



# GILTRAP WIDETRAC 'IDEAL SPREADER FOR WEST COAST CONDITIONS'

A NEW GILTRAP WIDETRAC FERTILISER SPREADER IS PROVING TO BE A RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT MACHINE FOR WEST COAST DAIRY FARMER TAMMY DYMOCK.

The Dymock family farms a 180 hectare dairy platform, milking 340 cows on a farm near Whataroa on the South Island's West Coast.

Tammy has been operating the new six-tonne WideTrac spreader since it arrived on-farm in September. She bought it from Power Farming in Greymouth after an on-farm demonstration.

"Power Farming bought the WideTrac to us and we got to play with it. After considering a few tweaks to the options to make it higher off the ground to give us more clearance in our wetter climate, we went with one."

The family bought the WideTrac spreader to replace "our old faithful and it was probably the best decision we made at the time", Tammy says.

"Our old spreader had done her time and it needed a lot of maintenance and the cost was starting to add up."

WideTrac spreaders come with several different wheel sizes and tyre options to meet the varied needs of different farming conditions. When they bought theirs, the Dymocks went with the big 500/50 R17 tyres on a tandem axle.

Tammy says the WideTrac spreader's lighter weight is a big factor. The annual rainfall

around Whataroa is 4000 mm to 6000 mm, and the WideTrac is ideally suited to the soft ground conditions. The large tyres help keep it up on top of the ground and minimise the wheel tracks left behind.

WideTrac spreaders have a digital interface that allows the operator to take care of the spreader settings at the touch of a button.

You simply key in the fertiliser density, spreading width and the desired application rate and the computer does the rest. This means the operator can focus on driving. As you drive along, the door opens up more the faster you go, as you slow down the door height lowers. The large window in the front lets you see inside the bin so you can keep an eye on the level.

"The user-friendly operation of the spreader is fantastic. It is straightforward, with fool-proof calibrations and settings. The ground clearance is great, and the spreading is pretty accurate so far," Tammy says.

"Even the instruction manual is written in such a simple way that it is easy to run through. It has got photos and simple right-to-the-point explanations." The plastic bin is also easy to wash out with the hose.

They also opted for reversible spinners, but haven't needed to use them yet. These are ideal for spreading lime at very high rates and allow the spinners to clear the product more efficiently.

Other optional features available include hydraulic brakes, a PVC rollover cover, mudguards and a 50 mm mesh screen inside the bin.

While the Dymocks bought their Giltrap WideTrac spreader to apply fertiliser, they have successfully used it to spread lime and oats.

"The oats came out perfectly. They were evenly spread and it was a great strike. I was very impressed," Tammy says.

She runs the WideTrac spreader behind a 140-hp John Deere 6140 tractor, which has the right connections to hook it up.

Tammy says she has had good service from Power Farming since the purchase.

"Power Farming has called in to see how it is going. We haven't had any issues so far."

Tammy says she recommends the WideTrac as the ideal spreader for West Coast conditions.

"There are a lot of other farmers in the area who are interested because they had a demonstration too, and they are watching us to see how we get on with it."

"I would recommend it to other farmers. There are so many factors that mean it works better and it seems to be able to handle the climate. It definitely works well on the Coast."

The WideTrac spreader has a plastic body that fits onto a galvanised steel frame. It comes in three sizes with capacities of 4, 6 or 8 tonnes. **RC**

**DAIRY FARMER TAMMY DYMOCK SAYS THE GILTRAP WIDETRAC IS STRAIGHTFORWARD TO RUN AND CALIBRATION IS 'FOOLPROOF'.**

