

Cotton and global warming

Many overlook the fact that healthy agriculture and forestry practices can extract millions of tons of CO² from the atmosphere through photosynthesis.

Cellulose, a major constituent of wood and cotton, serves as a giant carbon sink because carbon included in cellulose and formed into textile and wood products remains for many years. These and many more interesting facts about cotton and global warming can be found on the following website:

<http://www.cottoninc.com/sustainability/Facts-About-Cotton-and-Global-Warming/>

Farm Health & Safety

Four new fact books have been released to help reduce farm-related deaths and injuries in Australian agriculture. The new booklets are:

- Traumatic deaths in Australian agriculture
- ATV injury on Australian farms
- Occupational Health and Safety risk in the Australian dairy industry and
- Health and safety in older farmers in Australia

For more information contact Susan.

Cotton Field to Fabric Training Course

This hands on training course gives participants an overview of the entire cotton chain. The course comes highly recommended & places are limited. The next course is on 22nd-24th of July at CSIRO Textile & Fibre Technology Centre, Belmont, Victoria & costs \$550 pp for 3 days, including lunch each day & 1 dinner. Application forms available at <http://www.csiro.au/resources/pfzt.html>. For more information please contact Rene van der Sluijs on 03 52 464738 or Rene.vandersluijs@csiro.au.

Want a Diploma of Agriculture?

Growers who are interested in completing a FarmBis subsidised Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process should keep in mind the following dates:

Applications close: **5pm, Mon, 31 March 08**

Approved training completed: **Mon, 30 June 08**

Claims for payment of subsidy: **Fri, 18 July 08**

For more information contact Susan.

Water Track Rapid Demonstration

Growers in Emerald & Theodore have the opportunity to see the irrigation management tool WATERTrack RAPID. Dave Williams (NSW DPI) will be available April 7-10 to conduct demonstrations in individual farm visits (Approx 2hrs). Some data is needed by David at least 2 weeks prior to the farm visit. Check out WATERTrack RAPID at <http://rapid.watertrack.com.au/Default.asp>

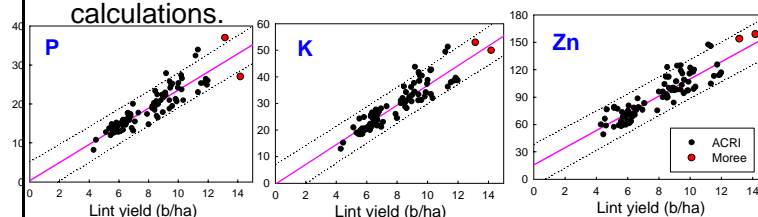
For more info or to register contact Lance.

Come Clean Go Clean

I've contacted Natalie and she is available for inspections Natalie Dearden 0427 843 107

Nutrient removal

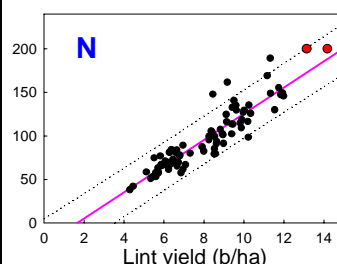
With picking set to commence, it seems timely to consider maintenance of soil fertility by applying equivalent amounts of nutrients to those removed in seed cotton. There have been concerns that soil fertility may decline as nutrient removal increases with yield. The data below indicates nutrient removal in seed for various yielding crops. The fuzzy seed from the various crops was acid de-linted, then finely ground & nutrient content determined. No allowance was made for the small amount of nutrients contained in trash & lint in these calculations.



Removal of P, K and Zn increased linearly with yield. The amounts of P, K and Zn removed in cotton seed in high yielding crops can significantly impact on soil fertility and future cotton production if they are not replaced.

Soil and plant analyses will provide an indication of where these nutrients may be limiting. Where P or K levels are marginal, the maintenance rates based on removal data would be appropriate. To increase P and K levels in the soil, fertiliser applications should exceed P and K removal values.

Nitrogen nutrition programs are the most complex due to the high requirement for nitrogen and the many loss processes associated with this nutrient. The data below indicates nitrogen removal in seed for various yielding crops.



Nitrogen fertiliser programs should be determined by soil nitrate analysis and plant tissue testing. Nutrient removal data should only be used to assist in this. NutriLOGIC can assist in determining N fertiliser

requirements. This tool takes into account all N loss processes, not just N removal. For more info on NutriLOGIC visit the CRC web site.

The application of maintenance rates may prevent fertility decline and delay/avoid nutrient deficiencies although there may not be any obvious yield response. By combining nutrient removal information with more traditional soil and tissue testing then soil fertility can be maintained and crop nutrition improved.

Thanks to Julie O'Halloran, NSW DPI/Cotton CRC, Dr Ian Rochester and Dr Greg Constable, CSIRO and the Cotton CRC.