

Free Centre Pivot/Lateral Move system checks

Late last year a number of free Centre Pivot and Lateral Move system checks were conducted in the Dawson/Callide and Emerald regions.

While most of the 11 machines checked were performing reasonably well, with four achieving an "excellent" rating, opportunities for improvement were identified on all machines. Results reinforced the conclusions reached by the many similar evaluations conducted over the last few years that *many systems are operating below their design specifications*.

The system checks demonstrated the potential of audits to provide information that enables significant improvements in system performance. Growers who were happy with the performance of their machines were surprised to find that they are not operating to their full potential. In many instances improvements were via relatively inexpensive changes.

Is your Centre Pivot / Lateral move maximising your returns?

There is a second opportunity for growers in the Emerald region to receive free Centre Pivot/Lateral Move system checks.

System checks will be scheduled during 4-8 May

If interested call Lance 49837416 ASAP as there is limited availability!

Centre Pivot Lateral Move Training

Irrigation management - are you looking to maximize your returns by investing in a centre pivot/lateral move OR do you already own a centre pivot/lateral move and would like to improve your management skills to increase the return on this investment?

When & Where?

Emerald - DPI office 12th May

Dawson/Callide Venue tba 13th May 2009

RSVP by 1st May 2009 to Lance 49837416

Course information

- All trainers are experienced advisors for irrigation systems
- This course applies to all crops
- A 210 page technical manual is provided for all participants
- Course is free for growers who complete the application for Farm Ready assistance from www.farmready.gov.au/primary_producers.html & fax completed applications to Lance (fx:49837459).
- For all others course cost is \$330 per attendee.

Course Outcomes

- Knowledge of design, installation and management of systems
- Skills in calculating when and how often to irrigate with these systems
- More effective management of water and more efficient crop production
- Through improved management determine the methods to maximize production and profitability.

Topics to be covered include:

Introduction to CP/LM machines

- Components of CP/LM machines
- Movement and alignment
- Pump options for CP/LM

Financial and economic considerations

- Capital & operating cost
- Costing an irrigation system
- CP/LM: Profitable or Not?

Planning considerations

- Centre pivot or lateral move?
- System capacity
- Irrigable area

Design considerations

- Design choice
- Pipe sizes and energy cost
- Wheel rutting and bogging

System performance

- Application rate & uniformity
- Why is performance evaluation important?
- Indicators of performance

Sprinkler packages

- End guns
- Sprinkler components
- Pressure regulators

Operational issues

- Irrigation scheduling & management
- Germination
- Spray management
- Fertigation
- General maintenance

Monsanto Pupae Destruction Workshop

Venue: "Brayland" - Meet at Lochiel shed.

Date: Wednesday 1st April

Start Time: 3.30pm

Finish Time 6.30pm

For more info contact Toby Makim on 0400691881