Welcome to the 5th edition of the Cotton Wrap!!

Dryland Cotton

Ian Carter from Pine Ridge near Quirindi had great success with a trial he did this year using water injection of seed at planting time. Ian used his existing liquid fertiliser system to put 475L per Ha of water in the slot with cotton seeds.

Ian Carter in a field successfully established by water injection.

Now this was slow with a 1200L tank but the results speak for themselves with 8 seeds planted and 6 up. It was planted at the end of October and is 71BRF. For Ian this is the end of the window which allows him to achieve high yields. The topsoil was powder dry with good moisture at depth. At depths greater than 60mm the soil becomes cheesy and blocky which means soil will not flow and good seed/soil contact is difficult to achieve. Water injecting seemed to be the best option. Ian does insist however that the use of seed-firmers is critical to this working well.

A simple but effective method to water inject.

I also found this in Ian's shed. A good use for an old 2 row picker replaced with a bigger, better model.

A 2 row picker converted to a forklift, used to load round modules

Also on the Dryland front, I headed out to ACRI to speak with Mike Bange about his ongoing trial work. These photos below are looking at row configurations with limited water; not too difficult to replicate that this year. Just a reminder that there is still much being done each and every year on a range of topics.

For further information contact
Geoff Hunter on 0458 142 777

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Limited water trial with double skip vs solid.

We had our first of the series of Dryland meetings in Bellata late last year. The aim of them is to get growers and Consultants in to establish and then prioritise research projects for Dryland Cotton. The next meeting will be at Trangie on the 29th Jan with more to follow so stay tuned.

Around the Traps

I ran into Tim Whan the other day who filled me in on some grower trips to China he had organised. S & G Cotton hosted a number of tour groups last year where Aussie cotton growers were able to trace Australian cotton bales (in some cases their own cotton) from where it arrived all the way through to the spinning mill, textile factory, design and retail. The 7 day trips took growers from Guangzhou in southern China up to the port of Qingdao situated around midway on the east coast, inland around 550 km to Jinan and finished in Shanghai. Growers were able to see cotton farms, cotton gins, cotton seed crushers, flour mills and plenty more on the trip.

John Norman can be seen in front of the Chinese method of cotton transportation.

John Norman at a Gin in Shandong Province while cotton arrives.

Some good but isolated falls of 70- 100mm east of Narrabri last week with rainfall amounts falling off quickly as it moved west. Narrabri was around 15mm and Rowena did have a report of 40mm.
A few mirids and mites needing to be sprayed at the moment and also whitefly starting to get about. There is also some high Heliothis pressure in some Dryland cotton. Generally crops are looking very good.

Trials

I spent a bit of time with Janelle Montgomery looking at **irrigation efficiency** by using syphon meters and Advance sensors. This is old research and I have a few sceptics but I will see what we come up with.

The **Nitrogen trials** are progressing well at 23 nodes and still around 6 NAWF. Cottassist says in this area the last effective flower is 9th Feb with picking following on 23rd April so we will see what the timing does. Sandra Williams also has put the first rate of **Pix** of 800mls on that trial as well.

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Gary Coulton and Tim Brooker looking at BGIII

CQ Update

Many growers are on final water or about to begin when we visited on 13th January. Some very nice crops with the early season planting working well for growers. Some inflows into the dam will auger well for next year and all hoping for some good weather until picking in early to mid February.

Rose Broderick holding a CQ sample from our recent visit with Stephen Allen talking about final irrigation.

What's On

10th Feb Water Efficiency workshop Wills rd Emerald 8.30am start

11th Feb Water Efficiency workshop "Redmill" and "Auscott" Moree, 8.30am start.

12th Feb Water Efficiency workshop "The Wilgas" Nevertire, 8.30am start.

25th Feb BG III site visit Phil Morgan at Breeza,11am

25th Feb Big Day Out focussing on Energy Efficiency, Scott Morgan at Breeza, 12noon start.

12th March Grower of the year Field day Tim and Sally Watson at Hillston.

Saying of the Month

"If 2 people in a business agree on everything one is superfluous". Henry Ford

"The future will always belong to those who see the possibilities before they become obvious" Danny Klinefelter.

Welshy's Weather

"A difficult time of year to plan using forecasting. The Tasman and Coral Seas are very warm which traditionally supply our summer storms. The atmospheric indicators are really not playing the game at present. The abundant moisture from the oceans is unable to be transported on any scale through the inland, primarily due to the Jetstream/Tasman Sea blocking indicator being consistently negative. Storms will continue to patchy until this changes. The good news is that there are no sustained periods of heat predicted in the next four week period. The next MJO is due in the first week of February which may assist more general moisture supply or trigger a decent rain event"

New Appointment

Katie Slade is the new Network Development officer for Agvance and UNCGA. She replaces Sarah Clift and will start week on the 2nd Feb.

Until next time

Cheers
Geoff

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