



May 2016

ANOTHER SEASON JUST ABOUT COMPLETE

Well as we look over the season just passed I am sure there are some things that we would like to remember and others we would like to forget!!! Most notably would be the severe storm that passed over parts of the Downs on the 24th December, as well as the severe lack of rainfall, resulting in declining storage levels and soil moisture profiles. The weather boffins are telling us to be prepared for a wet winter, so decent rainfall could be not too far away.

Over next few months there are many training courses/seminars being conducted by CottonInfo and others, so please consider attending them to keep yourself up to date and increasing your knowledge of topics of interest.

I will continue to update you about the CottonInfo led courses as they come to light. Please refer to the Date Claimer below.

Two topics that would be of interest to many are Weeds and Irrigation. CottonInfo is hosting two weeds workshops and a masterclass over the next 6 weeks. The masterclass has been specifically developed for cotton consultants, whereas the one-day weeds workshops have been developed for growers. The focus is on strategies and tools to manage herbicide resistant weeds in cotton farming systems. This should be of interest to many as the incidence of weeds that cannot be controlled with glyphosate is rapidly increasing.

Irrigation is another topic of great interest. I had a meeting with Dr Simon White (formally DAF,NCEA) last week and he has been funded by Condamine Alliance to engage with landholders within the catchment to promote greater awareness of signs of poor surface irrigation practice and what options growers have to investigate its' occurrence and rectify the situation. He is offering for a limited time, irrigators to access (at no cost to them) one-on-one assistance to investigate the performance of their surface irrigation systems and consider options for improvement for next season.

Grower numbers for involvement are limited and will cease at June 30 or earlier once all available spots are filled.

Please read below for what I believe is a fantastic offer.

Photo Courtesy Alan Redfern



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Information when you need it



Improving irrigation performance – an offer to Cotton Growers on the Downs.

Irrigators located within the Condamine Catchment are for a limited time able to access (at no cost to them) one-on-one assistance to investigate the performance of their surface irrigation systems and consider options for improvement for next season. Also as part of this offer, satellite imagery (for the 2015/16 season) showing crop vigour (or the processing of yield data into field maps) is being provided free of charge to irrigators and to be used as a tool to assist in identifying underperforming fields and/or areas within fields.

The purpose of this activity is to promote greater awareness of signs of poor surface irrigation practice and what options growers have to investigate its' occurrence and rectify the situation.

As an example, greater crop yellowing at the head ditch end of the field compared to the tail drain end throughout the season or a consistent yield decline from the tail drain end to the head ditch end are signs of poor surface irrigation practices resulting in a greater occurrence of water logging and N losses at the top end of the field compared to further down the field. Those growers who have long field lengths, low inflow rates and/or long irrigation run times are most at risk of experiencing this effect, although other factors can also be at play which influence surface irrigation performance (namely soil type and re-irrigation deficit). This is one such example which can be investigated with the use of crop vigour maps from satellite imagery or yield maps.

Grower numbers for involvement are limited and the offer of free imagery will cease at June 30 or earlier once all available spots are filled.

This work is being conducted by Dr Simon White and made possible through funding from Condamine Alliance.

Anyone interested in finding out more, becoming involved or receiving free crop vigour imagery from this season, please contact Dr Simon White (ph.: 0455 988 302 or Email: simon@whiteag.com).

Date Claimer

Weeds Masterclass - Goondiwindi 2nd June

Weeds Workshops- Dalby 14th July

Pittsworth 15th July

Australian Cotton Conference – Gold Coast 2-4th August

Till next edition

Regards

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