

Hi all,
Well it is getting closer and closer to planting time with still no water in the dam...., however I will continue to send out Cottontales and remain optimistic that the rains will come and the information will prove relevant to all!

I am currently in the process of revising the Cottontales contacts list. Cottontales has traditionally been sent out as a fax stream but is also available on email. If you would like to receive Cottontales via email or change the way in which you receive the newsletter please fill out the form attached to this issue or contact me. Cottontales is available to anyone who is interested, so if you know of anyone who would like to receive it but doesn't, please ask them to contact me.

Macquarie Valley Cotton Awards Dinner

The Macquarie Valley Cotton Awards Dinner was held on the 16th of August at the Warren Golf Club. The night was a huge success with an impressive attendance despite the tough times.

The crop of the year was again hotly contested, with barely a point separating the top three crops. Congratulations to all the award winners and a big thankyou to all those who made the crop judging and the awards night such a success.

Award winners:

The **Crop of the Year** was awarded to Gus O'Brien, "Bellevue".

The **Service to Industry** award was won by Kaye Martin.

The **Young Achiever** was won by Gus O'Brien.

Minor crop of the year awards went to Geoff and Jane McKay, "Meramie", for Management and Gus O'Brien, "Bellevue", for quality. The WUE awards went to Gus O'Brien, "Bellevue", for drip irrigation and Geoff and Jane McKay, "Meramie", for flood irrigation. The highest yielding crops were Gus O'Brien, "Bellevue", under drip irrigation and Matt Gainsford "Mawarra", under flood irrigation.

Upcoming Dates

26th September – Macquarie River Food and Fibre AGM

10th November – Cotton Cup

Soil testing and NutriLOGIC

The NutriLOGIC program has recently undergone a major revision and now; is more user-friendly, interprets soil, petiole and leaf analyses for all major nutrients, is relevant for high and low yielding cotton crops, provides information and analytical support and indicates when fertiliser application is warranted for individual fields. Growers need only enter the sowing and sampling dates, and the chemical analyses from their laboratory report.

Regular soil testing will enable the identification of soil problems that can limit production (high pH, low organic matter, high sodicity, salinity or chloride) and help identify trends in availability of key nutrients. Specifically, the tool helps to interpret levels of the major nutrients (N, P, K & S) from soil tests and indicates where soil sodicity and salinity may affect production. The N fertiliser calculations have been fine-tuned to allow for cropping history, soil compaction and crop response to N inputs as well as taking into account all N losses not just removal.

Monitoring the nutrient status of each cotton field is essential to optimise yields and use fertilisers effectively. Inefficient use of fertilisers affects profitability through increased input costs and excessive use of N fertilisers may impact on the environment through greenhouse gas emissions and contamination of groundwater.

NutriLOGIC-on-the-web is an uncomplicated tool delivered through the Cotton CRC website, designed to aid cotton nutrient management.

<http://tools.cotton.crc.org.au/CottonLOGIC/NutriLOGIC/>

The information presented is derived from up-to-date cotton nutrition research and provides general information on soil fertility and cotton nutrition through direct links to NUTRIpak and SOILpak. These links contain further information on cotton crop nutrition requirements, sampling techniques for soil or plant tissue, soil structure and soil chemistry and nutrient removal at different yield levels.

For details on things to consider when soil testing, including depth, where to sample, sample handling and limitations, refer to 'Nutrient sampling guidelines for cotton' on the Cotton CRC website www.cotton.crc.org.au under Information Resources.

Thanks to Dirk Richards, Sandra Deutscher and Ian Rochester, CSIRO and the Cotton CRC for their contribution in developing this information.

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Please choose one option from the list below and return this form to me via fax or simply contact me at the office. Thankyou very much for your assistance.

Regards,
Sally Ceeney
Regional Cotton Extension Officer

YES – Please continue to send me Cottontales newsletters via:

Fax Day only (manual receive) ☐

Fax stream (automatic receive) ☐

Email ☐

My email address is: _____

NO – Please do not send me any more Cottontales newsletters ☐