Macquarie bale up

OCTOBER 2022

SEASON UPDATE

It's been a difficult task to wrap up the 21/22 season as for many it's still a leaving breathing thing. There is still estimated at least 10% of cotton still in the fields and on farm due to wet weather.

There has been limited opportunity for ground preparations so some planting conditions may be less an ideal.   There have been real logistical challenges around getting ready for the 22/23 season. Nitrogen has been very expensive and hard to come by as have trucks and machinery parts. The reports on the valley averages for yield is very typical of timing, the earlier picked cotton was of good quality and yields were very well above average. The valley average is sitting at around 11.3 bales/ha. The later cotton did see some shifts in yield and quality as the picking window diminished. Cotton planted before the last change has emerged and is doing quite well considering the rainfall, there has been limited opportunity to get back on country before the next change is due on Wednesday the 19th October.

Flood mitigation has been in full swing the dam is sitting at 132% due to the weather system that hit the central west on the 6th – 9th of October. The dam was managed down to %110 previous to that, however we now find ourselves in very precarious situation.

This has been a major flood and we are not out of the woods yet. For the latest heights click the link. The forecast area for Macquarie Valley lays somewhere between 30 000 – 40 000 ha for the 22/23 season. There is potential for rain grown cotton in the valley however the planting conditions will have a big impact on how much cotton goes in for this season. The winter cropping season has been a challenge with many being impacted by heavy rain and flooding early in the season, we do have some good potential however we are long way behind with our crops than we have been over the past 3 or 4 seasons.

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Latest River Heights:

Location	Height of River (m)	Tendency	Date/Time of Observation
Molong Creek at Downstream Borenore Creek	0.63	Steady	10:00 AM MON 17/10/22
Bell River at Neurea	1.34	Falling	10:00 AM MON 17/10/22
Bell River at Wellington	2.16	Falling	10:00 AM MON 17/10/22
Macquarie River at Wellington Bridge	5.61	Steady	10:00 AM MON 17/10/22
Macquarie River at Dubbo	3.82	Steady	10:00 AM MON 17/10/22
Macquarie River at Baroona	5.52	Steady	10:00 AM MON 17/10/22
Macquarie River at Narromine	6.30	Steady	03:27 PM SUN 16/10/22
Macquarie River at Gin Gin Weir	9.57	Falling	10:00 AM MON 17/10/22
Macquarie River at Warren Weir	5.29	Falling	10:00 AM MON 17/10/22
Macquarie River at Warren Town	9.61	Falling	10:00 AM MON 17/10/22
Macquarie River at Carinda	3.68	Steady	10:00 AM MON 17/10/22

This advice is also available by dialling 1300 659 210. Warning, rainfall and river information are available at www.bom.gov.au/nsw/flood. The latest weather forecast is available at www.bom.gov.au/nsw/forecasts.

Fig 1: River Heights Macquarie Valley 12.10.22: Source http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/warnings/flood/macquarieriver.shtml

GRANTS

Flood grants are available and help those who are having to hire or use machinery, import gravel for roads, rebuild fencing etc. They are relatively easy to apply for and will offer some immediate assistance as well as being able claim back future expenses once the water recedes.

Primary producers and primary production enterprises who have been approved for the full value of the $75,000 Special Disaster Grant launch in the agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture industry sectors are considered eligible for additional recovery support through the Critical Producer Grant.

Guidelines for each targeted industry are available on the Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) websitelaunch This is a great wet day job that will provide you with a good return for your time invested.

WHAT WEATHER INFO IS AVAILABLE TO YOU ?

There is lots of free info and weather stations available across the valley. These can help when making decisions and spraying as well as finding out what went on across the valley.

Porosity Ag Services.

Two weather stations that are well used by the industry are sponsored by the Macquarie Cotton growers Association via our members contributions, with in-kind contributions from Porosity Ag Services – these weather stations that provide temperature, delta T, Day Degrees, accumulative rainfall, and solar radiation. They are located at Mt Foster north of Warren and at "Farrendale" .

CottonInfo is a joint initiative of   Australian Government Cotton Research and Development Corporation   CSD COTTON SEED DISTRIBUTORS   COTTON AUSTRALIA

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Just click on the links below and if you have an iPhone click the following icons ⬆️ ➕Add to Home Screen . The great thing about this system is that they can then be shared via text or email with your neighbours or spray contractors.

[MT Foster AWS](#)

[Farrendale AWS](#)

Here are some links and ways to get all the info in one spot so save this newsletter under your weather email file.

[Goanna Ag](#) Goanna Ag   CRDC COTTON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

 A CRDC Grassroots Grant has enabled the installation of 8 GoannaAg Weather stations in the Macquarie Valley. Goanna Ag have continued to provide access to this service as inkind commitment to combat off target drift in our valley.

These 8 GoWeather stations can accurately detect inversion risk.
For access to the '*Macquarie Valley Inversion Weather Network*', follow these steps:
1. Register at the GoannaAg Website www.goannaag.com.au permission and locations you are requesting access to, enter '*Macquarie Valley Inversion Weather Network'*
2. Download the *'Goanna Telemetry app*' from your preferred app store (Apple or Google Play)
3. Once received a confirmation email, open the app or a web page, login, go to the menu and devices will appear

Once you have access you will see all the weather stations listed under the Go Weather tab – if you click on the weather station you see parameters such as inversion risk, **soil temp**, wind direction and secondary wind direction and heaps more – there is also a history tab where you can download data under each parameter and create graphs. Please note that all data is owned by Goanna Ag and for personal use only.
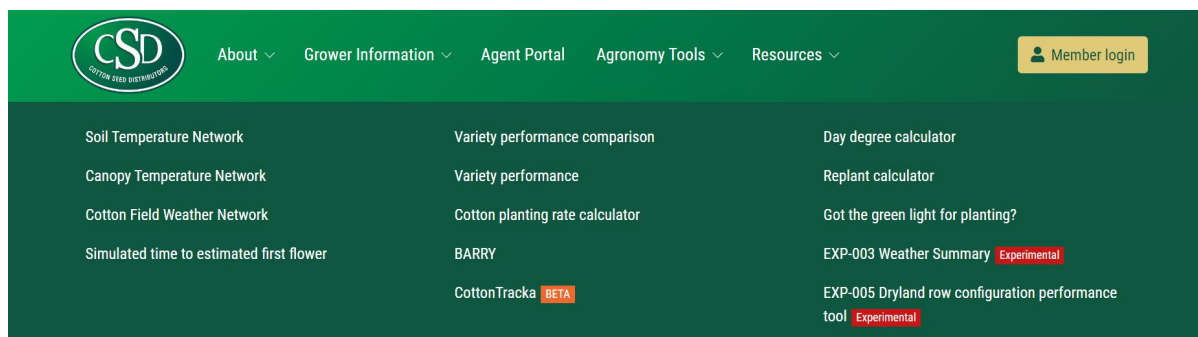
Here is a quick video link to a " how to navigate around the inversion network" [How to navigate the Goanna Ag network](#)(not sure if this link will work for everyone or will I have to turn it into a youtube or something ?????)

For further assistance contact *GoannaAg*
0746713790
[info@goannaag.com.au](#)

Cotton Seed Distributors

[CSD](#)

Other weather sites with local info

https://ozforecast.com.au/cgi-bin/weather.cgi?station=Warren.NSW

https://ozforecast.com.au/cgi-bin/weather.cgi?station=Trangie.NSW

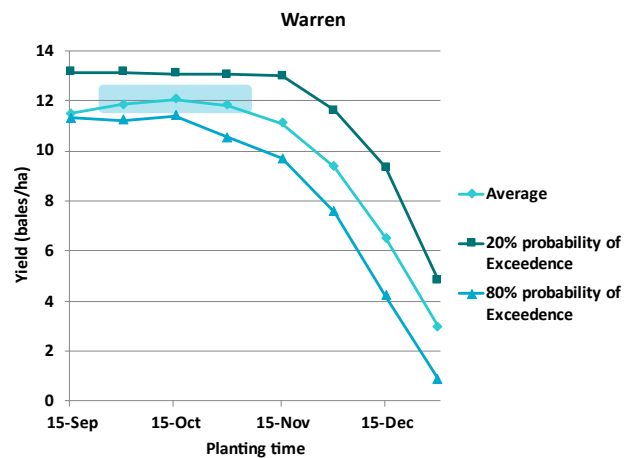https://ozforecast.com.au/cgi-bin/weather.cgi?station=Narromine.NSW

CSD is a one stop shop for soil temp, canopy temp, day degree calculators, cotton planting rate calculator and much more. To access this, you have be a member it cost only $20 per year and once you log in top right-hand corner you can set your browser to remember the log in details making it quick and simple to use. Click here to join now if you are not a member or simply log on if you are.

There are lots of tools on the webpage that will allow you to make the best-informed decisions for your crop based on real time data from your area. The other 'super tool' in the CSD tool box that has over 30 or so years worth of back ground knowledge is none other than Dr Mick Bange – He as kindly done some modelling for our region to help with that question we are all facing at the moment "How late is too late to plant".

Warren Planting Time

Warren

General guide only; not comprehensive or specific technical advice. Circumstances vary from farm to farm. To the fullest extent permitted by law, CSD expressly disclaims all liability for any loss or damage arising from reliance upon any information, statement or opinion in this document or from any errors or omissions in this document.

For more information visit www.csd.net.au

Fig 3: Ozcot modelling summary for Warren region: Dr Mick Bange, Dr Brian Hearn

The figure here is a result of utilising the OZCOT cotton crop simulation model initially developed by Dr Brian Hearn for CSIRO. The model uses detailed knowledge of cotton crop physiology and growth and predicts impacts of management, soil conditions, variety and environment (e.g., rainfall, radiation levels and temperature) on lint yield. The model can predict yield for each cotton season where information on soil and weather data exists. The simulation exercise here has OZCOT estimating yield for each cotton season from 1957 to present day (around 60+ years) for a range of planting times. ***The crop is managed in a way that there is no water or nitrogen limitations and uses a variety with high fruit retention*** (like Bollgard III varieties). The graph shows the average yield for each planting time as well as the 20% and 80% probability of exceedance. The 20 % probability of exceedance means that over the range of yields estimated with OZCOT yields at that point were exceeded 20% percent of the time. 80% Probability of exceedance means that were is 80% of yields above this value (or conversely yield below this value 20% of the time). The shaded area on the graph is an attempt to highlight the time when yields are optimal and there is lower variation in the predicted yields.

When looking at this graph its important to note that it considers variability over 60yrs. Not all years will be high yielding years, however it does **not** take into account pests, diseases, poor nutrition so keep that in mind.

WHATS ON AROUND THE TRAPS….

DIGITAL AGRICULTURE TO IMPROVE IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY

When: Thursday 17 November 2022, 8:30 start (8:00am Registration open)

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Where: Trangie Agricultural Research Centre, 7878 Mitchell Highway, Trangie

The Climate Smart Pilot team are holding a farm walk at Trangie Agricultural Research Centre on November 17 to showcase **how digital agriculture can help improve irrigation efficiency and improve climate resilience.**

speakers on Ag Tech in irrigation:

- **Dr Jasim Uddin**, Research & Development Officer Irrigation,
- **Glenn Ormon**, Trangie Agricultural Research Centre (TRAC) Farm Manager and
- **Tim Gainsford**, Cotton Producer, Narromine.

Morning Tea and Lunch provided

Tickets are available here: https://events.humanitix.com/farm-walk-water-management-for-irrigated-crops

PEST AND DISEASE WORKSHOP (BUGCHECKERS AND AGRO'S)

Save the date: Date: Thursday 1st December ACRI- NARRABRI

Time: 9:00 – 1pm – COME MEET THE REARCHERS SEE WHAT GOES ON AT ACRI

Content: • Integrated Pest Management • Identification of pests and beneficials

• Insect sampling techniques • Record keeping • Basic crop physiology – counting nodes, identifying lost squares (scars), vege vs fruiting branches, 1st position retention, plant height, NAWF etc

FLYER TO FOLLOW SOON.

COMING UP SOON

USE OF MAGNET IN COTTON THIS SEASON.

We will be meeting with AgBiTech about the use of Magnet in the valley this season. I am looking for feedback if you want a webinar on this or for me to arrange them to come out the valley -they are possibly available the week of 7th -11th of November. If you have questions, you want me to pass on or you would like to arrange them to attend a preseason meeting please let me know ASAP.

NUTRIENT APPLICATION IN A WET YEAR .

CottonInfo will be hosting a webinar with all the info on what's happened to our up front N P K and how and when is the best way to get it on in a wet year. I will send out a link as soon as its finalised.

Amanda Thomas

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