



COTTON TALES

Darling Downs

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2008/09

No.02

10/09/08

Cotton and grains irrigation workshops

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC Water Team are delivering a series of Cotton and Grain Irrigation Workshops across eastern Australia. These workshops cover a range of irrigation related topics in a practical and informal manner. The training modules include:

- Benchmarking
- Irrigation scheduling 1
- Irrigation scheduling 2
- Storage and distribution systems
- Surface Irrigation Performance Evaluation
- Pumps
- Metering

The focus is on providing high level skills for growers, farm managers and consultants, with an emphasis on practical material that can be taken away and applied in the field. Each workshop will typically run for three hours and are flexible so that they can be delivered on-farm and can incorporate local trial data or planning processes. This means they can directly support issues that may be identified through the BMP Land and Water Module.

These workshops were developed following consultation with industry through the first phase of the Irrigation Knowledge Management project. A key recommendation of this phase was the development of concise, detailed, practical irrigation training, targeted at a level suitable for consultants and managers.

The workshops will be conducted on an on-demand basis.

So if you are interested in any of these topic areas and would like to be involved in a workshop, or alternatively would like training for your own group including consultants please fill in the fax back sheet. We are keen to hear from you.

Registration of Interest

Name:.....
Phone Number:.....
E-mail address:.....

Workshops interested in (please tick these):

- Benchmarking
- Storage and distribution systems
- Irrigation Scheduling 1
- Surface Irrig. Performance Evaluation
- Irrigation Scheduling 2
- Pumps

- Metering

Preferred month/s of delivery (circle one or more months)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| September 2008 | October 2008 |
| November 2008 | December 2008 |
| January 2009 | February 2009 |
| April 2009 | March 2009 |
| | May 2009 |

Please fax to Water Team member 0746 624966.

\$\$\$ Money available to irrigators

The Federal Government is providing grants up to \$ 20000 (GST exclusive) to assist Murray-Darling Basin irrigators undertake a range of initiatives to deal with reduced water availability and improve on-farm practices to maximise production from limited water. Applications for the grant must be lodged by **31 March 2009**.

Eligible activities include:

- Piping, troughs and associated activities for stock and domestic water
- Fixed water charges
- Sinking, extending or refurbishment of bores (and pumps)
- Pruning activities to minimise the impact of low water allocations
- Reconfiguring irrigation systems
- Equipment replacement to maintain irrigation systems (including computer software, piping and pumps)
- Costs associated with implementing water efficient crop options
- Laser levelling

For further details on the grants call the Murray-Darling Basin Assistance and Referral Line on 1800 050 015 or access information by clicking on the following link

http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/irrigation_mgt_grant.htm

Cotton Field to Fabric Training Course is being held 25th – 27th November 2008. The course will give participants an overview of the cotton pipeline from farm to predicting fabric performance. The course has limited vacancies due to the hands-on nature of proceedings – so if interested book early. Further details including registration forms are available on the Cotton CRC website

<http://www.cottoncrc.org.au/content/Industry/Noticeboard/IndustryEvents.aspx>

or, alternatively, contact Jenelle or Geoff to forward the pdf file.