

Breakfast Farm Walk Invitation

Please join us for breakfast and a farm walk to view the irrigation strategy demonstration trial site that has been running this season. This site consists of three Bollgard II varieties grown under three irrigation strategies. Research and extension staff will provide an overview of the trial and present results.

When: 7.00 am on Friday 13 April

Where: Russell Commen's property "Kar-Lee" on Springvale road, Nandi District

If you want to attend please RSVP for catering purposes to DPI&F Dalby on 4669 0800 or email Jenelle.Hare@dpi.qld.gov.au

Do you know your R&D representatives?

The Darling Downs Cotton Growers Inc has a Research and Development (R&D) committee. Members of this committee recently met at DPI&F in Dalby to discuss needs and priorities for research and extension on the Darling Downs for the coming season. The priorities discussed contribute to ACGRA, CRDC and Cotton CRC planning and to the development of DPI&F work plans for this region.

Members on the R&D committee represent the views of all cotton growers on the Darling Downs. But, are your views represented and, if not, who do you contact if you want to raise issues at R&D meetings?

Following is the list of R&D committee members with their contact details:

- John Cameron 0427 037 212
- Shawn Fresser 0429 722 303
- Ian Hayllor 0428 795 548
- Ian Walton 0408 717 951
- Graham Clapham 0429 700 496
- Paul Krieg 0427 270 214
- James Ruhle 0427 938 580
- Scott Reichelt 0427 135 994
- St John Kent 0427 134 082
- Steve Perry 0409 186 965

Cotton Consultants and Cotton Australia are also represented on the R&D committee.

Some of the priorities highlighted at the recent R&D meeting included; improved nitrogen efficiency, long fallow disorder, rotation/cover crops, insect management and water use efficiency.

Control of Volunteer Cotton

One of the concerns raised at the R&D meeting was the incidence of Cotton Bunchy Top (CBT). In central Queensland it has been found that CBT is increasing and is most obvious in fields where Roundup Ready® cotton had been planted. While we don't know yet whether CBT is increasing on the Downs, we can take some preventative action – control volunteer cotton. Volunteer cotton can cause problems for resistance management of Bt cotton, reduce seed purity and act as early hosts for insect pest. It also provides a conduit for carry over of harmful plant pathogens into the next season.

Volunteer cotton can be controlled by cultivation or herbicides. In the past, the broad spectrum herbicide glyphosate was commonly used to control volunteer cotton seedlings but this is not effective on Roundup Ready® cotton. Herbicide options to control seedling cotton include Spray.Seed® and Hammer®. These herbicides are also effective on Roundup ready® seedlings.

The control of established cotton is far more difficult with herbicides but experimental data has shown good results after two applications of glyphosate + 2,4 D amine or Starane®. Note, however, that these options are not registered and involve two applications which can make it costly compared to mechanical control. Ratoon cotton can only be controlled by mechanical means as no effective herbicides have been identified.

**For more information about controlling volunteer cotton – refer to WEEDpak.*

REMINDER - Climate Change Workshop

You are invited to attend this free workshop to learn more on how climate change can impact on your farm.

When: 24 April 2007 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where: Kokoda Room, Dalby RSL

The workshop covers an introduction to climate change and its causes and a review of historical data for the region over the last 50 years. General projections for the future and what this may mean for plant growth and water supply will be discussed. This information session will be relevant to next season and include suggestions on how cotton communities can adapt to climate change.

Morning tea will be provided so please let me know if you want to attend on 4669 0815, 0428 271 599 or email Kate.Charleston@dpi.qld.gov.au.