



the cotton wrap

June 2018

SEASON SUMMARY

Most of you are finished for the 2017-18 cotton season - hooray! I will be conducting some end of season reviews in the areas that are interested. Currently surveys have only been sent out to the Boggabri area as they have expressed a keen interest to collect the data. Once completed we will follow up by an Area Wide Management type meeting to go through the results. If you or anyone in your area are interested in doing the same, please let me know and I will circulate the online survey in your area. Some regions have expressed that they are happy to wait until the first AWM meetings are conducted in August and September to briefly go through the previous season before we start to talk about upcoming the 2018/19 season.

NEXT SEASON

Just a reminder that I will be supporting the initiation of AWM groups and catch ups from now on. I am hoping the first of these will be held in late August/early September in various locations throughout the Namoi & Walgett to go over some key issues before we kick off the season. There will be a few obvious topics to touch base on such as; disease, spray drift, 2,4-D issues, whitefly, mealybug and insecticide options throughout the growing season. Also, this will give us the opportunity throughout the season to discuss any hot matters. It is also a great excuse to catch up with people from your area and figure out what common issues are topical. It will also be a wonderful opportunity for me to meet everyone, so I hope you can come along. Please get in contact if there are any topics of interest to you or you feel

we should get in to. Please note these AWM's will provide us with the forum to potentially get in topical experts.

NUTRITION

We will be facilitating a meeting in Moree and Gunnedah next week to wrap up the NSW DPI 2017-18 nitrogen trial results. This will also be a great opportunity for all attendees to convey their thoughts on what nitrogen trials are needed in the 2018-19 season. I will send out final details for this by the end of the week. Furthermore, if you cannot attend and you want to know more information or pass on your opinion of the nitrogen trial programs, or thoughts for next year, please call me.

DISEASE UPDATE

Here is an overview of disease survey data from 2017-18. You may be surprised to see the incidence of vert has not drastically increased compared to last year. Please bear in mind these results are pertaining to samples sent in, and samples collected as part of the disease survey – aimed to collect long term data. I think we can all agree that vert seemed to be a lot more common this season than the 2016-17 season. Please note the below is directly quoted from the NSW DPI.

Upper Namoi (Boggabri-Spring Ridge):

Verticillium wilt (Vert) remains a major disease in the Namoi region, detected in most surveyed fields, except for a couple of fields where to-date Vert has not been spotted. Vert incidence in infested fields ranged from as low as 1% to up to 98%, often found between 25 - 50%. Yield losses driven by Vert might be significant in some fields where early Vert infection and expression in

January coincided with incidences above 30%. Both pathotypes, defoliating and non-defoliating were detected in the region. For some fields, both pathotypes were recovered from the same field. Fusarium wilt was also detected in some fields where the disease incidence remained around 1 - 10%; however, higher levels up to 30% disease incidence was also recorded. Alternaria leaf spot was minor in the region. The disease severity indicated by percentage of infected leaves remained generally below 5%. Boll and seed rot were quite prevalent, where detected incidence varied from 1 - 10% on average. Viral diseases: Tobacco Streak Virus and Bunchy Top remained very minor.

Lower Namoi (Including Walgett):

Verticillium wilt was detected in all surveyed fields of the Lower Namoi. Vert incidence in infested fields ranged from as low as 1% up to 80%, often below 20%. Yield losses driven by Vert might be significant in some fields where early Vert infection and expression in January coincided with incidences above 30%. Both pathotypes, defoliating and non-defoliating were detected in the region. Fusarium wilt was also detected in some fields where the disease incidence remained around 1 - 10%. Alternaria leaf spot was minor in the region. The disease severity indicated by percentage of infected leaves remained mostly below 5%. Boll and seed rot were quite prevalent, where detected the incidence varied from 1 - 10% on average. Viral diseases: Tobacco Streak Virus and Bunchy Top remained very minor.

COME CLEAN GO CLEAN

It is still very important to maintain our COME CLEAN GO CLEAN standards even out of the cotton growing season. This is very important to maintain during picking with picker and personal hygiene – particularly when moving from farm to farm or infested to non-infested paddocks. Please see my latest publication about mealybugs or give me a ring on 0456914637 if you have any questions or if you would like me to send you a copy.

As you should all be aware by now there have been a few incidences of *Solenopsis* Mealybug found in the district this season.

One of the most important things we all need to do is maintain exceptional farm hygiene throughout

the cotton growing cotton season, but this is also imperative during the off season – especially with the threat of mealybug in the area. This means removing weeds which will be host plants for insect pests as well as candidates for herbicide resistance in field and in agricultural pass ways. Proper destruction of the 2017-18 crop is essential, as well as maintaining ratoon and volunteer cotton during the winter.

COTTON AUSTRALIA CORNER

There are still a few days left to enter the Click 2.0 competition run by Cotton Australia. The competition is aimed to showcase the moments behind the people and the cotton industry for the 2017-18 season. The competition is open until the 8th June 2018, with winners announced before the 19th Annual Cotton Conference. Photo enthusiasts will have their photos displayed at the conference, with another opportunity for a people's choice award.



Recently our area has had a fair amount of interest with new growers looking into setting up their myBMP certification. Most growers will more than likely find that they are already compliant with a lot of the stipulated best management practices. There are many benefits to being myBMP certified, which can translate all the way from basic farm standards, through to the marketing of your cotton. Please see a full list of features and benefits on the myBMP website: www.mybmp.com.au

Please let me know if you want any help or have any questions getting your farm compliant with the standards.

GROW CAMPAIGN

The Grow Campaign is running its second round of training dates in late June with places still available. GROW is a 6-month professional development program, covering leadership, personal effectiveness, and work place health and safety and staff management. The program is funded by AgSkilled for women involved in the Cotton and Grains industry in NSW and is aimed at people with management delegation within their business (or aspiring to do so). Numbers are limited, and some locations are filling up quickly, but we are hoping



to get some more women involved in the Breeza/Spring Ridge/Quirindi event. I will attach the flyer to the end of these newsletter, but if you have any further questions or want to register please contact:

Bec Fing on M: 0427 107 234 or

E: housepaddock@bigpond.com

FUSCOM

This years FUSCOM update will be held in Griffith on the 28th and 29th of August. The FUSCOM event provides a great opportunity for growers, extension officers and agronomists to keep up to date with plant disease related projects in the cotton industry. It should also provide a forum where industry members can review any topics they feel could be priorities for the industry.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by the 10th August to myself or Sharna Holman.

E: sharna.holman@daf.qld.gov.au

2018 Cotton Management Tour

CSD's annual Cotton Management Tour is hitting the road again in 2018, covering all the major cotton growing regions throughout Queensland and NSW. All cotton growers, consultants and industry members are invited to attend.

Hosted by the Extension & Development Agronomy team, topics of discussion will include: CSD's Ambassador Network Program - G x E x M.

- FastStart R&D fund (in collaboration with Syngenta) - new website, accreditation course and awards program.
- New initiatives from CSD, including the Industry Support Program.
- Results from the 2017/18 CSD variety trial program.
- Local variety guidelines and information.

For more information, contact your local CSD Extension & Development Agronomist. Please register on the CSD website or follow this link to the registration page <http://csd.net.au/cmt>.

We will also go into the disease survey results for your region at the CSD Cotton Management Tour's.

CSD COTTON MANAGEMENT TOUR

Please check the website for a full list of stops and dates.

Moree – Monday 23rd July

5pm Moree Services Club

Gunnedah – Tuesday 24th July

10am Gunnedah Services Club

Wee Waa – Tuesday 24th July

5pm Wee Waa Imperial Hotel

Walgett – Thursday 26th July

5pm Walgett RSL Club

IMPORTANT DATES

12th June – 1-3pm NSW DPI Nitrogen Trial meeting, Moree GVIA Boardroom

14th June – 1-3pm NSW DPI Nitrogen Trial meeting, Gunnedah Services Club

19th June – CSD Complex Opening, "Shenstone", Wee Waa

20th June – 9-11am Mirid Management Workshop, Narrabri (CCA member event ONLY)

20th June – 1.30pm Precision Ag Masterclass, Narrabri Golf Club (CCA member event ONLY)

21st to 22nd June – CCA Cropping Solutions Seminar, The Crossing Theatre, Narrabri

7th to 9th August – Cotton Conference, Convention Centre, Gold Coast

23rd August – CCA Regional Workshop, The Max Theatre, Moree

28th to 29th August – FUSCOM, TBA, Griffith

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