Welcome to the 13th edition of the Cotton Wrap!!

Dryland/ Irrigated Cotton

Some early Dryland has been planted in the Upper, Lower Namoi and Gwydir but admittedly in small areas. The forecast does look good for dryland cotton but not so the winter harvest. There are some good moisture profiles in some areas but they need rain. The summer rotations for the cover cropping trial were planted last week and the brown manure plots have been sprayed out. An EM 38 survey was done on the plots to compare against the Neutron probe readings. We aim to do Grabometric readings as well.

Verticillium

A follow up meeting was held in Goondiwindi on the 7th Oct for the next steps in the battle against Verticillium. Steve Madden, Brendon Warnock and myself made the trek from Narrabri and were joined by around 20 other growers, consultants and researchers. Linda Smith from DAF Qld did a great job pulling it all together and she provided me a summary of the outcomes which I have added below.

The meeting highlighted areas of research that is needed to better understand the pathogen and to manage the disease. Understanding what wilt pathogen is present in a field is essential particularly since the symptoms of Verticillium and Fusarium are similar and the management strategies differ in regards to crop residue management and choice of variety. To determine this a greater number of samples within each field need to be collected and analysed. It is also important to understand what strain of Verticillium is present in a field. The virulence of some strains such as VCG 4B are mild in comparison to VCG’s 1A and 2A. Additionally there may be differences in the virulence of strains on other crops. Studies are underway looking at potential alternate hosts such as chickpea and cereals, and pathogenicity of strains. Participants agreed that it is important to increase the number of trial sites for breeding for resistance to cover the virulent strains of Verticillium dahliae and to include different regions to account for environmental differences. A better understanding of the influence of soil type, nutrition and irrigation on disease incidence is needed. Research has been conducted overseas but this needs to be investigated.
under Australian conditions. There was discussion around how disease surveys could better pick up extreme fields or trends. The questions that should be included in disease surveys that give pathologists a better understanding of farm decisions need to be included in the survey questions so that the interpretation of data collected is discussed in context with on farm decisions. Importantly, germplasm screened against the three strains of Verticillium performed similarly to the CSIRO standard isolate.

**Trials**

Nitrogen rate trials will be conducted by Cottoninfo in all areas again this year with the difference being an all upfront rate compared to 3 other in-crop rates based on petiole tests. Some of us also have a nil strip. We will also be able to test for Nitrogen losses in the water with strip tests and we are also trialling a new test which measures mineralisation rates over the season. The trial in the Namoi is not yet planted and the Emerald trial was re planted around 1st October.

I will be trialling a couple of ‘Zapper Trapper’ light machines to test their effectiveness controlling insects on cotton this year.

**Faba beans** are being harvested with some exceptional yields of 3-4tonnes/ha around Bellata, Narrabri and Wee Waa. Barley at Rowena going about 2.5tonnes/ha with a few screenings about. A little Canola starting to come out but most of the wheat is not quite ready but some wheat I did hear about was over 4tonnes/ha. A lot of water needed to water up cotton but establishment has been pretty good in the Namoi with cotton out in 7 days and as little as 4 days. A few more issues in Emerald with replanting needed on some farms and first water approaching with only a few isolated showers about. A little rain last week in the Namoi through storms, 20mms east of Narrabri and generally 10-15 around Narrabri, Moree received 4mm. Further storms yesterday with 13mm East of Bellata, not much in Narrabri and a little more toward Tamworth.

**Grower Profile** - Martin Mead, Auscott at Narrabri

**How long you have been farming?** 40 years

**1st Crop** - Maize

**Where were you born?** - Zimbabwe.

**What would you be doing if not in Agriculture?** Pilot.

**Where do you go for holidays?** The beach anywhere.

**Family Structure** - Married with 2 grown children one married.

**What’s On**

25th November - Lightning Ridge Field, Ph Robyn 0438 082 731.

30th Nov - 3rd Dec Cotton Irrigation Automation Tour - a four day tour (Mon 30 Nov to Thurs 3 Dec) to northern VIC and southern NSW to see the automation technologies already in use in the southern irrigation industry.

Travel with irrigation automation specialists including Rod Smith, Malcolm Gillies, NCEA, Peter Moller, David Robson, Rubicon, Shawn Padman, Padmans, and Leeton irrigation designer Mike Naylor.

For more information and to view the full tour itinerary, [click here](#) or see attached flyer.

To reserve your spot on the tour please contact Janelle Montgomery Mob. 0428 640 990 Email. [janelle.montgomery@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:janelle.montgomery@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

RSVPs close Monday 26 October.

2nd Feb 2016 - NRM and BMP workshop in Emerald, Ph Liz Alexander 0429 471 511.

**Sayings of the Month**

“You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take”. — Wayne Gretzky

“Life isn’t about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.” — George Bernard Shaw
Welshy’s Weather

The instability that delivered storms throughout the Namoi in the last few days looks set to continue in the first week and again at the end of 7 November. The Southern Annular Mode is trending positive, which is helping push moisture to eastern Australia – against the tide of the ‘Godzilla’ El Niño signal.

The temperature forecast for November looks much softer than October with no predictions of heat cells camped over eastern Australia at this stage, helping post-plant irrigation intervals.

Looking at December, we come into our monsoon period where the activity of the Madden-Julian Oscillation can really determine how fruitful rain bearing troughs and fronts are.

The latest ocean temperatures north of Australia show the Arafura Sea is gradually warming which is good news. We need to see these waters in the tropics warm up to feed moisture south into eastern Australia for 100mm+ rain events.

Keep one eye on the NCEP 16-day and www.yr.no for your postcode during planting and harvest.

Heads up for harvest

Until next time

Cheers
Geoff