

Cotton Industry awards

The Australian Cotton Industry Awards aim to recognise excellence and encourage the industry's future leaders. The 2008 Cotton Industry Awards are now open for nominations in the following categories:

- Monsanto Grower of the Year
- Cotton Industry Young Achiever of the Year
- CSD ACGRA Researcher of the Year
- Cotton Service to Industry
- AgriRisk Innovative Grower of the Year

Entrants for the Young Achiever, Researcher and Service to Industry Awards can be nominated by self, an industry peer, employer or cotton industry organisation.

Nominations for the Grower and Innovator of the Year award can **ONLY** be made by local Cotton Grower Associations - maximum of one for each per CGA. Entries close on Friday 11th April and winners will be announced at the ACGRA Cotton Conference on the Gold Coast in August 2008. Entry forms are available for download from the Cotton Australia website at www.cottonaustralia.com.au

Cotton Industry Skills program

Skills recognition is a process which counts experience, skills and knowledge you have developed while working in the Cotton Industry, towards a nationally recognised qualification. Skills and knowledge may have been gained through community involvement or work in the industry.

A formal recognition of your skills means you could:

- Gain a national qualification
- Use the qualification to enhance career development opportunities
- Demonstrate professionalism
- Enhance your self confidence

The Cotton Advanced Skills Recognition Program is offered to farm managers to assist them in gaining a national Diploma qualification specialising in cotton production.

The Cotton Intermediate Skills Recognition Program is offered to supervisors and leading hands to assist them in gaining a national Certificate IV qualification specialising in cotton production.

There is no minimum educational qualification required for either program. Qualifications are recognised nationally. Eligible Queensland primary producers can receive a 65% subsidy through QLD FarmBis if they register by the end of March 2008. Please email your interest in participating in the program to contact Bec Smith at housepaddock@bigpond.com

Queensland producers wanting to receive the FarmBis subsidy for training need to keep in mind the following dates:

Applications close: 5pm, Monday, 31 March 2008

Approved training completed: Monday, 30 June 2008

Claims for payment of subsidy: Friday, 18 July 2008

The Australian Government has advised that the national FarmBis program which has been scheduled to commence on 1 July 2008 has been terminated.

The termination of the national FarmBis program applies to Primary Producers, Rural Land Managers, Indigenous Land Managers and Training. More information can be found on the FarmBis website.

<http://www.farmbis.com.au/assets/FarmBis%20Important%20Notice.pdf>.

Meg Eisemann

State Co-ordinator FarmBis

Department of **Primary Industries and Fisheries**

Telephone 07 32393235 **Facsimile** 07 3239 3685

Email meg.eisemann@dpi.qld.gov.au

Website www.dpi.qld.gov.au **Call Centre** 132523

GRDC Update Goondiwindi

Wednesday 5th and Thursday the 6th March 2008-02-26

Goondiwindi Community Centre

Contact: John Cameron, Ph: 0294824930 or Mobile 0427209709 or Email: icanjohn@tpg.com.au

Winter Pre-Season Grower Meeting

Goondiwindi Bowls Club 7:30am 26th March 2008

RSVP by March 19th

Contact:

Anne Maree Bach 0746285200

Kym McIntyre 0746603666

Date Claimer: Macintyre Cotton Field Day, 19th March 2008. Meet at Goondiwindi Show grounds at 8:30am.