CottonInfo **Information** *when you need it*

Darling Downs

October 2021

Welcome to the October Edition

Planting is well underway. We continue to look towards the sky and are hopeful we will receive some much more needed Spring rain.
Plenty of news and information in this edition.

Irrigation Head Ditch Talks

With an increased area of irrigated cotton, there are like to be some new staff throwing siphons and some others who have not done it for a season or two. CottonInfo will be running Head ditch talks again this season.

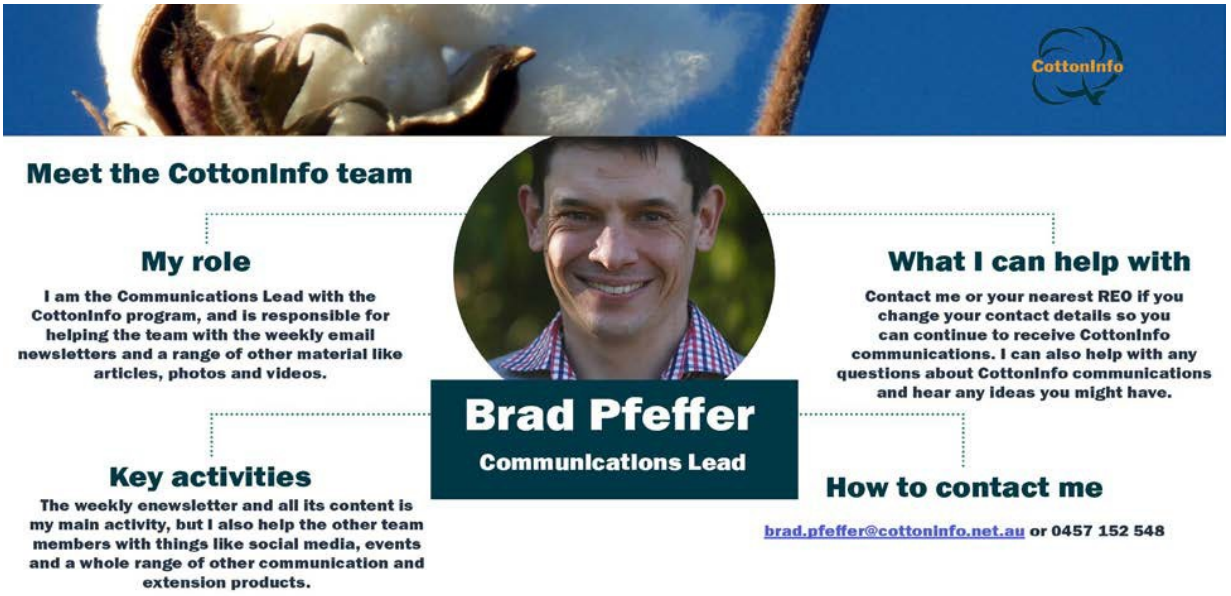
These are an informal Irrigation training session covering the fundamentals of siphon placement and timing to ensure discussion aimed at improving water application efficiency.
The session will involve a practical head ditch demonstration of factors that influence flow rate, infiltration, runoff and head of water and their impact on application efficiency. It includes a Siphon Flow meter to show the impact of siphon placement on flow rate and irrigation uniformity.

30-60mins on a head ditch on your farm with your staff. Interested?
Contact your local CottonInfo REO.

Cotton 101

Can you tell the difference between a vegetative and a fruiting branch? This short video shows what to look for.

[Distinguishing between vegetative and fruiting branches in young crops - YouTube]



Want resources to update staff yourself?

CottonInfo have a great resource for your staff toolbox talks – Irrigation Toolbox Series
It includes:

1. Irrigation Checklist: A one-page checklist for irrigators to tick off in preparation for irrigating. Developed by irrigators for irrigators!

2. Irrigation Record Sheet: This field sheet allows irrigators to keep track of what is happening to the water at a field level. Providing start and stop times for each set provides important information on runtimes and allows irrigators to record comments for their supervisor/manager

For those that like more detail, the Detailed irrigation record sheet is for those irrigators who are pulling siphons from individual furrows once the water has run through. It allows quick identification of furrows and includes necessary detail so when there is a change of shift, irrigators know exactly where they are up to.

3. Complementary CottonInfo Factsheets:

- Furrow Irrigation – Facts and Fiction: Often what one might perceive, is not fact when it comes to surface irrigation. Jim Purcell lists the facts.
- Key factors to consider when improving furrow irrigation: There are simple management practices that can improve the efficiency of an irrigation event.
- Siphon size – Size does matter: Siphon pipe diameter has a significant influence on flowrate. It is therefore important to know what siphon you are using as metric and imperial siphons specify diameter differently. Internal diameter can also vary as wall thickness can vary between manufacturers. A 2 ½ inch siphon is NOT the same as a 63mm siphon!
- Theoretical flow rates for siphons: Three charts of theoretical flow rate (in litres per second) for a given combination of operating head (mm) and siphon internal diameter (ID, mm). Each chart has been designed for a particular siphon length; representative of the most common lengths provided by manufacturers. The chart provides a theoretical flowrate for each combination so irrigators can estimate the volume of water delivered to a field.

4. Complementary CottonInfo Video

- Irrigating with siphons: How to start a siphon and siphon management on a cotton farm.
- Siphon sizes and flow rates: Siphon diameter and wall thickness both influence flow rate. See how you can use WATERpak to determine the flow rate through your pipes.
- Siphon placement: Where the end of the siphon falls can have a significant impact on the flow rate through that siphon, and thus how evenly a field is watered. Using a flow meter can demonstrates why.

Map crops on SataCrop to prevent drift damage

All cropping industries are encouraged to play their part in preventing off-target spray drift damage by mapping their fields in SataCrop this season.

SataCrop is an all-of-agriculture online mapping platform for growers to use. Growers simply log-on to SataCrop and map their fields over satellite imagery. Crops are colour coded, which helps inform other growers about where sensitive crops are planted when planning their spraying activities.

If you have used SataCrop previously, all you need to do this season is re-colour code your fields, depending on what you have planted where.

SataCrop can be used to map all crop types, and growers can change the crop type within fields to reflect the different planting seasons.

It is vitally important growers do all they can to prevent off-target spray drift from occurring, and by using SataCrop, you'll be doing your bit to help yourself and your neighbours not be impacted by off-target spray drift.

A new addition to the platform this year is enhanced functionality to allow apiarists to map their hive locations. Growers will be alerted if they are within 10km of the hive location.

By sharing knowledge and being transparent about what crops are planted where, we can collectively help address this issue and ensure our crops remain healthy.

Other spray drift mitigation advice for growers includes:

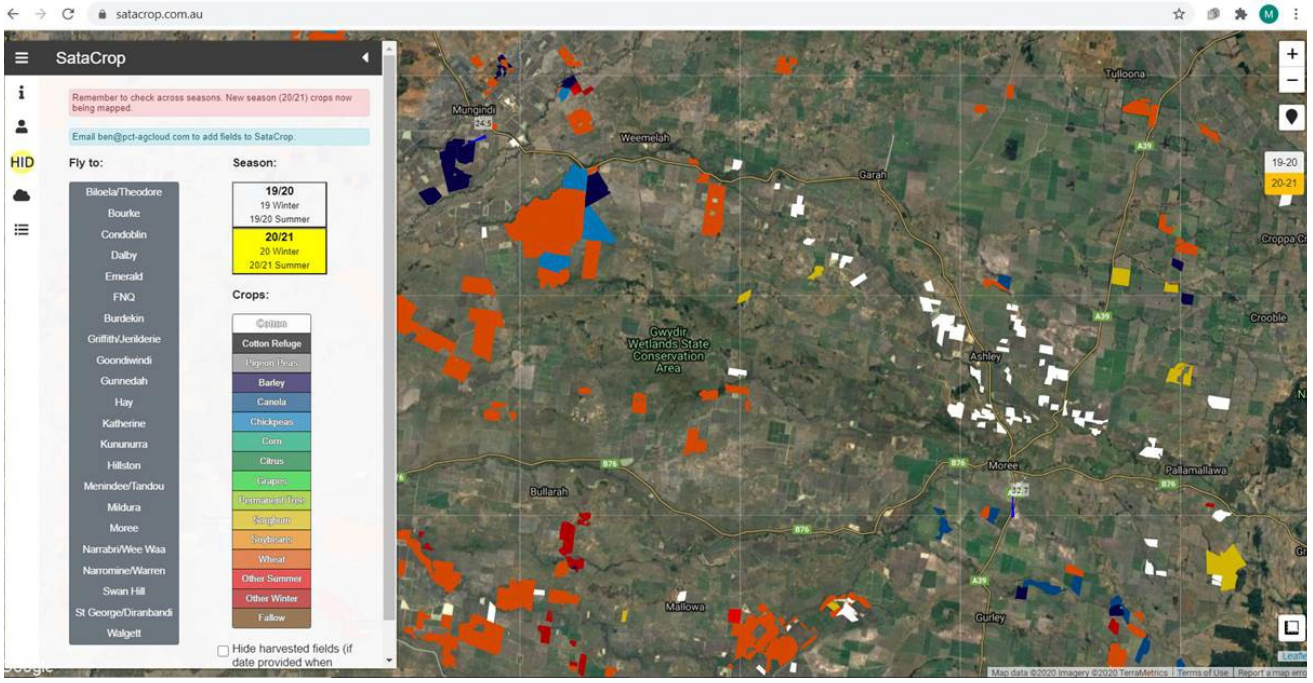
- Reading and following spray label instructions. Ensuring you are up to date with the APVMA label changes to 2,4-D products.

- Check the current and forecast conditions before spraying. Do not spray when there is a surface temperature inversion.

Growers can access SataCrop by visiting www.satacrop.com.au

Watch this video to discover how to add and modify fields in SataCrop - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGcvfpwV33E

For more information on spray drift go to:
https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/index.php/pesticide-input-efficiency
https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/resources/spray-drift
https://cottonaustralia.com.au/spraydrift-and-satacrop



Give us a ‘like’ on Facebook

The CottonInfo team is now on Facebook. You can search for us by typing “CottonInfo” or “@CottonInfoAust”. We look forward to sharing photos and videos from our trials and activity through Facebook, similar to the information we already share though Twitter (@CottonInfoAust).

A Season Snapshot to date

DALBY AIRPORT

Download

Date range: 1 October, 2021 to 28 October, 2021 (28 days).

Summary | Seasonal comparison

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	10 year mean
Base 12	273.4	263.0 ▼	291.1 ▲	249.0 ▼	259.6 ▼	265.2 ▼
DD1532*	149.1	151.9 ▲	154.3 ▲	141.0 ▼	153.7 ▲	140.2 ▼
Cold shock days (≤ 11°C)	10	8 ▼	9 ▼	3 ▼	1 ▼	9.0 ▼
Days above 36°C	0	0	3 ▲	0	0	0.8 ▲
Nights above 25°C	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Days above 40°C	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Total rainfall (mm)	97.8	46.6 ▼	5.6 ▼	184.4 ▲	117.3 ▲	55.5 ▼
Total radiation (MJ/m^2)	579.0	567.5 ▼	654.4 ▲	549.2 ▼	477.0 ▼	552.9 ▼
Average temperature (°C)	21.1	21.0 ▼	21.7 ▲	20.7 ▼	21.2 ▲	20.8 ▼

* Experimental calculation.

Climate observations and data are obtained via the State of Queensland SILO patched point dataset.

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