



the cotton wrap

MAY 2017

SEASON SUMMARY

Yield results coming in are still much the same as last update with around the 9-11 bales/ha commonplace with the odd one up to 13 bales/ha although these are estimates in the paddock and not post ginning. In saying this picking is really only just starting to get going and the rain and colder weather has slowed it up further. Only a couple of millimetres in the Namoi generally in the last change with Bellata around 25mm and Moree through to Croppa Creek 25-50mm. Not much rainfall on the Liverpool Plains with 6-20mm with the best falls closer to Quirindi.

Dryland crops down on the Liverpool plains have been reasonable for the season with the odd crop over 4 bales/Ha and 3 bales/Ha the average. Ian Gourley has one of the new baler strippers at Edgeroi at the moment in his dryland crop yielding around 1.1 bales/Ha.



A baler stripper at Edgeroi.

Ginning is only just starting in this area and on the deliveries so far reports are that modules are a

little heavier than last year but of those ginned turnout has been back a little and this makes sense as the heavier modules are on account of a difficult defoliation and less lint as a total ratio. The later crop is expected to be better yielding as it was able to finish its top crop in more favourable conditions.

TRIALS

Soil sampling on the Verticillium rotation trial is underway with a few more treatments. A new biofumigant plant mix which includes Mustard is being trialled and forage sorghum was incorporated into an existing trial plot.

The row configuration trial at Auscott Narrabri had the 1st defoliation on last week. It was originally a dryland trial but ended up with 4 irrigations so it is now a semi-irrigated trial.



The replicated row configuration trial at Auscott-Narrabri.

The exclusion tents came off at "Rossmar Park" and as you can see we did change the growth pattern of the crop and fruit counts under the

tents showed up to 30% less fruit, sorry Angus!. This project idea is being looked at now by the whole Cottoninfo team and it will be rolled out across all valley's next season.



Cotton showing enhanced growth from beneath an exclusion tent at "Rossmar Park"

COVER CROPPING

An interesting article in the Cotton Wire put out by Trevor Johnstone today where trials are being carried out by the Agricultural Research Service in Alabama USA with cover crops. They trialed the planting of cereal rye in Autumn then spraying, rolling and planting cotton with the one pass for 3 seasons against the traditional 2 pass method of spraying then planting later. Costs were less and cotton yields were 2.5% higher for the 3 years of the trial. The really interesting part was the comparison of costs used a diesel price of \$2/gallon and wages of \$12.55/hr.

<https://agresearchmag.ars.usda.gov/2017/may/crops/>

WEEDS

ICAN are again running a series of workshops on Cotton Weed Management and the dates for our region are below. These were very well received last year and provided practical options and strategies to control weeds and prolong the use of Glyphosate.

Workshops will be in a small group format and will start at 8:30 am and finish by 5pm (or earlier). Participant numbers will be limited to ensure active participation and discussion – so book early. The workshops will cost \$50pp (GST

inclusive). For more information and to register – [click here](#).

What's on.

1st August Rowena- Weeds Workshop, Village Inn, 8.30 start. Contact www.icanrural.com.au/

3rd August Bellata- Weeds Workshop, Golf Club, 8.30 start. Contact www.icanrural.com.au/

4th August Gunnedah- Weeds Workshop, Services and Bowling Club, 8.30 start. Contact www.icanrural.com.au/

WELSHY'S WEATHER

The latest from the ENSO prediction has scientists backing off from the strength of the El Nino for 2017. However, the warming in the central Pacific is shaping up more like a 2002 or 2006 event with what's termed the El Nino 'Modoki' phenomenon. This tends to have a greater impact on eastern Australian rainfall, particularly if the Indian Ocean follows suit. The IOD was the white knight in 2016, but predictability there is less than ENSO, so certainly one to watch. Probably not the year to be experimenting or taking unnecessary risks with this year's winter cropping program. A good chance of May being fine and dry for picking looking at today's multi-week forecasts.

SAYINGS OF THE MONTH

Sayings this month from Warren Buffett.

On taking Risk- *'Never test the depth of a river with both feet'.*

'Opportunities come infrequently so when it rains gold put out the bucket not the thimble'.

Below a link to an interview with Frank Hadley on the ABC aired recently for those interested in a great story.

<https://soundcloud.com/abcnsw/cotton-seed-distributors-celebrates-50-years-in-industry>

Until Next time

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