



the **cq cotton call**

May 2023

Welcome to the May Edition

What's been happening?

By now we are seeing most of the cotton with at least first defoliation now across CQ. Heading into a couple of weeks with picking widely underway. The clear weather has been appreciated across most parts of the region which has helped make this end of the season more manageable. It has definitely been an interesting season, but I am sure everyone will be glad to see some white paddocks and pickers ripping into them. In amongst all of that there has been winter crops being planted, just to keep everyone on their toes!

Please see below some upcoming events across the region:



- **Growing Better Series**

CSD are changing things up! Very excited to present the 'Growing Better Series' - a series of information sessions, forums and field days focused on providing you with the information you need, when you need it. They include:

- 1) **Seed and Sales Information Sessions which start next week!**
- 2) Growing Better Mastering Cotton Forums – July 2023
- 3) Growing Better Field Days held during the 2023/24 cotton season.

CSD's first Growing Better Series event is the **Seed and Sales Information Sessions**. These sessions have been designed to provide CSD agents, and interested growers, with information on **variety availability, pricing, seed treatments, timelines, and agent requirements**.

Location **Time/Dates** These meetings are expected to run for 1.5hrs max.

Theodore Tuesday 30th May 2023, 1pm, Hotel Theodore

[RSVP HERE](#)

Emerald Wednesday 31st May, 4pm, Emerald Golf Club



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Variety trial information will not be available at these meetings. To find the latest information on CSD Variety Trials please go to <https://csd.net.au/variety-trials>. This site continues to be updated as the 2022/23 data becomes available.

Later in the year, we will hold the **Growing Better Mastering Cotton Forums**

These forums will be held across the cotton growing regions of Australia and will provide an opportunity for growers, agronomists, agents, and all members of the industry to gain access to regionally specific variety trial data, the latest nutrition and disease information, insight into the future of precision ag, plus much more.

- **Upcoming XtendFlex Cotton Spray Applicator Training Sessions**

As part of Bayer's commitment to whole of system stewardship, the spray applicator training will be a requirement for:

- Technology User Agreement (TUA) signers;
 - All on-farm staff responsible for spray applications (including mixing/handling);
- and
- Any spray contractor that applies XtendFlex Cotton System products over-the-top (OTT) of XtendFlex cotton varieties, once approved by the APVMA.

Each training session covers theory and practical topics.



| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Monday 12 June, 2023 | Emerald, QLD | 8:45AM – 2:30PM |
| Tuesday 13 June, 2023 | Biloela, QLD | 8:45AM – 2:30PM |
| Wednesday 14 June, 2023 | Theodore, QLD | 8:45AM – 2:30PM |

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Claim the Date – 2023 Cotton Collective Aug 1 to 3

Cotton Australia, along with other industry partners and in particular with the Australian Cottongrower Magazine, is delighted to announce the 2023 Cotton Collective will be held in Toowoomba on August 1 to 3.

Best described as “Mini Cotton Conference” the program will feature many of the activities that make the Australian Cotton Conference such an awesome event but packed into a more compact timeframe.

The feature event will be the Cotton Collective Conference and Trade Show on August 2 & 3 and will be held at the Toowoomba Showgrounds utilising the Glenvale Room and the huge undercover Founders pavilion.

The pavilion will be packed with the latest in Agtech and services for our industry, while the conference program will have something for everyone.

While the program is still a work in progress, speakers include the Senior Vice President of Omnicotton Beau Stephenson from the USA, renowned Queensland footballer and passionate advocate for farm safety Shane Webcke, founder of the rural mental health organisation “Are You Bogged Mate” Mary O’Brien, CEO of the National Farmers Federation Tony Mahar and the University of Melbourne’s Professor Richard Eckard who will unravel the mysteries of carbon and agriculture.



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There will also be sessions on spraydrift management, irrigation automation, attracting and retaining staff, cotton diseases, sustainability, and the always popular new products.

The Collective will start off on Tuesday, August 1 with an optional Toowoomba tour focusing on Agtech, and in the evening Namoi Cotton will sponsor a Welcome Drinks Reception, and on Wednesday night the industry will gather at the Empire Theatre Complex for the 2023 Australian Cotton Industry Awards.

Tickets for all the Collective events will be available on Eventbrite by the end of May.

Information and Topics

CottonInfo: Moisture Manager, 22 May 2023 –

[CottonInfo Moisture Manager - drier winter outlook predicted for NSW \(mailchi.mp\)](#)



Seasonal Model Survey (May - July)

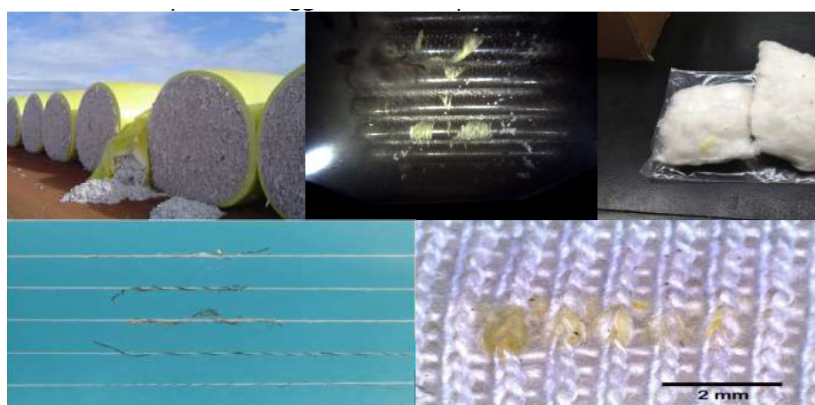
Models showing consistently drier winter conditions for NSW areas, while survey results are split for Emerald over this period. Temperature predictions for winter vary among models and regions, which is an interesting and unusual output given a looking El Niño condition approaching.

| Source | Temp Forecast | Precipitation outlook | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | Emerald | Sth Q'ld | N-NSW | C-NSW | S-NSW |
| ACCESS-S | Hot | Normal | Drier | Drier | Drier | Drier |
| UK Met | Normal | Normal | Normal | Drier | Drier | Drier |
| IRI NMME | Cooler | Drier | Drier | Drier | Drier | Drier |
| ECMWF | Warm (nth) Normal (sth) | Drier | Drier | Drier | Drier | Drier |
| CMCC | Warmer | Normal | Drier | Drier | Drier | Drier |
| JMA | Normal (nth) Warm (sth) | Drier | Drier | Drier | Drier | Drier |

Keep your cotton free of contamination.

Source: ACSA April newsletter

The Australian cotton industry works hard to ensure we deliver a product free of contamination. As marketers of Australian cotton, ACSA members push this message to the global textile chain and our fibre is in high demand due to our low contamination levels. That said, plastic module wrap has the ability to dismantle our crown and to destroy our reputation. Contaminants that cannot be removed by the gin, or during the spinning cleaning process, will become entwined with the cotton fibre during spinning, resulting in a defect in the thread or as a colour anomaly in the resulting fabric. Spinning mills employ teams of staff, or very expensive robotic sensing equipment, to carefully thread their way through raw cotton laydowns to pick out foreign material. This is a



Plastic contamination in cotton yarn. Source Rene van der Sluijs.



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significant cost and introduces a bottleneck to their operation, significantly slowing down operating times and reducing plant efficiencies. Spinners using Australian cotton can do away with most, if not all this checking, resulting in greater demand for our bales and higher prices to the Australian grower. It is essential that our industry does all it can to prevent plastic wrap making its way into cotton bales. This responsibility lies with picker operators and growers to ensure wrap is applied correctly. In the event problems occur in the wrap process, for example, double wrap and “pig tales”, the affected modules must be tagged, and notification of the problem advised to the ginner. With this information ginners can identify the problem modules and take the necessary steps to ensure wrap is correctly removed prior to entering the gin.

CottonInfo and CSD in collaboration with DCRA (Dryland Cotton Research Association) held two very informative workshops on Cotton Marketing, Pricing and Fibre Quality in Goondiwindi and Mungindi.

- What drives the Australian Cotton Price?
- What is the process of selling cotton?
- What’s base grade?
- How does cotton quality affect price?
- How can defoliation impact on fibre quality?
- What factors affect fibre quality?
- What can we do to manage fibre quality?

Watch these CottonInfo vidcasts to hear the answers.

Playlist: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQy8KAPn-DyqZbn9GPXLPpl3akiv7lutu>

- Angus Marshall (CSD) <https://youtu.be/i4vHUMxAxIA> The management practices that you can implement on your farm to help manage fibre quality.
- Rene van der Sluijs, (CottonInfo’s Fibre Quality Tech Lead) <https://youtu.be/JH1Q9HSk95E> The important cotton fibre quality parameters and how to control them
- Pete Johnson (Left Field Solutions) <https://youtu.be/WQjRso3IfY8> What’s involved with marketing cotton, making sense of P&D sheets and what’s driving cotton price.
- Jon Hurford (ProClass) <https://youtu.be/RtOxm44yZjk> How cotton grades are determined, the various quality parameters and how they are tested at a classing facility.

As you know we often ask you to fill out an evaluation at the end of the workshop. If you are interested to see what our responses were here is a link to the results: [Evaluation for both the Goondiwindi and Mungindi Marketing and fibre quality workshops.](#)

CSD News

[Cotton Yarns Podcast](#) – In the April podcast, CSD extension agronomist, Angus Marshall talks to QDAF principal pathologist Dr Linda Smith about Fusarium Wilt. You will need to be a [CSD member](#) to listen to these.



New Chief Executive Officer appointed – Dr Ian Taylor (CRDC Executive Director) has been appointed to the role and is due to commence in September 2023. Ian will replace outgoing Managing Director Peter Graham.

CRDC news



- CRDC partners in Northern Australia RD&E
- CRDC's Dr Ian Taylor joins key cotton partner CSD as CEO
- Former Cotton scientist Dr Nicola Cottee joins CRDC's Innovation team
- Directors sought for CRDC board
- Agrifutures Horizon Scholarships for two students choosing cotton careers
- RM Williams Outback magazine takes a deep dive into Australian Cotton Research
- All 100 WAND (inversion) towers now live

For more details on these, click [here](#).

Cotton Australia News



- Cotton picking underway with positive signs despite challenges.
- Cotton industry makes important step in diverting textile waste from landfill.

[Cotton Matters](#)

- Global interest in our cotton sky high after Australian cotton forum and farm tour
 - Finalists announced for Bayer Cotton Grower of the Year and AgriRisk High Achiever
- For more information on these, click [here](#).

Kind Regards
Kim Stevens

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