



the cotton tale

Southern NSW No 7. 11th March 2018

Weather conditions and Crop progress

We are well in front of average day degrees this season and the long-range forecast is predicting a delayed Autumn break. We are close to 2000-day degrees which is 3 weeks ahead of the average and 10 days in front of last season.

Crops have been getting their final irrigation and many crops will be getting their first defoliation pass before the end of March.



An interesting observation above of how different varieties accumulate their boll loads 746 on the left and 714 on the right both sown at the same time

Bug check

Silverleaf Whitefly have been increasing in some crops due to the warm conditions and where needed they have been sprayed with Pyriproxyfen (Admiral) a

few weeks ago. Reports indicate this has worked well with populations now low.

Crops that have not been sprayed are being monitored and may need a knockdown spray of Dinotefuran (Pegasus). Late crops with big canopies are being watched closely.

Optimising Nitrogen and Irrigation tour

As part of the Optimising Nitrogen and Irrigation tour the CottonInfo Regional Extension Officers conducted an irrigation assessment for the first two irrigations on a field in their regions. Some key findings here

- 75 percent of irrigation events measured had an application efficiency of less than 80 percent, therefore there is significant room for improvement in irrigation management
- **If irrigators increase flow rates, it can result in excess tail waters if siphons are not pulled at the correct time and significantly reduce the efficiency of an irrigation.**
- Optimising irrigation run times resulted in water saving between the measured and optimised events of 0.4ML/ha/irrigation.
- To put into perspective: 0.4ML/ha x 6 irrigation events across the season = 2.4 ML/ha, multiply this by a cotton area, eg 500 ha = 1200 ML water saved over the season on a 500Ha farm (or enough water for another 120 ha cotton).
- The amount of N in the tailwaters is minimal for these irrigation events.

Between 0.29 and 10 kg N runs off the field in tail waters.

- Optimising irrigation performance can result in water saving through reduced runoff and deep drainage and therefore reducing N losses. **The full report is attached**

WUE benchmarking

Southern NSW cotton growers are invited to participate in a water productivity benchmarking study, led by NSW DPI with support from CRDC, for the 2017-18 season. This follows on from previous surveys, most recently run in 2012-13, which established that cotton has achieved a 40% increase in water productivity (GPWUI) since previous industry estimates.

Water productivity benchmarking compares the amount of water used to the amount of harvested cotton produced, determining a bales per megalitre result. It involves calculating water use indicators from on-farm data and evaluating these relevant to established performance indicators.

This provides a snapshot of how fields and farms are performing now, across seasons (for those who have participated previously), and against regional and industry averages.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Robert Hoogers, NSW DPI Irrigation Officer at Yanco (0427 208 613) or Ali Chaffey, NSW DPI and CottonInfo Team at Narrabri (0439 326 601).

Minimising Yield variability CRDC project

Patrick Filippi from Sydney University is after a few growers to be involved in this important project. All details are attached for those interested.

Contact Patrick Filippi direct
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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. 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

Full details attached.

IREC Farmers newsletter on line

The Autumn 2018 edition of the Farmers newsletter is now available with a number of cotton articles

<http://bit.ly/2p8Viq7>

Events coming up

- **Tuesday 27th March 9 am**, Monsanto Grower of the year field day, Cavaso Farming Ringwood, Kidman Way, Darlington Point.

Registrations free but must be made via <http://bit.ly/2nWJfZk> for a seat on the bus and lunch.

Regards Kieran

Where and what is this?



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