



COTTON TALES

Central Queensland

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2010/11

No.1

16/08/10

RWUE4 “Responding to climate change in the CQ irrigation sector”

In April funding was approved by the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC Ltd for the RWUE4 project within the Central Highlands and Dawson-Callide irrigation districts.

This initiative, an extension of the funding of the recently completed RWUE3 project, will continue to assist growers increase the productivity of irrigation water use while broadening its scope to helping farmers reduce energy consumption.

In response to the growing interest in center pivot / lateral move technology the project will provide support to both existing CPLM operators and to those considering investment in CPLM technology. When previously conducted throughout the Central Highlands and Dawson-Callide irrigation district last year CPLM system checks, in many instances, provided growers with information to that readily enabled improved systems performance.

These evaluations will be complimented by a range of targeted workshops focusing on improved irrigation and energy performance of irrigated systems (including the Cotton and Grains Irrigation Workshop series: see <http://www.cottonandgrains.irrigationfutures.org.au>).

Center pivot / Lateral move agronomy

As part of the provision by the Rural Water Use Efficiency project of free system performance evaluations to operators throughout the Central Queensland region a renown Australian authority on center pivot/lateral machines will be in Emerald in late August.

Growers are invited to an informal presentation by Pat Daley (Daley Water

Service) to be held on August 19th at 5:30 PM in the Emerald DEEDI complex (opposite the racecourse). Hear his opinions on the current state of play and discuss any questions you might have regarding design, operation, and crop production under overhead irrigation technology.

Pumps Workshop

Considering a new pumping station? Has “old reliable” actually become very weary and grossly inefficient? Pumps operating outside their comfort zones (i.e. efficiency curves) may affect the entire irrigation system, reducing irrigation efficiency and productivity costing thousands per year in excess fuel costs.

This workshop explains

- pump types
- pump duty
- pump curves
- pump efficiency and energy use
- pump selection

When: 31 August

Location: to be announced

Those interested in having the performance of their CPLMs evaluated, meeting up with Pat Daley, or attending the Pumps workshop should contact Lance asap.

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Season Summary

After a particularly difficult season it is not surprising yields are less than average. A record dry winter and spring was followed by a particularly long period of rain. February was the stand out with 19 and 18 rain days for Emerald and Theodore. This is well above the 90th percentile mark. The regular rain periods following did not allow for an improvement.

Central Highland average yield was 6.4 bales/ha (2.6 bales/ac), with quality issues also. For those who weren't flood affected in the Dawson/Callide yields were somewhat better, estimated at about 7.8 bales/ha. The losses from the flood were large and approximately 30% of Dawson/Callide cotton area was lost.

With recent rain and storages looking good, and cotton prices on the improve, we are lucky there is always next year. Best of luck for the season ahead.