



### Regional Cotton Extension Officer – Border Rivers

**Rod Gordon** has been appointed by DPI&F and Cotton CRC to the Border Rivers Regional Cotton Extension Officer position at Goondiwindi. Rod comes from Toowoomba with experience as a consultant on the Darling Downs.

Rod will commence duties on Monday, February 19. We welcome and congratulate Rod on his appointment.

### Sampling of Aphid Populations from the Field.

*We are looking for local consultants and growers to support our research staff in the collection of mite or aphid.*

- Collect the aphid infested leaves on a Monday or Tuesday NOT a Thursday or Friday.
- Mark a bag with the date of collection, location, farm, field, and the collector's name.
- Collect the infested leaves while taking a transit through the crop.
- Put into the labelled paper bag and staple or tape closed.
- Package aphids into a six pack Styrofoam esky and tape the esky closed (provided by local DPI&F)
- Drop samples into the Goondi DPI&F to be dispatched by overnight courier.

To: Dr Grant Herron

Department of Primary Industries  
Elizabeth Macarthur Agriculture Institute  
Woodbridge Road  
Menangle NSW 2568

Emma will contact Dr Grant Herron to inform them that the samples have been sent in order for the lab to make preparations for their arrival.

### Egg Collectors & Low Pressure

A big thank you to all the consultants and growers who have happily supported the DPI&F egg collectors this season. Although the crops are cutting out and egg pressure remains low, we still have funds to continue with the collection of eggs and larvae. Louise Rossiter is still *desperate* for eggs so Courtney Richards will continue to collect eggs on Thursdays of each week regardless of pressure, so please keep in touch with any hotspots or most likely spots for these collections.

An extra two egg collectors (NSW DPI) will be in the Mac Valley on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2007 – Courtney will organise with consultants and growers farms to visit on Monday. Again your time & support is greatly appreciated.

### Results from Bt resistance monitoring 2006/07 until end of January

#### *Hatching, parasitism and species composition*

Across all sampled valleys there were 14626 eggs submitted to the program until mid-January 2007. Of those eggs, 71% successfully hatched, 17% were parasitised (by anything, not just *Trichogramma*) and 27% were *H. armigera*.

#### *F<sub>0</sub> screens for Cry1Ac and Cry2Ab resistance*

F<sub>0</sub> screens are likely to pick up only individuals that are homozygous resistant (RR) to Bt. Around 2% survival is expected as a baseline for the doses of toxins used in the F<sub>0</sub> screens.

In all sampled regions the survival of larvae tested in our program is not greater than 2%, and is not higher than the survival detected in previous years. Our **data to date from the F<sub>0</sub> screens do not indicate any major changes from previous seasons in survival rates to discriminating doses of Cry1Ac or Cry2Ab**

#### *F<sub>2</sub> screens for Cry1Ac and Cry2Ab resistance*

The F<sub>2</sub> screens for Bt resistance in the 2006/07 season are in progress but we have not yet scored any lines for resistance.

#### *How can the results for specific egg donations be accessed?*

*For information specific to your collection or property or an electronic version of resistance data to date please contact Emma on 0408703783.*

Date claimer:

**"Thinking Outside the Boll"  
Macintyre Valley Field Day  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

- Solutions to labour shortages
- Pima and premium quality cotton
- Exploring alternative fertiliser sources

Further information please contact:

Dave Kelly 0428 950021

Mike Beeston 0408707867