



CGA FINAL REPORT

Part 1 - Summary Details

CRDC Project Number: CGA1909

CGA: Upper Namoi CGA

Project Title: "Mary O'Brien spray drift workshops – Upper Namoi"

Project Commencement Date: 10/12/2018 **Completion Date:** 11/12/2018

Part 2 – Contact Details

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Part 3 – Final Report

Background

1. Outline the background to the project.

The Namoi has been experiencing varying degrees of group I drift incidences over the last few years. With the introduction of the changes to 2,4-D labelling and the potential penalties for those who are reckless in their application leads to the importance of these workshops to educate those both in and out of the cotton system. The background of the course will aim to educate those participating and reiterate practices in how to avoid off target inversion drift in alliance with the new permits around 2,4-D herbicide. The course has been extended to cropping and grazing entities to ensure it is targeting all parties who have access to phenoxy herbicides.

Objectives

2. List the project objectives (from the application) and the extent to which these have been achieved.

There will be two workshops held for the Upper Namoi area; one in Spring Ridge, and one in Boggabri.

- 1) To provide opportunity for both cotton growers and others in the farming system to hear firsthand about the best practices of spraying to offset risk of direct or indirect spray drift
- 2) Increase industry awareness about the consequences of drift/inversion and safe herbicide application

The workshop aims to reiterate changes to the new legislation for the application of 2,4-D over the summer spray period, spray drift risk management and best practice spray application.

Methods

3. Detail the methodology and justify the methodology used. Include any discoveries in methods that may benefit other related projects.

The spray drift workshop consisted of an in-depth theory presentation on best management spray practices including illustrated demonstrations. It also went through the new legislation and labels surrounding 2,4-D herbicide and how these changes affect all involved. There was an on-site spray demonstration provided by Mary O'Brien which was interactive with all participants. There was also a lengthy time period allocated to questions from the room, to ensure all participants left with no questions. There was also a good participation level of farmers who were not exclusively cotton farmers but were farming areas around cotton farms.

Outcomes

4. Describe how the project's outputs will contribute to the planned outcomes identified in the project application. Describe the planned outcomes achieved to date.

The desired benefits of the project were to see less penalties from drifted cotton/crops through reckless and uneducated use of products, less drift into environmental havens and a greater understanding of the fluidity between industries about 2,4-D use. This will be hard to manage as reporting of drift incidents to Cotton Australia this year may not be an accurate way to see drift incidence as this year the reporting process was much more advertised.

5. Please report on any:

- a) Feedback forms used and what the results were
No feedback forms were used but a random selection of participants was contacted via phone to get feedback. All participants found the meeting to be a positive resource for their businesses going forward.
- b) The highlights for participants or key learnings achieved
Some of the major highlights for this course were as follows:
 - Having cotton growers and non-cotton growers in the one room discussing the same issue.
 - The plain English explanation and question time surrounding the changes to 2,4-D labels.
 - Open question time with someone so qualified and with so much experience in a variety of different spray decisions.
 - On site demonstration of different nozzle types.
 - Take home pack with a variety of fact sheets on problem weeds and spray decisions.
 - i. Nozzle chart
 - ii. The back-pocket guide for nozzle selection and spray decisions
- c) The number of people participating and any comments on level of participation

The workshop was catered for 44 participants in Boggabri and 22 in Spring Ridge (including presenters), with all members asking questions, giving examples and participating.

Conclusion

6. Provide an assessment of the likely impact of the results and conclusions of the research project for the cotton industry. What are the take home messages?

With such positive feedback and interaction from participants the activity has certainly had a positive impact on the local cotton industry, as well as bridging the gap and involving non-cotton farmers in the area to unite all Ag industries. The take home messages from the workshop were as follows:

Understanding of updated 2,4-D labels and legislation around these changes.

Importance of best management spray decisions and applications always.

Importance of unity between the agricultural industry rather than separate growing industries.

Quality and importance of accurate record keeping.

Extension Opportunities

7. Detail a plan for the activities or other steps that may be taken:

The activity was reported on in local CottonInfo newsletter, as well as feedback being reported back to CGA, CRDC and Cotton Australia. Participants were contacted prior to ensure they were happy with how the program was delivered and the content. Other CGA's have expressed interest in the potential to have a similar project run in their area after hearing the positive feedback from the Upper Namoi.

Budget

8. Describe how the project's budget was spent in comparison with the application budget. Outline any changes and provide justification.

Please list expenditure incurred. (Double click inside the table to enter the data)

Date	Description	Amount excl GST	GST	Total
16/01/2019	Spray drift workshop Spring Ridge and Boggabri - Dec	3,000.00	300.00	3,300.00
	travel costs (mileage & accommodation)			605.00
	Catering for 44	400.00	40.00	440.00
	room hire			50.00
				0.00
				0.00
				0.00
			TOTAL	4,395.00

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