

Part 5 - Plain English Summary

You must submit a Plain English Summary of your completed research project that is not commercial in confidence, and that can be published by the Cotton Research & Development Corporation in print or on the world wide web. An electronic copy of the plain English summary must also be forwarded by E-mail (angela@crdc.org.au).

Development of the groundrig spray applicators course has been a collaborative project of Cotton Research and Development Corporation; Grains Research and Development Corporation; ChemCert Australia Inc.; the Farrer Centre of Charles Sturt University; the Centre for Pesticide Application and Safety; University of Queensland - Gatton; and Qld Department of Primary Industries.

The short course has been developed in response to a need for an advanced specialist training program to ensure spray applicators in cotton and grain industries have the knowledge and skills required to implement best practice and to meet the many challenges facing spray applicators.

The 1 day specialist workshop is supported by a comprehensive reference manual and industry publications (nozzle charts). Participants are expected to have completed ChemCert Accreditation training prior to attending, although those who do not have this are not precluded from participating. For those with ChemCert Accreditation, successful completion of the Groundrig assessments qualifies them for ChemCert Reaccreditation. All workshops and assessments are conducted by trained and authorised ChemCert presenters. Co-ordination of workshops is through State ChemCert Management Committees.

In some States, Farmbi\$ subsidies are available to farmer participants. Accreditation (at AQF level 4) and alignment with the national training framework is underway.

Workshops take a practical risk management approach to spray application. Course content includes:

- * Review of current issues in farm chemical management including changes to labels, legislation, industry quality assurance, best management practice, risk management and record keeping.
- * Principles of spray application, methods of droplet formation, droplet behaviour and target coverage.
- * Targets, timing and techniques: matching sprays to the pesticide to be applied, the target for the spray and the conditions at spraying; nozzle types and characteristics; sprayer adjustments and desirable features.
- * Basic meteorology, weather conditions and drift management.
- * Risk assessment for a given spray situation.
- * Sprayer calibration and decontamination.

The format of the workshop has flexibility to cater for the needs of individual groups. Participant numbers are kept to less than 20 to enable interaction and small group work.

A small-group case study approach is utilised to integrate concepts and reinforce the importance of risk management and accuracy at every step of the spraying process.