



the cotton tale

Southern NSW No 9. 15th May 2018

2017-18 season Weather conditions

The weather data for October 2017 to April 2018 is attached. A season with cold shocks below average and hot shocks above average. Day degrees for all locations have been 15 to 20 % above average. A few significant weather events may have impacted on potential yields with heavy rain in early December in some areas potentially leading to waterlogging and denitrification and a run of high temperatures coupled with cloud cover reducing solar radiation in late January causing a shedding event. An excellent finish however has helped lift yields. If you look at historical yields it places the overall average yield for 2017/18 at an estimated 11 - 11.5 b/ha which is above the five-year rolling average of 10.9 b/ha.



Photo by Gavin Dal Broi

Harvest progress

Picking is estimated at about 60 % complete with some growers already finished. Individual field yields have been estimated from 9 to 16 b/ha with growers

waiting on confirmation from gin results. Outturns and quality reports are excellent with a very clean pick so far.

Late season disease survey results

I am waiting on the official analysis and results from the sample of fields (20 fields) that were surveyed during March for late season diseases in southern NSW.

What I can confirm at this stage is an increase in Verticillium wilt detected in the fields sampled. Four fields had plants showing Verticillium symptoms. These have been confirmed as positive for Verticillium wilt and testing is underway by NSW DPI pathologists on the actual strain of the disease.

Integrated Disease management tactics for Verticillium wilt

- Plant high V rank varieties. 714B3F has the highest V rank of the current varieties.
- Incorporate stubble as soon as possible after harvest.
- Rotate with non-host crops (cereal crops)
- Manage for earliness to avoid cooler conditions late in the season.
- Avoid over-watering, waterlogging and late season irrigations that extend maturity.
- If your farm is free of V.dahliae try to keep it that way. Ensure farm staff and contractors practice good farm hygiene and Come Clean Go Clean

<https://bit.ly/2KYhvxp>

<https://bit.ly/2KnQCSB>

Come clean Go clean update

- The main key message for Come Clean Go Clean, is that it is important to wash off mud and trash from machinery, equipment, vehicles and footwear.
- The detergent commonly used in the cotton industry was Farmcleanse and has now been replaced by Bio-Cleanse.
- Bio-Cleanse is a premium detergent/degreaser for agricultural equipment and is used to 'provide optimum soil penetration and removal'
- If growers or resellers would like to stock Bio-Cleanse please contact Mark from Queensland Cleaning Solutions on 0401 030 923.
- Some growers may want to consider adding an additional step to their clean down and on-farm biosecurity program, with a registered decontaminant product such as quaternary ammonium based products. Decontaminant products also need to be applied to a surface that has all soil and trash removed to be effective. Growers should refer to their resellers for product options.
- It is important for users to follow label directions for rates and the time the product needs to be left on for to be effective. In other industries who have had biosecurity scares and concerns, such as bananas, it is standard practice to use an agricultural detergent followed by a decontaminant.



First time grower Greg Sandford's cotton crop at Deniliquin last week. Photo by James Kanaley

Agrinet Farm wide WIFI



I recently met Dan Winson from Agrinet, a Wagga based company, at the Riverina Field days. With the geographic spread of farms in our region and some having patchy or no mobile signal this company claims it can provide a cost-effective solution to having good coverage using WiFi repeaters. Having good coverage right across the farm is becoming more important with the development of agricultural sensors that monitor weather, soil moisture levels, soil temperature, fuel and water levels and security cameras. Many of these sensors have been developed in Griffith by Deakin Universities James Brinkhoff and are becoming available through Goanna Telemetry. One use I can see for these inexpensive sensors is confirming irrigation levels in bankless systems after row closure.

The company Agrinet can provide self-install WiFi kits for properties. To get a free design and quote for your property contact Agrinet on 1300 093 711 or email info@agrinet.com.au or visit their website at the following link

<https://agrinet.com.au/>

Winter crop guide

Please see link to the 2018 NSW DPI *Winter crop variety sowing guide*.

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/broadacre-crops/guides/publications/winter-crop-variety-sowing-guide>

End of season regional survey

Each year in June/July I ask growers and consultants to participate in a survey on how the season went for them. Individual results are kept confidential, but individuals can see how they ranked compared to others.

A report on the responses is made available before the next season starts. For new growers it is valuable to reflect on how to improve your productivity. Last years summary is attached as an example.

The strength and value of this survey comes from participation over the last four years to see trends and benchmark performance.

If you have any suggestions for questions to include just let me know.

Advanced Spray Application training

Agskills have spray workshops coming up in locations in our region

- **Deniliquin 22nd May**
- **Finley 29th May**
- **Griffith 26th June**
- **Leeton 3RD July**
- **Forbes 25th September**

Advanced Spray Application training consists of two parts:

- one day workshop – 9am to 4.30pm

The workshop will cover:

- weather
- drift reduction
- strategies and technologies
- how to recognise and avoid inversions
- chemical label requirements
- record keeping including spray plans
- PPE and OHS
- practical strategies for mixing and applying chemical
- practical demonstrations using a variety of nozzles and water rates
- water quality
- effect of adjuvants in the chemical mix
- case study – Dicamba in the US
- Workplace visit

The workplace visit will cover:

- development of spray drift management plans – winter and summer - customised to the farming operation – machine, speed, nozzles, etc
- calibration and testing of spray equipment as per spray plans
- operation of equipment to ensure accuracy
- general fine tuning of the machine
- time for one-on-one discussion to clarify any issues from the workshop.

To register your interest, contact Cath on 02 6345 5818 or 0437 455818 or email craig.day@bigpond.com

<http://bit.ly/2GMSJ5k>

Keep the spray on the weeds – good farmers manage it!

Events coming up

CSD Cotton management tour

30th July am Coleambally

30th July pm Griffith

31st July am Deniliquin

31st July pm Hillston

1st August am Condobolin

2018 Australian Cotton Conference

Registrations are now open for the 2018 Australian Cotton conference **7th-9th August**

<http://australiancottonconference.com.au/>

Fuscom Griffith 28th and 29th August

Industry disease project updates. This is the first time this yearly forum has been held in the south. A grower and consultant focused session is planned for the afternoon of Wednesday 29th August. More details to come.

Regards Kieran

Trials being weighed at IREC field station



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