **Improves Soil Structure.**
5. **Improves Drainage.**
6. **Increased Organic Matter.**
7. **Traps Soil Moisture and Improves Water Availability.**
8. **Reduces Soil Erosion.**
9. **Improves Water Quality.**
10. **Increases Wildlife.**

**We would be grateful for any comments on any of the articles in this issue, and any other questions that you may have.**

*If you want to see it for yourself.....*

Please contact us on the above numbers, we would be happy to show you the drill. We will even show you it working whatever the weather, see the crops that we have established.

