



MACINTYRE MATTERS

NUMBER 10 – 27 Mar 2015

Welcome to the 10th Macintyre Matters – pulled together to share a few important messages and last minute reminders. We hope the season is treating kindly and here's a to successful (dry!) pick followed by an amazingly wet winter!

With Amy's relocation to Griffith the Mac Valley CGA we welcome Melinda Taylor as CGA Secretary. On behalf of the CGA, thanks Amy for your efforts and welcome aboard Mel!

Cheers Bec

HELP PLEASE! Cotton Tarps for Vanuatu

The beautiful people of Vanuatu desperately need our help. Macintyre cotton growers; please donate unused or excess cotton module tarps to help our neighbours in need after the devastation of TC Pam. Please contact Bec on 0427107234 and we can arrange to get them to Toowoomba (and onto Oakey Air Base). Giving the urgency of the request, please contact me as soon as possible (even over the weekend) so we can get the logistics sorted.

MyBMP Support

Thank you to the growers who have taken up the offer of one-on-one support for MyBMP. A huge congratulations to the local growers who have progressed to audit over the past few weeks.

The opportunity for one-on-one support for MyBMP still exists!! If growers are interested in having a look at the program in the comfort of their own office, give **Bec Fing** a call 0427107234.

Any unwanted or out of date chemicals?

DON'T FORGET !!!

Bookings close March 27th. Ph: 0428 964 576

National Cotton Industry Awards

Nominations have now opened for the 2015 Australian Cotton Industry Awards. The Awards, recognise excellence and high achievement in Australia's cotton industry throughout the supply chain, from growers and ginners to product suppliers, consultants, agronomists, researchers and extension. Individuals can nominate others or themselves, and are encouraged to use the online nomination form at: www.australiancottonawards.com or call Bec Fing if you would like a hand.

Entries for the Awards close on 31st March, 2015.

Categories include:

- Farm of the Year
- Grower Innovator of the year
- Young Achiever
- Service to Industry
- Researcher

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MELINDA TAYLOR Cotton Growers Association Secretary P: 0427 696 946 E: mvcga@hotmail.com

SALLY DICKINSON CottonInfo Regional Development Officer P: 0407 992 495 E: sally.dickinson@cottoninfo.net.au



Advancing Australian Cotton

Healthy HeadWaters
Water Use Efficiency project

Water Use Efficiency Info Session

What would you do to improve your on-farm water use efficiency? Hear from specialists about options:

- centre pivot lateral move performance benchmarking
- deep drainage
- seepage
- vegetation management
- irrigation monitoring
- energy efficiency
- pump improvement
- funding available.

Speakers

Andrew Biggs (DNRM)
Rosie Hannah (HHWUE project)
Phil Szabo (NCEA)
Lisa Sutton (QMDC)
Simon Lott (WaterBiz)



Location

Two Mile Hotel
355 Carnarvon Highway,
Mungindi, New South Wales 2406

Date

Wednesday, 25 March 2015

Time

9.00am-12.00pm (AEDT)

Morning tea provided. RSVP by
20 March 2015 to Sarah Rossiter
on phone or SMS
0477 371 309 or email
sarah.rossiter@dnrm.qld.gov.au.

Young Farming Champions

Are you an enthusiastic young person involved in the Australian cotton industry – or do you know one? If you're aged between 19-25 years old and passionate about being a part of cotton's future, Cotton Australia and Art4Agriculture want you.

Expressions of Interest are now open to represent the cotton industry in the 2015 Art4Agriculture Young Farming Champions (YFC) program and become part of a nation-wide network of young professionals promoting Australian agriculture as a dynamic, innovative and rewarding industry

For more info follow this link

http://cottonaustralia.com.au/uploads/resources/YFC_Flyer_2015_PDF.pdf

CottonInfo website

Please check out the CottonInfo website cottoninfo.com.au where you can find an industry calendar of events, industry publications and information. When you have had a chance to have a look I would really like to know what you think, is it useful, what's missing?

Employment of Casual Staff

With picking almost upon us, casual staff may be employed on farm. A note to ensure employment requirements are met under the Fairwork Act. For questions around Industrial relations, employers can contact Industry Expert **Bob Kellow** on 0267609667

<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Industries/vehicle/classifications-and-categories/Pages/casual-employee-entitlements>

Nitrogen trial

With picking just around the corner it won't be long until up-front Nitrogen will be applied. We have the opportunity to conduct some trials on N rate's and it would be great if we could set up a replicated trial with varying up-front rates. If anyone thinks they might be in a position to help out with this and conduct a trial on their field please give me a call and we can talk about what might be required and what you might be interested in looking at.

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Funding available for irrigators

Q DAF (Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries) is now offering funding for eligible irrigators (in Qld) who become involvement in an on-farm water productivity project being run by the Department out of the Goondiwindi office. The funding (up to \$10,000 per business) is for the purchase of on-farm water monitoring equipment and professional services in the field of water management and/or irrigation system assessments. Anyone wishing to find out more about the project or to become involved in the project's activities, please contact Q DAF project staff Simon White (0475 830 538) or Grant Cutler (0475 830 012). This project is part of the Australian Government-funded Murray-Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program to improve economic productivity from irrigated agriculture in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin.

Boss Strip Till Machine Field day

A field day will be held to have a look at the new Boss Strip Till machine working at **Oodnadatta next Tuesday 24th March at 9am – 12 noon**. Planting conditions for next year's summer crop are quite rough and it is a good time to apply N now if you have enough soil moisture to make a start. The new Boss Strip Till machine can prepare the planting row (at numerous row spacings), apply Urea between the rows, apply MAP deep and apply a liquid soil ameliorant (softener).... **all in 1 pass**. Speakers will talk on the scientific and practical opportunities for the system. If it rains it will be on at the Oodnadatta shed.

For More info:

Rob Long m: 0428 971751 e: robert.long@elders.com.au

Hugh Ball m: 0428 531907 e: hugh@ballfm.com.au

SAVE THE DATE!

Cotton Women's Picnic

22nd of April @ Turkey Lagoon

Speakers, lunch, stalls and raffles in a beautiful setting!

Everyone welcome – call Bec for more info 0427107234

New Irrigation Infrastructure funding rounds

Funding for Rounds 4 and 5 opens on Monday 2 March 2015 and close 13 May 2015 and 29 July 2015, respectively.

Under the new funding rounds, this program has expanded the eligible areas to include the Barwon – Darling catchment and expanded eligible entitlement types to include:

- General security (B Class), high security and supplementary entitlement in the NSW Border Rivers
- General security, high security and supplementary entitlement in the Lower Namoi, and
- Unregulated (B and C Class) entitlement in the Barwon Darling.

Compliant metering is required before projects can be finalised. STBIFM provides an excellent opportunity for irrigators to get their metering compliant with the future requirements of the National Watering Initiative.

The only difference between Round 4 and Round 5 is the length of the round. Infrastructure Applications which relate to projects that are ready to proceed as soon as possible should be submitted under Round 4. Round 5 is intended for those projects which require further preparation before proceeding.

For more information contact Ms Janelle Montgomery, Irrigation Officer, Moree
Phone: (02) 67506476

(Rep for Border Rivers and Gwydir Valleys)

Young Ag. Professionals Conference

Thanks to funding received from The Ascent Group from the Drought Assistance Package, Gwymac Landcare will be hosting a fantastic weekend conference on the 2nd and 3rd of May 2015 in Inverell for Farmers (men and women), and Ag. Industry reps who are under the age of 50. This will be a jam packed weekend with top speakers and activities, so pencil it into your diaries and stay tuned for more information.

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Local research and trials

A strength of the Australian cotton industry is the willingness to try new ideas and test new technology on farm in a commercial context. This table pulls together some of the work that is being done on farm through our region. If you know of any research or trials being carried out that are not on this table could you please let Sally Dickinson know. Also, if there is any research or trials that you would like to see happening in our region I would really like to hear your ideas. Please give Sally Dickinson a call and have a chat about it.

Topic	Description	Contact
Plant density	Density of half a plant to 16 plants per meter to monitor the impact of planting density	Alex North
Bollgard III variety trials	Evaluation of Bollgard III variety candidates	CSD
Ambassador Network	Sites monitoring management at a field scale to optimise production	Alex North
Bollgard III Fusarium screening trial	F. rank evaluation of Bollgard III lines	Alex North & Steve Allen
Influences on Boll weight	Determining influences on boll weight	Alex North
Semi-irrigated row configuration trial	Long term trial looking at yield and crop growth water use under different row configurations	Alex North
Advance line trial	Bollgard III, Conventional and Round Up Ready Flex small plot breeding trials and evaluation of breeding lines	CSIRO Breeding team
Volunteer Cotton	Survey of volunteer cotton	Ngaire Roughley
Weed herbicide resistance	Weed survey on farms to identify herbicide resistance	Sudheesh Manalil
Energy Use	Irrigation pump assessments to measure energy efficiency	NCEA & Sally Dickinson
Staff Management	Pilot workshops to provide training in effective staff management	Bec Fing
Fusarium	Impact of crop rotations on fusarium soil inoculant levels	John Lehane

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