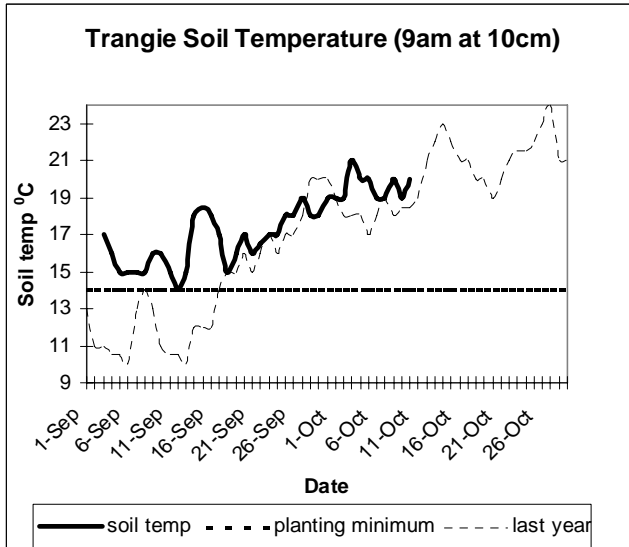


## Soil Temperatures



## Regional Soils Symposium

The Healthy Soils Regional Forum will be held in Hillston on the 13<sup>th</sup> November (please see attached flier). The forum will cover a range of soils issues and provide direction in management options for profitable and sustainable cotton and grain farming systems.

Financial assistance may be available for travel to the forum, with the option of running a bus if there is enough demand.

Regional Forums will also be held in Narrabri and Goondiwindi on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November. Everyone is free to attend any of the forums, however the forums have been tailored to the regions so the Hillston forum will be more relevant to the Macquarie and Bourke due to greater similarities in soil types.

Please RSVP by the 7<sup>th</sup> November to Sally Ceeney on the above phone numbers or at [sally.ceeney@nsw.dpi.gov.au](mailto:sally.ceeney@nsw.dpi.gov.au) and please give your preference for travel arrangements at the same time.

If you are wishing to attend the Narrabri or Goondiwindi Forum please RSVP by the 1<sup>st</sup> November.

## Australian Cotton Comparative Analysis 2006

**Crop Report** is now available. The Comparative Analysis is a joint initiative between Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, Cotton Research & Development Corporation and BOYCE Chartered Accountants to produce the industry benchmark for the economics of cotton growing in Australia.

The report can be downloaded from the CRDC website [www.crdc.com.au](http://www.crdc.com.au).

## DAFF Drought Support Funding for Irrigators

Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for irrigators in the Murray Darling Basin to implement water management and planning strategies in response to significantly reduced water allocations. For more information please contact the Murray Darling Basin Information and Referral Line 1800 050 015.

## Summary of the Review of High Yielding Cotton Crops in the Macquarie Valley 2006/07

While the 2006/07 season was not a record breaker in terms of the area of cotton grown in the Macquarie, it certainly was in terms of the yields achieved. The valley average was 11.2 bales/ha with many growers achieving yields well above this. A review of some of these high yielding crops has been completed. The purpose of this review was to look more closely at these crops to identify common management themes.

The following is a summary of this review. The full details of this review will be published in the soon to be released Macquarie Valley Trial Book for 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07.

Unfortunately there was no one 'magic bullet' identified in achieving high yields but the most important factors were:

- Timeliness of operations
- The use of good information to base management decisions on.

The main common management themes that came out of this review were:

- Crop rotations are still an important part of management and most high yielding crops followed a fallow
- Variety choice is important
- Most fields were watered up between the last week of September and the first week of October
- Achieving an even plant stand without gaps was more important than the number of plants per metre
- Soil and tissue tests were used to determine nutrient requirements for the crop
- There are many options available for types and application methods for fertiliser. It is best to use the ones that suit the crops needs and the management system of the farm
- An Integrated Weed Management Strategy is very important for weed control
- Most crops in the review used between 9 to 10 MI/ha and the average Water Use Efficiency was 1.5 bales/MI
- Most of the crops reached 20 to 24 nodes and a height of 85 to 100cm.

# Healthy Soils

## Regional Forum

Get your soils working for you!

An opportunity for farmers, agronomists and catchment bodies to hear a range of speakers talk about the benefits of healthy soils and provide direction in management options for profitable and sustainable cotton & grain farming systems.

Location: Ex-Servicemens Club  
Hillston  
NSW

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> November

**RSVP: 7<sup>th</sup> November**

Travel assistance may be provided from the Griffith and Narromine/Trangie areas to the Forum. To RSVP for this service please contact James or Sally on the details below.

**For further information or  
to RSVP please contact:**

James Hill  
NSW DPI - Hay  
Ph: (02) 6993 1608  
Email:  
james.hill@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Sally Ceeney  
NSW DPI - Warren  
Ph: (02) 6883 7101  
Email:  
sally.ceeney@dpi.nsw.gov.au



## *Session One*

9:30	Welcome (Helen Squires – NSW DPI)
9:50	Why should we measure and monitor soil health (Chris Dowling - NMS)
10:10	Soil Biology – what is it and what impact does management have on it? (Oliver Knox - CSIRO)
10:30	Best management practices for disease (David Nehl – NSW DPI)
10:50	Overview on different soil amendments (James Quilty – Syd Uni)
11:10	Discussion
11:30	Morning Tea

## *Session Two*

12:00	Carbon - what is its role and the build up of organic matter in cotton & grain farming systems (Ian Rochester - CSIRO)
12:20	Soil health from a growers perspective (Grower)
12:40	Nitrogen fertiliser and greenhouse gases in the cotton industry (Ian Rochester - CSIRO)
12:50	The role of Natural Resource Management in the farming system (Rob Welsh – NSW DPI)
1:00	Soil and Disease Extension – What are we doing? Sally Ceeney – NSW DPI)
1:10	Discussion
1:30	Lunch

## *Session Three*

2:10	Getting the best out of gypsum and lime to combat sodicity (John Bennett – Syd Uni)
2:30	Subsoil constraints and their management (Stephen Cattle – Syd Uni)
2:50	Benefits of crop rotations in irrigated cotton and grain farming systems (Nilantha Hulugalle – NSW DPI)
3:10	Benefits of Precision Agriculture in soil health (Andrew Smart - Precision Cropping Technologies)
3:30	Incorporated versus standing stubble (Nilantha Hulugalle – NSW DPI)
3:50	Discussion – where to from here?
4:10	Close
4:30	Afternoon Tea

**This event is proudly supported by:**

