

# The Cotton Wrap - The August 2016 Edition



## Welcome to the 19th edition of the Cotton Wrap!!

### Dryland/ Irrigated Cotton

Limited water cotton seems to be topical this month with some good results around the traps. I caught up with Sam Kahl from Merced Farming for some of his results from last season. Sam planted 74BRF in solid configuration on 2 metre beds on country already formed up ready to go fully irrigated until adequate allocation was not forthcoming. They had a fair moisture profile but not full and so when 100mm was forecast in the middle of wheat harvest they decided to turn that into an opportunity. A lower plant density of 6-7 was targeted with 8 seeds planted per metre but due to excellent conditions nearly every one came up. Planting date was 24<sup>th</sup> Oct and the rain came through with the 1<sup>st</sup> irrigation applied on 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 150mm of rain in Jan helped a lot and Sam was able to flush the crop on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb with some runoff tailwater which filled the profile even though the crop was not stressed. The final irrigation was applied on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb which gave an estimated 3 ½ Megs applied. The crop was following mungbeans and only had 138 Units of N applied prior to the first irrigation. One 900 ml Pix<sup>®</sup> application on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb to slow it down, one insecticide and 2 Roundup Ready<sup>®</sup> sprays. They had a hot dry February and March, and were very happy with a yield of 9.2 bales/Ha with no discounts. That gave a water use efficiency of 2.6 bales per megalitre applied based on those numbers.



Picking underway with the limited water field

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### Verticillium

A new trial is underway which is a joint initiative between Cottoninfo and Qld DAF and supported by CRDC to measure inoculum levels in soils and to better understand the effects of different rotations on these levels. The idea being that we might establish the best rotations to manage Verticillium but also to develop some thresholds for inoculum levels and their affect on cotton yields. Linda and I will have a 3 year replicated trial East of Narrabri and we will monitor levels also on a chickpea, Faba Beans, barley/vetch and oats/vetch rotation west of Narrabri for the next 2 years up to the next cotton crop. Samples have also been taken from high Vert fields near Moree and a replicated trial at Croppa Ck will be similar to the trial at Boggabri. See below the plan so far and if you you would like to get involved let me know.

Sum 2015-16	Win 2016	Sum 2016-17	Win 17	Sum 17-18	Win 18	Sum 18-19
Cotton	Durum			Sorghum		Cotton
Cotton	Canola		Durum			Cotton
Cotton	Durum		Canola			Cotton
Cotton						Cotton
Cotton		Corn		Sorghum		Cotton
Cotton	Durum			Cotton		
Cotton	Chickpeas	Fallow	Fallow	Cotton		
Cotton	Oats/Vetch	Fallow	Fallow	Cotton		
Cotton	Barley/Vetch	Fallow	Fallow	Cotton		

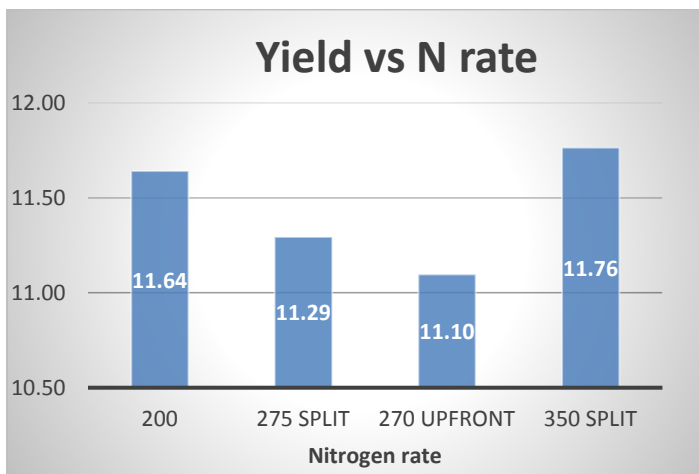
### Research

The Nitrogen rate trials at Maules Ck are picked and ginned with the crop affected by hail with an estimated 10% yield loss. Initial results are below and we are in the process of putting all of the trials over all areas together so more to come once all results are in. These yields were not statistically significant which means that the difference can be explained by field variation. The Solvita part of the experiment threw up some interesting results and we will do it again this season before we talk too much about the results. Research is telling us that up to 70% of N requirements are coming from mineralisation and so is an aspect of soil biology we need to learn more about.

For further information contact  
Geoff Hunter on 0458 142 777



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Yields for the N rate trial at Bellevue Narrabri/Maules Ck

The focus this year will be on the Solvita test but also looking to map and reduce in field variability.

#### Around the Traps

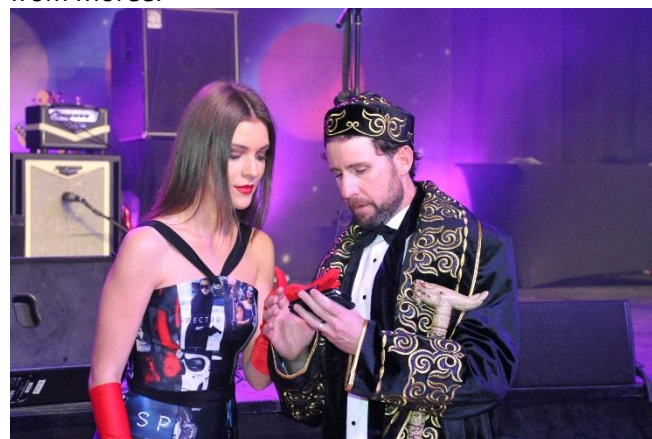
When is it going to rain?????, this is what I asked back in May so things are a bit different now. Chickpeas out west had to be re-planted due to it being too wet and rain also delayed the western districts wheat planting. The east of Narrabri faired a little better, missing out on the 100mm in June. Most crops were planted on time although the mild season has meant crops are a couple of weeks ahead of normal. Flows in the river to date have allowed some pumping on Class A licenses with limited of B- class supplementary extraction occurring now. Keepit Dam has passed 50% this week. Down on the Liverpool plains rainfall has been a little less to date and while many profiles are still not full, crops still look fantastic, with one grower even saying it is the best start to winter ever and yield potential is still high. There is plenty of talk about Dryland cotton due to poor sorghum prices and a favourable seasonal outlook. The Macquarie is super wet (500mm since June) with more rain this week. One grower has 95% of his farm with water on it and plenty of work to do on in crop sprays. North of Moree would still take more rain and the Downs has been missing out so far.

#### Cotton Conference 2016

Congratulations to Ian, Mally and Harry Carter on taking out Grower of Year at the recent cotton Conference on the Gold Coast. Innovator of the Year went to the Commins brothers at Whitton, young Achiever was Bec Fing and Researcher of the Year was Dr. Guy Roth.



It is great to see it coming back to the Namoi. There was also a Bond inspired fashion parade on the night which ran smoothly thanks to the B and W guys from Moree.



Ben Dawson trying to take a selfie.



Peter Birch, ever the gentleman

#### What' On

**7<sup>th</sup> Sept-** Solar Pumping and Energy Efficiency, Cecil Plns, Ph 07 3837 4720

**8<sup>th</sup> Sept-** Cotton Research Update at Yanco, Ph Kieran on 0427 207 406

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9<sup>th</sup> Sept- Mid Namoi End of Season Review.

## Sayings of the Month

“He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever”.

“The palest ink is better than the best memory”.

Chinese Proverbs

## Resistant Weeds

Resistance is becoming an issue with reports of Ryegrass, Liverseed grass, Barnyard grass, Fleabane and Feathertop Rhodes grass reported as developing resistance to some herbicides. John Cameron from ICAN) told us that there are areas in SA and WA that do not have any in-crop options for control of some weeds now. To prolong the use of Glyphosate (and also other herbicides) it is imperative to use a strategy of using different modes of action and cultivation in some instances where practical. To better understand how this can be done Cottoninfo and ICAN ran a number of workshops on managing weed resistance and I asked one grower what messages he took away.

- Pre-emergent herbicides will become more prevalent in my farming system
- Understanding how chemicals work in respect to solubility and volatility
- Know the different mixes to use that reduce the reliance on Glyphosate
- Dual Gold® and Terbyne are particular chemicals which will be used more on my farm
- Understanding how Balance® works and its application as a channel spray were new to them
- Roundup is a once in a lifetime chemical that is starting to encounter weed resistance

## Welshy's Weather

Mixed reports out for spring with the SOI and Niño indices in neutral territory and the negative Indian Ocean Dipole at record (wet) levels.

The warm ocean temperatures in the tropical convergence zone near the equator and the warm Coral Sea make a compelling case for moisture feed in for the remainder of the year.

If the Southern Annular Mode can stay positive and push moisture into inland areas we are certainly a chance of this stellar season continuing.

3 of the 4 multi-week models currently show a wetter-than-average and cooler month of September.

Keep an eye on the e-news moisture manager for updates.

Where's that??? A QLD pic this time.



Gary Eason was first on the last picture, with it being the old King Ranch bullring at “Bugilbone” Pilliga NSW.

## Network Corner

This section relies on you so pass on something to add. Things for sale, workers wanted or some interesting pics.

*Until next time*

*Cheers*

Geoff

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*Best Practice*