



Macquarie bale up

JANUARY 2018

WHATS COMING UP

Its time again for the next CottonInfo researchers tour, this is where we bring the researchers to you to present their latest finding in a very informal farm setting. The tour was a big success last year and based on your feedback we have developed the next tour with a strong focus on Irrigation practises and how this can maximise your profits.

**7th of February 2018 , 8 am @ "Stathern"
Carinda Road Warren**

From Warren head out on the Carinda Road for about 54km (it's the next right hand turn off after the Nellievale Road) The sign said Gradery Lane Mt Harris bridge it will have the cotton Info Signage. Turn Right then after the bridge Turn right again – you will go through " Willowbend" keep following the river until you go over the grid and you're on " Strathern"

We will be meeting at the workshop/huts at 8.00 am . Please car pool where possible and bring only clean vehicles onto the farms ,there is room to leave a few vehicles at the turn off if they are dirty.

The day will go from 8.00 am to 11.30 followed by a BBQ lunch and a quick crop walk. There is a great line up of speakers on

the day so get the diary out and put this down now.

<https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/events/cottoninfo-research-tour-optimising-irrigation-nitrogen-macquarie>

Here is the exact location to put into your phones of where the meeting will take place.

[Dropped pin near Mount Harris NSW 2824](#)

RSVP essential so I can feed you all !!!!

MANAGING HEAT STRESS

With hot conditions continuing across the Macquarie , we bring you this [CottonInfo blog](#) on managing heat stress in your cotton,

featuring CSIRO researchers Dr Mike Bange and Dr Rose Brodrick.

EARLY SEASON DISEASE SURVEY - PRELIMINARY RESULTS

10 fields, 6 farms across the Macquarie were sampled in early November, they will also be sampled for the late season surveys.

BRR was detected on every field, incidence av. 54.8% (range 11.5-95.5%).

Rhizoctonia was also ubiquitous, incidence av. 62.5% (range 25.9-99.1%)



Alternaria was also common, which Duy has reported between 1-15% incidence.

Pythium was detected on two farms at low levels <2% incidence.

The ratings above are based on field symptoms, with further IDs of the pathogens confirmed in the lab. In most cases, corresponding pathogens

were recovered from sick seedlings.

BRR pathogens were recovered from seedlings with symptoms of BRR.

Alternaria were recovered from Alternaria leaf spots.

The average stand count sits at 11.5 (range 9.7-14.9 plants/m).

Volunteers were present within current cotton of two farms surveyed. The number of volunteers ranged between 10-100 (common) and >100 (numerous).

Insect damage to roots, and white rot (suspected sclerotinia) was also encountered.

Insect research update – Dr Simone Heimoana, CSIRO, Narrabri

We are busy with damage tolerance/compensation experiments at ACRI and Spring Ridge to look at how much fruit cotton can lose (from Mirids/heat/cold shock, etc.) before we get significant yield losses. This could help us with Mirid management by giving us another parameter to consider when making spray decisions.

We are also working on SLW management with various recommended insecticides that we are less familiar with. We just wrapped up the early season Table 3 Beneficial Impact work. This experiment was infested with mites and boy, did they take off in some treatments this year. Some of the infested

rows are severely stunted and barely have any leaves, other have lost most squares which are heavily infested with mites within the bracts – before there is even visible leaf reddening.

Once cotton begins to open, we will continue our honeydew stickiness/sooty mould studies and intend to investigate whether there are any substances with effective fungicidal properties in existence. We recently purchased a portable spectrophotometer that can assess cotton colour in the field. (source Janelle Montgomery REO Gwydir Valley)

In case you missed it.....

Mid-season climate Webinar – Jon Welsh

Welshy held a very informative mid-season webinar , if you did not catch it (or you did but you didn't write anything down) here is a summary

Key points:

The Madden Jullian Oscillation (MJO) will enter our region around 20th Jan and analysis shows that at this time of year rainfall often follows the event by 7-10 days.

The [MJO](#) is a tropical disturbance and low air pressure which is moving around the equator and it has the ability to disrupt and change convection patterns. Analysis also shows that an active MJO season correlates to better rainfall and it has been distinctly lacking over the last 3 summers.

Multi week models struggle for accuracy at this time of year and what we need is a build-up of moisture in the tropics, especially the Coral Sea to increase our chances and things can move quickly.

This time of year we track the passing of the MJO over eastern Australia in the hope that the stubborn high pressure patterns in the

Tasman Sea that keep us dry can be unsettled and bring some much needed rainfall.

At this time of year, its best to concentrate less on season and multi-week models and monitor a select few weather models such as these ones below.

[NCEP](#) 16 day

[WATL](#) 8 day

[GEM](#) 6 day

Here is the link to the full recording of the climate webinar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpAdbHnBDtM&feature=youtu.be>

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