



Integrated Sustainability Initiative

In a grower-driven NRM focussed program run through **Border Rivers Food and Fibre**, our role is to assist growers negotiate the Natural Resource Management minefield by assisting with the gathering of data, information on requirements, environmental monitoring and some funding to make it all happen.

Specifics:

1. Mapping: topography, land parcel (cadastre) boundaries, satellite imagery, farm and irrigation infrastructure and vegetation
2. Water monitoring (quality, salinity,
3. Conduct valley-wide condition and trend monitoring
4. Provide training and support for growers who require specific monitoring on a local property by property (local stream) basis
5. LWMP / BMP L&W Module: Assist growers in gathering data, sampling, mapping results, etc.

Funding: Identify funding opportunities for on-farm and other local projects and help in the application process for the available money. (Water Use Efficiency included)

Bec Smith and Emma Williams will be talking to growers and water-users groups in the coming weeks to give more information. You can also contact Bec at the BRFF Office on 07 4671 3888 or on 0409 919 010.

Monsanto 07/08

The price of all Monsanto cotton technology in 2007/08 will remain unchanged from last year.

- Due to the positive response we received to our Late Crop Removal (LCR) program, we will be extending the maximum LCR claim period to April 2008 and offering a 100% rebate on all eligible LCR claims.
- Growers planting 80% or more of their cotton crop to Stack varieties will have their Roundup Ready Flex technology fee waived if they choose to plant this as their unsprayed refuge.

07/08 Season program:

% of Cotton Crop	Late Crop Removal	Payment Terms	Refuge Discount
Less than 80% Bollgard II	Feb 20 th 100% Refund	60 DAYS Feb 2008	
80% or more Bollgard II	March 20 th 100 % Refund	90 DAYS March 2008	
80% or more Stack	April 20 th 100% Refund	120 DAYS April 2008	100% Discount on all Roundup Ready Flex planted as unsprayed refuge.

Enquiries Contact: Anna Hedger 0428 556 759

Integrated Weed Management Strategies

- Start clean and control weeds early
- Include herbicides with different modes of action
- Use the right rate at the right time
- Add other cultural practices such as cultivation and crop rotation as appropriate
- Control weed escapes throughout the season and reduce the weed seed bank.
- Maintaining good paddock records.
- Ensure good farm hygiene.

Management Strategies to Control Barnyard Grass

- Spray small weeds with a high rate of paraquat or paraquat/diquat herbicide (Group L). Large plants may require retreatment or alternative measures to ensure complete control.
- Cultivation should be avoided to prevent seed burial which will increase seed survival for many years. If used, consider confining cultivation operations to a smaller management unit and clean down all machinery before leaving the infested field.
- When back to a clean fallow, consider rotation crops and residual herbicide options which reduce the dependency on glyphosate applications over summer. Herbicide options in rotational crops include metolachlor (Group K), atrazine or diuron (Group C), trifluralin or pendimethalin (Group D), (Group B) imidazolinones.
- Selective Group A grass herbicides, Group A grass herbicides should be saved for use in broadleaf crops.
- Continue to scout for weed survivors after any control measure and consider other tactics for cleaning up escapes including spot spraying and chipping. Extra attention to prevent weed survival can largely alleviate a wider problem.
- Farm hygiene is important to prevent the spread of barnyard grass seed to other sections of the field or farm. This includes grazing livestock.

Currently there is no reported Group M resistant Barnyard Grass present in QLD.



Award Nominations Due!!

Nominations for the Service to the Industry and the Patricia Coulton Memorial awards for 2007 close on Monday 2nd July. The awards will be presented at the MVCG.

Macintyre Valley Cotton Awards Night

Friday 13th July: From 6:00PM

Location: Goondiwindi Cultural Centre

Tickets: \$30 per head

Includes:

- Pre-dinner drink 6pm
- Three course dinner 7:30pm
- Entertainment

Tickets available by contacting Kate Kelly 0427 715002 or

agro@tagsgundy.com.au

Half day workshops on advanced application technology to manage spray drift and improve efficacy of weed management practices July 6th - Goondiwindi (Cultural centre) 8:30-11:30 am

The Centre for Pesticide Application and Safety (CPAS) at the University of Queensland is running a series of half day workshops to demonstrate work from the GRDC funded project "Advanced application technology to manage spray drift and improve efficacy of weed management practices" at the locations and dates shown below.

Topics include:

- Basic physics associated with droplet production
 - Air induction versus conventional flat fan, pre-orifice and other hydraulic nozzles
 - Tank mix and adjuvant effects on spray performance
 - Droplet size and efficacy on selected weeds with systemic and contact herbicides
 - Regulatory requirements in nozzle selection and use
 - Nozzle selection and spray drift management
- There is no cost to associated with these workshops.

To register or for further information, please contact Dr Chris O'Donnell, Ph: 07 5460 1289 or c.odonnell@uq.edu.au

Border Rivers Gwydir CMA Water Use Efficiency Incentive Schemes for 2007/08

Applications Close: 31st August 2007

The incentives will cover the following to assist people in maximising WUE on farm.

- Irrigation management
- Electro-magnetic Induction Surveys
- C-probes, seepage and evaporation meters
- Changing land use Incentives

For further information on the incentive scheme please contact Nicole Gammie Border Rivers Gwydir CMA 02 67219891 or RWUE3 Emma Brotherton

CRC Irrigation Futures – Centre Pivot and lateral Move Irrigation Systems

National Training Course Delivered over two days.

The course is ideal for both growers and consultants using overhead irrigators or those looking at purchasing an overhead irrigator.

Course Outcomes:

- Knowledge on design, installation and management
- Skills in calculating capacity and scheduling irrigations
- More effective management of water and more efficient crop production

If you are yet to register your interest with CRC please contact Emma Brotherton 07 46716714 – Interest dependent we plan to run this course at the earliest available date in the Border Rivers (September 07) and location will be determined by level of interest.

Cotton Grains Irrigation Training Benchmarking Workshop Friday 20th July 2007 @ DPI&F Goondiwindi 2pm.

Benchmarking is a process of collecting data to enable comparison. It is systematic and allows an enterprise to strive towards continual improvement by comparing current performance to appropriate internal or external performance measures or standards.

Water Use Efficiency is a generic term. Compare apples with apples.

Water Use Indices must be clearly defined with units specified. Some of the most useful include:

- Irrigation Water Use Index (IWUI)
- Gross Production Water Use Index (GPWUI)
- Application Efficiency (Ea)
- Farm Efficiency (Ef)
- Distribution Uniformity (DU)

This 3 hour workshop is designed to equip all growers with the ability to meet the Benchmarking requirement of the BMP land and water module. For further information please contact Emma Brotherton.

Healthy Soils For Sustainable Farms (HSSF) Project

1 week 30 July- 3rd August, Soil Pit Field Days:

This project encompasses the measurement and improvement of soil health and productivity.

Aims:

To improve farmer knowledge of cropping and grazing soils. To identify a healthy soil, current condition and decision making required for improvement.

The project also involves soil characterisation, land use and capabilities for long-term sustainability.

Contact: Bede O'Mara

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