



the cotton tale

Southern NSW No 8. 12th April 2018

Weather conditions and Crop progress



An excellent dry and warm finish so far to the season. It is now the second highest day degree season on record only just behind 2014/15. Picking has started for those in the northern areas of the region and in the Murrumbidgee some have started and most will be under way in the next two weeks. The Murray valley will start in early May. Defoliation has been largely trouble free this season with many crops only getting two passes. I have been weighing bolls in several crops in the last two weeks and consistently bolls with seed have been weighing 5 grams on average. So it then comes down to turnout % with 40% giving boll lint at 2 g and 44 % gives 2.2 g bolls. Use this CSD table (Table 1) to estimate yield. Remember to be conservative as boll counts can be very variable across fields. If you are set up to get yield maps from your picker that are then calibrated it can be invaluable information on where there is variation in yield in

fields. Work with your advisor to plan how to minimise or rectify this in field variability.

Table 1: Impact of boll weight and boll number on yield potential.

		Boll weight (g/lint per boll)				
		1.6	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.4
Bolls/m	80	5.7	6.4	7.1	7.6	8.4
	100	7.1	7.9	8.8	9.6	10.6
	120	8.4	9.6	10.6	11.6	12.6
	140	9.9	11.1	12.3	13.5	14.8
	160	11.3	12.6	14.0	15.5	16.8
		Yield (bale/ha)				

I am also testing the use of a drone to estimate yield in a field using a program called Variwise from USQ researcher Alison McCarthy. The drone takes photos in set spots in the field and these go into an agronomic model and yield predictions have been done from January through to March. Hopefully with validation it will be available soon as a commercial product.



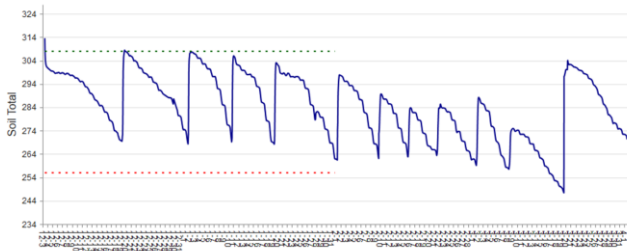
Bug check

There is the occasional Silverleaf whitefly field that may get a knockdown at defoliation or will be monitored for numbers. Most populations have dropped away.

UNE Cotton root development findings

A presentation here from Brendan Griffiths, Oliver Knox and others on some interesting analysis of probe data from the last two seasons. They are seeing wide spread problems with shallow root development to only 50 cm in 30 % of fields across the regions.

The field below has sealed up and has poor recharge at the surface. The best solution they conclude is to factor in a repair crop such as wheat into the rotation.



Towards \$1000/ha extra.

Over the years I have heard of irrigators having a target of \$1500/ha Gross margin for summer crops. Cotton is a crop that gives potential upside.

The challenge I put out to growers is to lift this target by \$1,000 /ha. It maybe possible if everything lines up (Genetics, Environment, Management) to get this out to \$3,000 Gross Margin/ ha. Another way to look at the target is aim for \$300/MI Gross margin. A good exercise is to do a framework or Mind map of what are the important 'bits' to get right that are under your control. I have included an example here that you could modify. Any suggestions to add in are welcome. I encourage you to modify and put up your own mind map at home!

SVCGA Bale trailer

The SVCGA have a bale trailer available for loan if SVCGA members need to weigh modules of trials. The bale trailer is a specialised trailer that was made

available through a CRDC funded Grassroots grant also jointly funded by NSW DPI and Deakin Uni. It will be in demand over the next month with Deakin and DPI trials being picked. If any members want to book the trailer, please give me a call. Any suggestions for future projects under Grassroots grants welcome.



Training courses coming up

Advanced spray workshops

The Agskills program has Advanced spray workshop programs that can be run with a great format of a workshop followed by individual on farm visits for spray equipment set up. This training is fully funded under the Agskills program. Dates have been set and can be found at this link

<http://bit.ly/2GMsJ5k>

Keep the spray on the weeds – good farmers manage it!

ProSoils Course – Grain and Cotton

This is also a Agskills course and a great fully funded training opportunity for advisors and growers. Dates have been set with places limited to 15 for each ProSoils course.

Yanco 15th May, Finley 16th May

<https://bit.ly/2Hk2erO>

Contact: Email: training@backpaddock.com.au
Phone: 07 3220 2959





Mat Toscan of Cavaso farming welcomes everyone to the Monsanto Grower of the year field day held recently. Over 300 attended the day. It was a credit to the Cavaso team as they showcased their farms and the farming communities of Darlington Point and Coleambally.

Events coming up

Registrations are now open for the 2018 Australian Cotton conference 7th-9th August
<http://australiancottonconference.com.au/>

Regards Kieran

Where and what is this?



NOTICE - This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are only for the use of the person to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, you have received this e-mail in error, and any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, copying or dealing with this e-mail, in any way whatsoever, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please reply immediately by way of advice to us. It is the duty of the addressee/recipient to virus-scan and otherwise test the information provided, before loading it onto any computer system. CottonInfo does not warrant that the information is free from viruses or from any other defect or error. CottonInfo does not represent, warrant and/or guarantee that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that the communication is free of errors, virus, interception or interference.