

Part 3 – Travel Report

(Maximum two pages)

1. A brief description of the purpose of the travel.

To study cotton growing and machinery use in dryland and irrigated cotton in America

2. What were the:

a) major findings and outcomes

Pix at first pin square is widely used in dryland cotton to control crop growth
Prototype John Deere stripper baler is operational
Oil and gas wells working in with agriculture
Huge pricing discrepancies between US and Australian seed technology (bollguard)

b) other highlights

Drip irrigation working better than centre pivots in drought conditions in Texas
US crop insurance program underpinning all production and profits

3. Detail the persons and institutions visited, giving full title, position details, location, duration of visit and purpose of visit to these people/places. (NB:- Please provide full names of institutions, not just acronyms.)

John Deere Harvester works Moline IL. 1 day factory tour and various farms
John Deere picker works Des Moines IA 1 day factory tour and various farms
John Deere stripper baler demonstration Texas. 2 days inspecting operating efficiencies of new machines
Mitch Valentine Cotton grower Lubbock Texas. 3 days inspecting dry and irrigated cotton
Ben Guthrie Manager Balmoral Farming Partnership Newellton LA. 2 Days inspecting dry and irrigated cotton corn and soybeans.

4. a) Are there any potential areas worth following up as a result of the travel?

b) Any relevance or possible impact on the Australian Cotton Industry?

Investigate use of Pix in dryland cotton. Very low rates are being used to control excessive growth, contribute to increased yield thru better WUE and more efficient stripping, therefore reducing costs.

Lobby Monsanto to reduce technology costs for dryland growers, which are significantly higher than our competitors in the US.

