

Australian Future Cotton Leaders Program - Participant project Report

Project title: Less Leaf Greater Rewards

Project description

My project involved delivering one-on-one like presentations in Emerald. Growers were informed of the event with the assistance of fellow AFCL Susan Maas. Cotton growers were informed about the advantages of producing modules that have a reduced amount of trash content. Why? A reduction in the trash levels of the modules allows for increased processing rates that benefit the grower. Some of the benefits are increased yield (~1.5%), increased fibre length & a reduction in short fibre. Better yields and better fibre properties.

The discussion was held at the DPI in Emerald followed by another presentation on-farm the following day. Growers were informed of the research that had been carried out and how this research benefits growers. Each step in the research together with results was explained to the growers.

Feedback

Growers that attended noted to fellow growers: *"it's the opposite to what you think"*. Suggesting that growers' opinion was that ginners were doing them no favours in processing at high speeds.

Growers were quizzed at a later date by Susan Maas regarding the usefulness of the information. The replies indicate a void in trash content to gin yield ratio.

- *Very useful - made me think about this defoliation - made sure all the leaf dropped.*
- *Presentation was good - covered little aspects at a time, explained each result a little then pulled it all together at the end. Was time consuming but worth doing.*
- *Was more focused on getting a clean defoliation - never really given it much thought before?*

Growers have commented that there is no chart available to quickly determine what grade would be possible at the gin with a given module trash content. As a result of this, I will investigate producing images of a low trash, medium trash and high trash content modules. These images would also make mention to possible production rates achievable at the gin (Low, Medium & High). This pocket guide will help growers with determining module trash levels while picking.

As you would be aware, there was some discomfort from industry members, including the Ginners Association regarding the presentation. I believe that the feedback leans towards an increase in relations between growers and ginners.

Numbers were down as a result of the heavy rainfall experienced that week together with the outbreak of the mealy bug.

Thankyou for the opportunity to participate in the AFCL program.

Kevin Bagshaw