



DUNCAN DD35'S BANG-FOR-BUCK CONVINCES CONTRACTOR

OLIVER WILSON HOPES HIS NEW DUNCAN DD35 DISC DRILL WILL ATTRACT SOME NEW CLIENTS.

The South Canterbury contractor purchased his new drill earlier this year. He replaced a Duncan DD30 disc drill he bought second-hand two years ago, as he looks to grow his young business.

Oliver says the bigger bins, larger hoppers, ISOBUS and electric drive attracted him to the new model DD35.

"It only arrived a few months ago, but I managed to push in a couple of jobs before the winter. That gave me a bit of an idea of what it can do," he says.

Oliver runs Willowbridge Ag Ltd. He operates south of Waimate, down to Glenavy, and provides services predominantly to dairy and dairy support farmers.

He purchased his old Duncan DD30 disc drill two years ago, as he looked to expand his new contracting business.

"I already had a planter for fodder beet and maize and I decided to get some more work out of the tractor.

"I was quite surprised at how well it went. I sort of just bought it and crossed my fingers, but I picked up some new clients and it went from there."

While he purchased the new Duncan Enviro DD35 disc drill from Cochranes, it was Matt Moodie from Giltrap in Timaru who stepped in after Covid intervened and helped Oliver get his new drill up-and-running and set-up the electric drive.

"Matt came out and we did a couple of test runs. He was happy to come out in the weekend. It was a good service.



OLIVER WILSON (LEFT) GOT GOOD SUPPORT FROM GILTRAP-DUNCAN NZ SALES MANAGER MATT MOODIE (RIGHT) TO GET HIS NEW DD35 UP AND RUNNING DURING COVID.

"Cochranes is my main dealer and I have had a very good service from both Cochranes and Giltrap Ag. The mechanics are very good. I can't fault them."

While it is a DD35, Oliver opted for a narrower 3.2m width as it was easier to handle and suited the work he does.

"I went for the narrower model so I can get through the smaller gateways. Also at night it can be hard driving on the road with that extra width."

Oliver likes the simple design and solid build of his new drill. He says the placing of the press wheel scrapers higher on the drill means there are fewer blockages.

Having ISOBUS on board means the Dun-

can DD35 works in with his tractor's GPS. It helps the operator stay within the lines in the paddock rows and all the data appears on one screen.

"That's what sold it for me," Oliver says. "I did look at other drills, but I couldn't see the sense in spending the extra money for essentially the same capability.

"The Duncan drill is definitely the best bang for buck. It was a pretty good deal."

The V-shaped double disc assembly has a 380 mm diameter scalloped disc which cuts through the ground to establish a tilth, while making a slot in the ground. A paired plain disc holds a slot open in order to place seed and fertiliser.

Oliver has opted for press wheels to close the slot and create some seed to soil contact, which enhances germination. A roller or harrows can also be added if preferred.

The dual 700-litre hoppers are big enough to hold a half tonne bag of fertiliser or grass seed. A high speed fan blows the seed and fertiliser to the planting discs even on steep slopes, which is essential on some of the hilly country that Oliver works in.

An engineer by trade, Oliver has added a ute towbar on the back of his new drill so he can tow his ute behind the drill.

Oliver says he is looking forward to a busy season, with plenty of work lining up.

"We are just waiting on the local farmers to line up their seed and for the conditions to be right. Once October kicks in there will be a few 24-hour days."

While he is a one-man-band, Oliver has his father and a couple of sub-contractors to step in and help him get through the long hours during the peak season. **RC**

CONTRACTOR OLIVER WILSON SAYS HE LIKES HIS DUNCAN DD35'S SIMPLE DESIGN AND SOLID BUILD.

