

A Montana wheat farmer's approach to **maximizing time and moisture**



# Controlling Snow Pack Through Controlled Traffic

## CHALLENGE

Managing more than **20 fields** varying in size from **12 to 320 acres**, Montana wheat farmer Pete Verploegen was looking for a more field-friendly approach to spraying his fields.

It wasn't the accuracy of the spraying that was causing him troubles. It was the inaccuracy of the tractor's wheels crossing his fields. Even starting at the same A-B lines, the sprayer would run six inches to a foot off the track every time. After several passes through the field, this inaccuracy would build up tracks of up to 25 feet wide where the wheat stubble was flattened, which meant it couldn't hold snow. This led to uneven moisture for his crop where some areas would have standing moisture from the snow and others would simply be windblown and left dry.

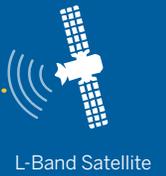
An added challenge came when Pete switched to a pull-type sprayer with a 132-foot boom. The length of the boom made it difficult to see where the end of it was as he maneuvered around power poles and fence lines, oftentimes during the low light of dawn or dusk.

## APPROACH

Working with Triangle Ag-Services out of Fort Benton, Montana, Pete decided it was time to shift from using WAAS corrections and switch to a more reliable and precise system.

He began using a Trimble CFX-750™ GNSS receiver and display with Trimble CenterPoint® RTX correction service. Every field was mapped out from the A-B lines, the fence lines and the exact location of each power pole.

As opposed to relying on needing to set up a few base stations and radio signals that could be inconsistent, Pete now gets in his tractor and switches on his CFX-750 display. It automatically connects to CenterPoint RTX via satellite (also available via cell) and within minutes provides repeatable passes to within 1 inch (2.5 cm) year over year.



Trimble RTX Correction Data

OR



Trimble RTX Correction Data



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## RESULTS

Today, Pete heads out to his fields knowing his tractor will pull his sprayer and skillfully guide its boom along the boundaries he has set.

He pulls up the field on his CFX-750 display, looks up the A-B lines for that field in his notebook and the tractor and sprayer are off, going exactly where he's told them to go. For the last few years, no matter the time of day, row after row is repeated, the fences are untouched and utility poles are no obstacle. Pete's controlled traffic approach has saved time and kept the snow where it belongs on his fields, ultimately delivering higher yields per acre.

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