



# the cotton tale

**Southern NSW No 2. October 2017**

## Welcome



Photo from Alex Dalton 10/10

## Weather conditions and crop progress

Wow what a start! As you can see from the weather data graphs some growers took advantage of the high day time temperatures in the last week of September to establish early crops. Although these crops took time to emerge with some cool nights down to 2.5 to 3 degrees it looks like these early crops have established well.

The majority of the crop has been planted in the first two weeks of October. Most crops have emerged in 9 to 14 days post watering with pre-watered ground being the stand out. Some reports of possible replants after the thunderstorm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October affecting crops that had just been watered.

## Day degrees 1<sup>st</sup> Oct – 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017

Condobolin 163.9 (+ 34.7)  
Hillston 171 (+39.7)  
Hay 162.5 (+38)  
Griffith 157.1 (+41.1)  
Darlington Point 156.8 (+40.5)  
Coleambally 151.3 (+39.2)  
Jerilderie 142 (+35.3)  
Deniliquin 139.3 (+32.2)

## Establishment and disease assessment

Each season a sample of fields in each region are included in the industry wide disease survey. It is conducted by NSW DPI staff and CottonInfo REOs. This survey aims to cover about 5 % of the area for both early season (3 to 4 weeks after sowing) and late season (after last irrigation).

Now is a good time to check out your own crops with a simple dig and see approach. Assess establishment in 10 representative areas of a field. Count the number of established plants in 50 cm. Dig away the side of the hill/bed near the plant line and look for reasons why seeds did not establish. It could be caused by a range of factors such as compaction, wireworms, seed rot, crusting, seedling disease. A checklist to help record what you find is included here.

## Cotton check

One way to record what has gone on through the season is to keep a paper based record of a field. This service is now provided by your consultant in various

electronic reports but for new growers is handy to have your own record on hand. See attached and keep a copy in the glovebox.

### **Come clean, go clean**

With the withdrawal of Castrol's Farm Cleanse – there have been growers asking about alternatives to Farm Cleanse. There are existing stocks out there but these will be replaced with Bio-cleanse over time.

Please find a blog post on the CottonInfo website: <http://www.cottoninfo.com.au/blog/come-clean-go-clean-bio-cleanse> which provides information on an alternative product to Farm Cleanse, Bio-Cleanse, how to use the product and who to contact to organise distribution.

### **What is BeeConnected?**

BeeConnected is a free-of-charge private messaging service which connects registered beekeepers with registered farmers and contractors, enabling two-way communication on the location of hives and crop protection product activities.

### **Why use BeeConnected?**

BeeConnected can be used to identify nearby crop/hive locations and facilitate communication between spray applicators and beekeepers on planned activities. This communication allows for spray applicators and beekeepers to undertake proactive steps to reduce risk for bees and hives.

BeeConnected can be used to help spray applicators meet pesticide label requirements to notify beekeepers of an intended spray, where there is potential for managed bees to be affected by the spray or spray drift.

### **How does it work?**

Farmers and spray contractors can explore the map for any nearby beekeeping activity. Registered farmers are notified when a beekeeping activity is logged within 10km of their property or crop

protection activity. Registered beekeepers are notified when a crop protection activity is logged within 10km of their beehives. All users can then use BeeConnected's built-in messaging service to coordinate or privately share any relevant information they choose to.

Users will only be sent emails from BeeConnected to inform them of new messages from other users or to notify them of relevant activity nearby.

### **How do I use BeeConnected? It is very easy to set up. Grab your smartphone now and follow these steps**

1. Install the BeeConnected app from the iTunes store.
2. Register your details
3. Add properties – Add in your farm locations
4. The nearby button will show if registered hives are within 10 km of your current location
5. My activity button – if an insecticide spray is planned log the activity on the app. Note that some products can affect foraging bees for 28 days.

### **Award nominations for SVCGA awards 2016/17**

I am calling for nominations for SVCGA Awards for the 2016/17 season.

All nominations to Kieran at [kieran.okeeffe@cottoninfo.net.au](mailto:kieran.okeeffe@cottoninfo.net.au). Nominations are kept in strict confidence.

Not a high yielding year but from reports I have heard there are some stand outs.

**Note cut off for nominations is 15<sup>th</sup> December but can you do this now before it becomes a distant memory!**

**I am gathering the highest cotton yield information for the past 2016-2017 cotton season.**



**Can you nominate for the 2016-2017 season and I will narrow down to contenders for yield awards.**



**Photo from Paul Cleton of new bankless layout.**

**The following award categories will be awarded at the next cotton dinner in 2019!**

**Must be ginned 227kg bale yields. Talk to your advisor and gin to get this accurate.**

**Category 1.** Highest yielding grower FARM average - Lachlan Valley (including upper Lachlan)

**Category 2.** Highest yielding grower FARM average – Murrumbidgee/Murray Valley /Victoria

- Must include combined average yield of all farms grown by the grower.

- If a grower has farms in both Lachlan and Murrumbidgee/Murray then can enter separately for both.

- Must include, Grower/Partnership name, average, total farm hectares and total bales ginned.

**Category 3.** Highest yielding INDIVIDUAL field - Lachlan Valley (including upper Lachlan)

**Category 4.** Highest yielding INDIVIDUAL field – Murrumbidgee/Murray Valley/Victoria

- Ensure field average does not include unsprayed cotton refuge bales or unsprayed cotton refuge area!

- No part fields - and over 20ha ideally

- Must include, Grower/Partnership name, Variety, field name and hectares of the field.

**Cut off is 15<sup>th</sup> December. Thanks in advance for your co-operation.**

### **CRDC Strategic plan 2018-2023**

CRDC's Strategic Plan is the organisation's key planning document. It is the compass that sets the direction for the organisation's operations and investment in cotton research, development and extension over the next five years, enabling the industry to achieve its long-term vision and the Government to achieve its strategic R&D priorities.

CRDC is now developing the next five-year strategic plan - **the CRDC Strategic Plan 2018-23** - in consultation with key stakeholders. The Plan is currently in development, and will come into effect in July 2018, following Ministerial approval.

Based on stakeholder input and feedback to date, CRDC has developed a draft 'plan on a page': an overview of the proposed key purpose, goals, focus areas, outcomes and activities for the 2018-23 period.

**CRDC are currently in the process of seeking feedback on this draft 'plan on a page' and invite all cotton growers to have their say, via the link below, by Friday 24 November. The feedback that you provide will be considered by CRDC in the formation of the Strategic Plan.**

[www.crdc.com.au/strategicplan](http://www.crdc.com.au/strategicplan)

### **Trials for 2017-18**

The details of current industry trials for 2017-18 is attached. During the season, there will be opportunities to look at how they are progressing and learn from this research. This list does not include the many on farm trials that occur each season. If you have trials or demonstrations that would be of interest to others please give me a call and the work can be included in future editions of The Cotton tale. The full list of regional trials can be found at the CottonInfo website

<http://www.cottoninfo.com.au/farm-trials>



## Events coming up

- Cotton Marketing course, Places still available!  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November, Bagtown Inn, Griffith, see attached Information.
- SVCGA AGM, Bar 188 (above Giuseppe's), Banna Avenue, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 5.30 pm. AGM and guest speakers.

## Where is this interesting sign?

Hint- On a Northern NSW beach



Text me your answer.

Until next time.

## Kieran

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