the cotton tale

SVCGA Awards night

A great night had by over 140 attendees at the SVCGA Awards night recently.

Award winners were

Grower of the year- Ron Harris

Runner up Grower of the year- John and Cath Merrylees

Greg Toole Service to Industry Award – Pat McGuinness

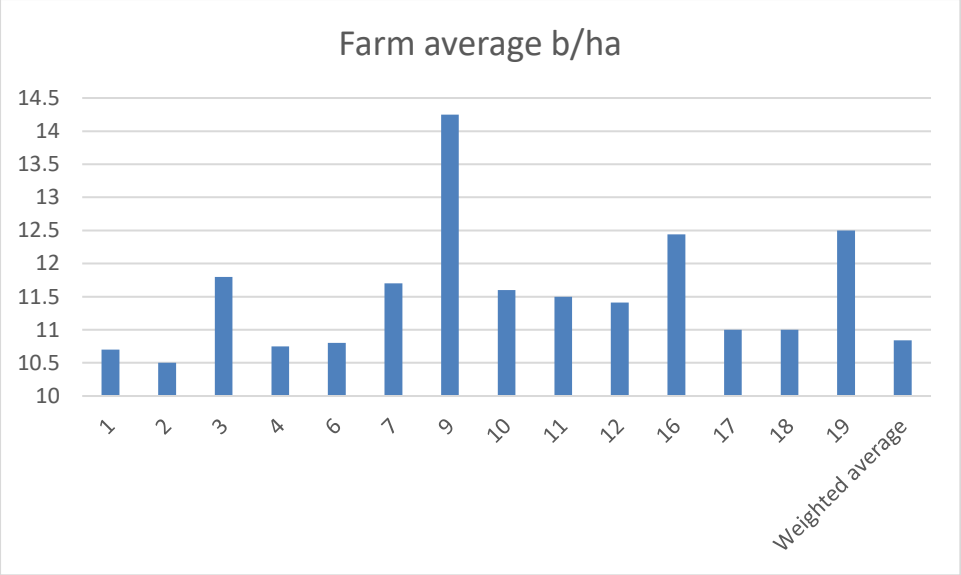
IPL National Service to Industry Award – Rob Houghton

End of season survey

Data is still coming in for the end of season survey. So far there is over 30,000 ha entered but some more data would be great. The survey is still open through August so if you have a spare 20 minutes use the link below.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cottonC2022

Data so far indicates that the average farm average yields are running at 10.8 b/ha.



Priming trials

Cotton crops are generally considered ready for defoliation at either 60% open bolls, or as more commonly used, due to its easier calculation, four nodes above cracked boll (4 NACB). The question is often asked, How can defoliation be sped up, without sacrificing quality and yield, thus allowing pickers into the field earlier before the autumn break occurs which could result in a delay in harvesting and possibly result in quality and yield penalties.

One method of accomplishing this is by the theory of priming defoliation, which is the application at 6 to 8 NACB, targeting 7 NACB of low label rates (50ml/ha) of Thidiazuron (TDZ) liquid plus oil followed by normal defoliation passes.

Preliminary trials were first conducted in SNSW by Steve Buster in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 seasons with favourable results. Commercial scale trials have been conducted in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons by CottonInfo Technical lead Fibre quality Rene vander Sluijs. In summary the data from these trials suggest the following:

- No statistically significant differences in Yield
- No statistically significant differences in fibre quality as measured by HVI.
- Statistically significant positive differences (2 to 4%) in lint turn out.
- Possibility in harvesting one to two weeks earlier to avoid adverse weather conditions and possibility of earlier planting of a winter crop.

There are however still a number of questions that still need to be answered and it is proposed that this will be investigated and provide answers to the following:

- All the trials were conducted on Sicot 746B3F and the influence of variety is thus unknown. Trials with other popular varieties such as Sicot 714B3F and Sicot 606 B3F will be conducted.
- All the trials were conducted in the Murrumbidgee valley and as such it is not possible at this stage to make a recommendation until the trials are expanded to areas such as the Lachlan and the Macquarie Valley.

Retention/compensation trial

This trial had the aim to better understand the relationship between yield & early fruit retention as well as the mechanics of compensation following square loss for Bollgard 3 varieties.

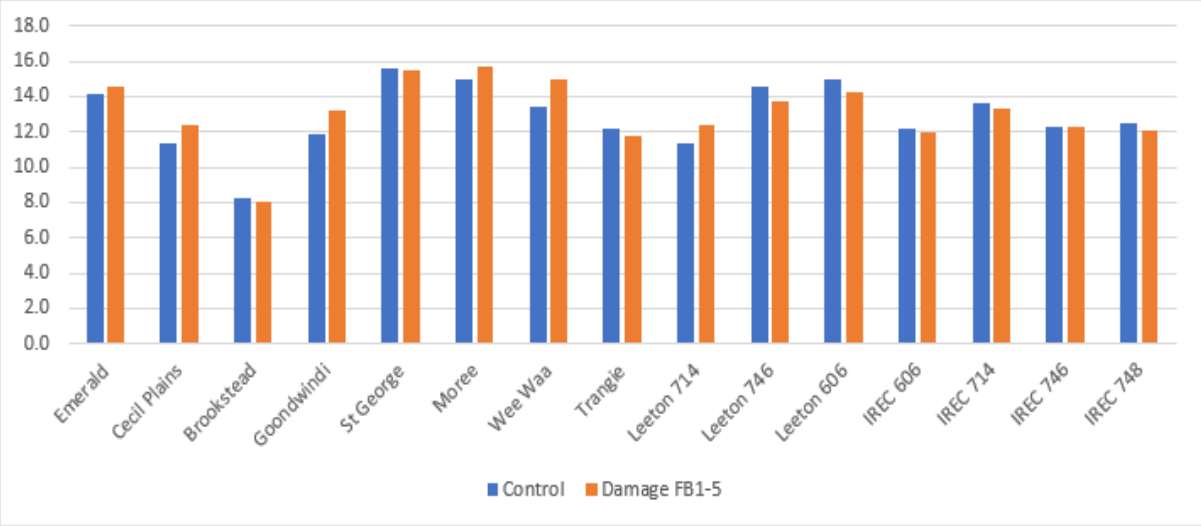
Trial details

- 4 varieties by 4 replications at IREC CSD variety trial
- 1-5 first squares damaged just before first flower.

- 2 m handpicked as boll opening progressed.
- 2 m bulk picked for yield.

Results

- All treatments caught up to controls in boll opening and yield.
- At first flower, 75% of fruiting sites are yet to be produced meaning that the crop has great potential to compensate.
- This trial has been replicated across all valleys by Paul Grundy and CottonInfo REOs with initial yields (b/ha) for the control and 1-5 treatment shown in the graph below.



- This work is not advocating that we avoid spraying, rather its providing some reassurance and offering a challenge to consider the most appropriate timing of control of mirids that becomes more critical from around a week before flowering onwards.
- A full report with recommendations will be available soon.

Cotton yarn podcast

CSD E and D Agronomist Angus Marshall has started producing a number of podcasts. In this episode of Cotton Yarns, Angus chats to Jon Baird, research agronomist for the NSW DPI

about nitrogen & nitrogen use efficiency. Jon takes a dive into nitrogen use in the cotton industry and gives us some tips for the coming season.

CSD | Cotton Yarns | Nitrogen and Nitrogen use efficiency

SMARTER Irrigation for Profit Project resources

A few familiar local faces in the short video and fact sheet

https://smarterirrigation.com.au/irrigation-automation/

SIP2 case study (smarterirrigation.com.au)

Events coming up

Webinar: No survivors – weed control in cotton, what does it look like in 2022?

In this webinar, Research Agronomist Eric Koetz (NSW DPI) and WeedSmart Northern Extension Agronomist Paul McIntosh will discuss key weed control challenges cotton growers are facing. Paul and Eric will provide practical information on how to control weeds and fight herbicide resistance in cotton crops.

Topics covered include:

- Explaining the Herbicide Resistance Management Strategy,
- Residual options in cotton systems,
- Introducing new herbicide tolerance into Australian cotton,
- Problem weeds, and
- Emerging weeds, what's the next big thing?

Date: Tuesday 23 August 2022

Webinar: 11:00 am AWST / 1:00 pm AEST

Register:

https://www.weedsmart.org.au/event/webinar-no-survivors-weed-control-in-cotton-what-does-it-look-like-in-2022/

- **Call in and say hello at the CottonInfo site at the Cotton conference next week!**

July quiz answer. Where and who is this?

Francis Alexander Bradley, Ardlethan, winner of the 1937 Stawell gift. Francis won 500 pounds and was able to purchase a wheat/sheep property The Glen at Beckom in 1938. He lived there with his family till 1950 and then moved to Ardlethan with his family where he was a resident until has passing in 1997.

AUGUST Quiz Where is this?

Regards Kieran