Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

COTTON *TALES*

Darling Downs

Queensland Government Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

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Big choice for summer crop growers and advisers at Dalby Update

A big range of new ideas and information on profitable summer cropping will be discussed at the GRDC's 2-day Dalby Summer Crop Update on August 19th and 20th.

Targeting the latest information for both growers and advisers, the two day format has six concurrent sessions – so participants can target the information of greatest benefit to them.

"Sorghum is king with several sessions devoted to the managing this most important regional summer crop. But other crops are not forgotten, with concurrent sessions also on irrigated grains, mungbean and maize and sunflowers," said John Cameron, Northern Update Coordinator.

"There are also sessions on ergot, insect management, interpreting head damage symptoms, as well as latest on breeding, low tillering varieties, stay-green, nutritional strategies, and more" said Mr Cameron.

For agenda details and to download a registration form for the Dalby Update, please follow the link http://www.icanrural.com.au. Early bird registration closes 11th August. Other Grains Research Updates that are happening in August please go to the above link or call the organisers on 02 9482 4930

Energy in Irrigation Seminar and Field Inspections

This informative day is being organised by the NW NSW IAL regional committee and will be held at the Goondiwindi Community Centre on 27th August 2008. Topics on the day include:

- Pumping costs
- Pressurised and gravity systems
- Diesel vs electricity
- Alternative fuels and
- Carbon trading

Further information on the agenda and speakers can be found at http://www.irrigation.org.au/

Costs are $30.00 for IAL members and $40.00 for non-members. RSVP as a courtesy to caterers and attendance would be appreciated. Contact Charlie McFarlane or Peter Taylor, 02 67 521021

Overhead system checks coming soon!!!

Is your Centre pivot/Lateral move working to the best of its ability? Is it working to specifications? System performance affects crop performance and yield. There are key performance measures that should be obtained to ensure your machine is giving you the best value for your investment.

1. Application rate – average application rate and instantaneous application rate,
2. Uniformity
3. Application efficiency.

It is important to know the average and instantaneous application rates in order to match the machine to the soil types and to manage irrigation scheduling properly.

Uniformity is important as it is a measure of how evenly irrigation water is applied across the whole field. No machine is perfect but it should be within acceptable limits. Uniformity is measured by comparing the depth of water applied at various points in the field.

Application efficiency indicates what proportion of water applied to the field is available for crop use.

So if you are interested in having a free system check done on your overhead machine to gauge performance please contact Jenelle on 46690825.

Irrigated wheat

Irrigation management - Water stress during early crop development can reduce tillering, the number of heads/m^2 and the number of seeds per head. The most sensitive period for water stress is from 10 to 20 days preceding flowering through the flowering period. Ideally, ensure a full profile is present before flowering, avoiding irrigating through flowering.
(Source: Cotton & Grains workshop series – Scheduling 1)

In Crop Nutrition - All topdressing operations should be carried out in waterings at 1st or 2nd node (GS31-32), with last ditch N on pre-flower water. Southern experience suggests timing and application rates are limited to two topdressings based on shoot/m^2 thresholds and tissue test results. Shoot numbers/m^2 >800 will decrease yield and increase lodging incidence. It is understood that most N applications post full head emergence (GS59) may give a slight yield increase, but N efficiency drops below 50%, and protein is increased, hence having all of N and water on pre-flower is more appropriate to our northern systems.
Thanks to Susan Maas and Bede O'Mara for this information.

Growth stages of cereals

Zadoks's decimal growth scale is based on ten cereal growth stages. These are 0 germination; 1 seedling growth (leaves on main stem); 2 tillering; 3 stem elongation (nodes); 4 booting; 5 ear emergence; 6 flowering; 7 milk development; 8 dough development; 9 ripening. Each primary growth stage is then subdivided into 10 secondary stages, the scale being from 00 to 99.

For example Z, 15,22,31 indicates a plant with 5 leaves on the main stem, two tillers, and one node on the main stem. For more information go to www.nvtonline.com.au/zadoks-growth-scale.htm