

### COTTON PICKING:

It is great to see that picking is under way. Great defoliation results will promote a good clean pick. The key common sense issues listed below are important to maximise yield and quality.

**Do not try to pick too early.** Once the picker goes into the field you will know whether the crop is ready to pick or not by the amount of unopened green bolls, green leaf in the lower canopy, and cotton tagging out of the bolls.

**Keep the baskets clean:** In trashy cotton, a lot of leaf fragments and pin trash will blow through the basket. If the basket is not kept clean, the trash will end up in the sample.

### **MODULE BUILDERS:**

**Destroy cotton contaminated with oil.** If a hydraulic hose leaks or bursts, pull all of the contaminated cotton out of the module and destroy it – **do not deliver it.**

**Avoid module fires.** A small spark is all that it takes to start an internal fire in a module. If you need to do welding on a module builder, do so well away from the cotton and make sure the builder is cool again before putting cotton in it again.

**Module Placement 1:** Don't put your module on grease, trash, oil, sticks or rocks. These things will end up in the module, and eventually the gin.

**Module Placement 2:** Modules packed too close together pose a threat in the case of a fire. It both increases the risk of fire spreading between modules and prevents access of fire fighting equipment.

### **CONTAMINATION:**

**Cotton Ropes:** The Australian Cotton Industry requests that module covers are secured on the modules with cotton ropes. Synthetic ropes that were used in the past fray in time and the fibres can line up with cotton fibres creating problems with spinning and dyeing of the fibre.

**Internal Moisture Content:** If modules are going to be stored for any length of time, internal moisture content is critical. Currently module moisture levels of 8-10% are acceptable, however the longer a module stands at higher moisture level, the quicker the fibre can break down, causing yield and quality loss as well as additional processing costs.

**Rubbish.** Drink cans, tools, bolts, sleepers and countless other things are often found in modules. Not only does this create a potential fire hazard, but also the downtime

associated with the sort of damage that these contaminants cause is very costly to the gin.

*(1998 Cotton Conference, Peter Graham, Marketing Manager of Koramba Ginning)*

**COTTON FIELD TO FABRIC:** Managing for quality through the production chain.

### **CSIRO Textile & Fibre Technology**

**Colac Rd, Belmont, Victoria. 24th – 26th July 2007**

This training course is designed to give participants an overview of the entire cotton pipeline from farm to predicting fabric performance. The course is targeted towards people who are involved in any part of the Cotton Industry from grower to technologist. It aims to give a better understanding of how segments of the industry operate and how each relates to one another.

### **Book Early:**

The course has limited vacancies due to the hands-on nature of proceedings. Applications close when all places are filled.

### **The Cotton Field To Fabric Training Course Program**

- **Global Perspective Yarn Manufacture Fabric Formation**
- **Marketing Dyeing and Finishing**
- **Fibre Properties Quality Assurance**
- **Agronomy**
- **Picking**
- **Ginning**
- **Classing**

Please direct any enquiries to Mr Rene van der Sluijs on 03 52 464738 [Rene.vandersluijs@csiro.au](mailto:Rene.vandersluijs@csiro.au)

### **CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP**

Heard a lot about climate change in the media lately?

Like to know what climate change means to Queensland's cotton catchments and communities?

Qld Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and Cotton Communities CRC are running some climate change workshops at **Goondiwindi on the 27th April**. The workshop will take about 3 hours and cover the latest on expected climate change impacts for the cotton growing regions and the potential opportunities for the future.

For more information contact David McRae on 07 46881459.