18/19 Moree Ginning Summary

- Irrigated cotton finished being picked and ginned
  - Excellent quality right to end of ginning
  - Colour largely 11 to 21 category
  - Small percentage of high mic
  - Excellent turnouts
- Dryland cotton excellent colour, but mostly short staple, low strength and some high mic.
- Yield range 10-14b/ha fully irrigated, 4-8b/ha semi irrigated, 0.5 – 2b/ha Dryland
- Turnouts:
  - Irrigated: Sicot 748B3F 38.5% – 41.8%, Sicot 746B3F 40.6 – 43.5%
  - Dryland: 37.0 – 41.4%

What the Ginners are saying

“Irrigated cotton continued excellent quality, 37-41 long staple, strength premiums with a small percentage of high mic”

“Irrigated quality is exceptional, only small percentage of high mic, 5.0-5.2.”

“Excellent turnouts in both dryland & irrigated cotton”

“Dryland Sicot 748 B3F Spindle 17 modules turnout 41.6%, Dryland Sicot 748 B3F Stripper 336 modules 38.2%”

“Dryland cotton continues to be excellent colour and leaf however still characterised by short staple (32,33,34,35), and in some but not all cases high mic and low strength. Only a small percentage of dryland making 35,36 length”

“Dryland has excellent visual grade ie 11-1, 11-2 but discounts on micronaire & length has been anywhere from A$50-$150/bale”

“Dryland length is 33-35 staple length & micronaire is majority 5.0-5.2 range, small percentage 5.3+”

“Cotton picked prior to the rain event was mostly 11-1, 11-2, 21-1, 21-2 however cotton after rain shifted slightly more towards base grade 21-2,21-3, 31-2, & some light spot”

Thanks to NW Ginning, Brighann Cotton & Namoi Cotton for ginning summaries.

18/19 Mungindi Ginning Summary

- Irrigated cotton excellent quality, very small percentage of borderline high mic
  - Turnout range on irrigated cotton has been 39% to 44%
  - Yield range 10-14b/ha fully irrigated, 4 – 8b/ha partially irrigated
- Dryland 0.5-1.8b/ha, colour good, some low strength and short staple
  - Dryland turnout 32-43%
What the Ginners are saying

“Irrigated cotton continued to be very high quality right until the end of ginning”.
“Colour was largely in the 11 to 21 category with a small percentage of high mic being the only issue”
“Irrigated yields averaged 12.2 bales/ha for the season”
“Later picked cotton tended to be trashier and have higher variability in moisture readings”
“Dryland yields improved slightly towards the end of picking with fields being in the 0.8 to 1.5 bales/ha category”
“Turnout Irrigated: Sicot 74B8F 38.5% – 41.8%, Sicot 746B3F 40.6 – 43.5% and Dryland: 34.1 – 37%”
“Classing : 11-1, 11-2, 21-1, 21-2, Length: 38 – 40, average staple, Dryland 32-36”
“Mic 3.8 – 5.2, Strength 30.0+, some low strength in dryland”
“From classing we are continuing to see short staple (33 to 35), low mic and in some cases 26.0 - 27.9 strength”
“Average dryland discounts have ranged between $41/bale to $120/bale”
“Turnout range on dryland spindle picked cotton has been 39% to 43% and stripped cotton 32% to 36%”

Thanks to Namoi Cotton and Qld Cotton for ginning summary.

Don’t risk resistance: destroy your ratoons

A recent CottonInfo e-newsletter focused on effective crop destruction as a critical area in the Bollgard 3 management strategy. Whilst largely targeted at managing the development of resistance to the Bt genetics, additional benefits exist in the management of pests and diseases. If you missed the newsletter you can view it here.
Have a look at this short video “Controlling Volunteer & Ratoon Cotton” featuring CottonInfo’s Biosecurity Tech Lead Sharna Holman https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDAw-hsInBU

Herbicide demonstration

Eric Koetz, CottonInfo Weeds Technical Lead had a residual herbicide demonstration at IREC field station this season at Griffith. Some key findings here and full report and results attached.
1. Early weed growth and competition can reduce yields by 30 %.
2. There was no difference in plant establishment between the six treatments.
3. Stand out treatment in this trial was Pre-emergent Diuron followed by post emergent Glyphosate.

The current status of Nitrogen fertiliser use efficiency

Ben Macdonald and other N researchers have a new paper which is a good short refresher on where we are at with Nitrogen use. https://jcottonres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s42397-018-0015-9
A few key points here from the paper:
- Nitrogen rates are still at luxury not optimal levels.
- Constraints other than N deficiency are limiting yield
- Soil compaction can reduce yields by 35 %
- Cotton after wheat showing 30 % yield improvement compared to cotton/cotton

ATTENTION Cotton Growers and Farm Managers

It’s that time of year again – PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE fill out the Annual CRDC Cotton Grower Survey.
For growers with an email address on file with CRDC, you’ll have received an email invitation to participate – simply click on the link to provide your feedback. For growers without an email on file, CRDC will be contacting you via phone.
The survey takes around 20 minutes to complete, and provides valuable information to CRDC and the cotton industry about the industry, on-farm practices, and priority areas for future research. For details and your valleys results, visit: https://www.crdc.com.au/growersurvey

Dealing with the Dry – Garah & Rowena
GRDC are running a series of Dealing with the Dry: Farm management options during and after drought forums. The forums are aimed at informing the community about what services are available during drought, as well as offering support on difficult topics, such as discussing debt with bank managers. The forums are open to growers, including cotton growers, and are free of charge. Flyer attached. For more information or to RSVP, contact kerin.heatley@seftons.com.au. Register here: https://grdc.com.au/events/list

Location: Garah Hall
Date: Tuesday 23 July
Time: 10am-1pm

Location: Rowena Hall
Date: Wednesday 24 July
Time: 11am-2pm

Canopy Temperature Sensors
Canopy temperature is a direct response to plants access to (or lack of) soil water and therefore, this technology has been developed as an irrigation scheduling tool that is plant based to complement soil and weather based approaches. The canopy temperature technology will be available to growers in the 2019-20 cotton season. Many years of work funded by CSIRO and CRDC has finally come to fruition with the commercialisation of this technology, through Goanna Ag.

A short article by Hiz Jamali, Michael Bange and Tom Dowling on the science and trials behind CTS is attached.

The Macquarie Cotton Growers Association (MCGA) has been involved in using CRDC Grass Roots Grants to ground truth and trial Canopy Temperature Sensors (CTS) over the past 4 seasons. Here is a copy of an interview Amanda Thomas, CottonInfo Reo in the Macquarie did with local grower, Stu Denston. It captures the grower perspective of using CTS and where he see’s the benefits, the gaps and what is on the wish list for the future. Click the link and have a listen its about 38 mins or so (great for the tractor or driving ). Stu Denston - CTS from the growing point of view

NRM top tips - June: Leave large logs and rocks

Did you know that over 70 species of terrestrial wildlife (reptiles, birds, frogs and small mammals) found on cotton farms use logs and rocks as habitat? Unfortunately, the removal of the diversity of materials that form habitat such as logs, is threatening the existence of many of these species in agricultural landscapes. Large hollow and decomposing logs provide the most useful habitat however these can take up to 200 years to form as they have to grow, die and become log habitat.

To view the full blog: https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/blog/nrm-top-tips-june-leave-large-logs-and-rocks. Stacey Vogel, NRM TechLead, CottonInfo has a quick video that features just some of the species that utilise 'messy-looking' fallen logs and contribute to the wonderful biodiversity found on Australian cotton farms here.
NRM top tips - July: Protect litter and groundcover to reduce erosion and weeds, and provide habitat

Groundcover is any material on or near the soil surface, including living and dead plants, plant litter, bark, leaves, manure and rocks. Most of us are aware of the importance of maintaining groundcover for protecting soils from erosion, moderating soil temperature and capturing rainfall and nutrients which are important for soil and plant health. Less well known is the important role groundcover, in particular surface litter, plays in providing habitat for fauna and sources of propagules (seeds, pores and suckers) for riparian and floodplain vegetation regeneration. View the full blog here: https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/blog/nrm-top-tips-july-protect-litter-and-groundcover.

Cotton Research Conference - Armidale
The Association of Australian Cotton Scientists’ biennial Australian Cotton Research Conference serves as a platform for cotton researchers to present and discuss concepts, key issues and the latest findings in research relevant to the Australian cotton industry, and cotton research community.

- Earlybird registration (until 2 August) is $320 and $220 for students. Registration after this date will be $350/$250.
  - Registration is inclusive of all catering and events including the conference dinner on Tuesday.
  - Thursday 31st October will also see UNE hosting FUSCOM, so if you have an interest in pathology consider this in your travel plans.

Date: Monday 28 to Wednesday 30 October
Location: UNE Armidale
For more information: http://www.australiancottonscientists.org/2019-conference/

2019 FUSCOM
FUSCOM is an annual event, bringing together Australia’s pathology and virology research community, plant breeders, growers and consultants to share information and coordinate efforts on disease control. The committee was first formed to focus on fusarium wilt, however, since the committee’s inception, it’s research focus has broadened to other fungal and bacterial plant diseases such as verticillium wilt.

FUSCOM is open to everyone, including growers, agronomists and resellers.

This year FUSCOM will be run slightly differently to previous. In order to cut travel and accommodation costs in a year when conditions have been less than ideal, FUSCOM will be run in collaboration with the AACS Australian Cotton Research Conference to be held at the UNE campus Armidale. All pathology presentations will be given on the final day (30th) of the conference with FUSCOM to follow on Thursday the 31st October 2019.

As always, FUSCOM will be a free event providing the chance for open discussion between researchers, consultants, and growers regarding the key disease issues facing the industry, and the research being conducted to face them.

For further information and to RSVP please contact Tim Green, Cotton Pathologist - Southern Cropping, NSW DPI M: 0477 497 114, E: timothy.green@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Dates for Diary
CSD Cotton Management Tour - Mungindi
  - Location : Two Mile Hotel, Mungindi
Date: Thursday 18th July 2019
Time: 10am

2019 Australian Cotton Collective
- Location: Yoogali Club, Griffith
- Date: Tuesday 23rd to Thursday 25th July 2019.
- The Southern Valleys CGA have organised a tour on the 23rd July.

2019 Cotton Industry Awards
- Location: Griffith Exies
- Date: Wednesday 24th July 2019.
- Further information and to book your ticket: [http://www.australiancottonawards.com/awards-dinner](http://www.australiancottonawards.com/awards-dinner)

The Gwydir Valley CGA are delighted to have two finalist in the 2019 Cotton Industry Awards. Congratulations the Alice Downs Farming team, for being names a finalist in the Bayer grower of the year.

Congratulations to Murray Connor from AFF for being nominated as a finalist in the ADAMA Chris Lehmann Trust Young Cotton Achiever of the Year.

We wish them all every success in the awards.

The “Alice Downs” team, Agronomist Brad Cogan, Owner/manager Katie Ledingham and Farm Manager Tim Leifels.

Murray Connor, AFF, Moree

Janelle Montgomery

Regional Extension Officer | Gwydir, Mungindi | CottonInfo