



COTTON TALES

Darling Downs

Kate Charleston, Regional Cotton Extension Officer, 4669 0815
Jenelle Hare, Senior Technical Development Officer (RWUE), 4669 0825
Geoff McIntyre, Principal Extension Officer Cotton, 4669 0801



2007/08

12.

13/02/08

FarmBis subsidies end in March

If you are considering some training in the near future you want to act quickly to take advantage of the 65% subsidy still being offered by Qld FarmBis. Group training or groups wanting qualifications through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process, (more than five growers) can still attract discounts through Queensland FarmBis until the end of March.

Cotton growers who want to obtain a diploma of agriculture through RPL can still apply for subsidies. Obtaining this qualification should not be difficult considering the efforts many put into their farming system, the knowledge they hold and the adoption of new technology. Growers wanting to take advantage of the subsidies should 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

January results from Bt resistance monitoring

Across all sampled valleys, 19,339 eggs were submitted to the program until 16 January 2008. Of these, 49% successfully hatched, 20% were parasitised (by anything, not just *Trichogramma*), and 31% did not successfully hatch presumably due to infertility, desiccation, damage or unsuccessful parasitism. Of the eggs that successfully hatched on cotton and pigeon pea, 46% were *Helicoverpa armigera*.

The resistance monitoring results of samples collected from the Darling Downs between 18 December and 16 January are shown below. The % *H. armigera* values do not include hosts that are known to be dominated by this species (i.e. maize & sorghum). The levels of egg parasitism are averages & values in brackets indicate range.

number of eggs	984
% hatch	32
% parasitised	63 (29-89)
% <i>H. armigera</i>	51

F₀ screens for Cry1Ac and Cry2Ab resistance

F₀ screens are likely to pick up only individuals that are homozygous resistant (RR) to Bt. Around 2% survival is expected as a baseline for the doses of toxins used in the F₀ screens. It is critical to consider sample sizes when assessing the significance of survival estimates greater than 2%. On the Darling Downs 4.08% of *H. armigera* survived Cry1Ac screens. While this sounds alarming, only 49 individuals were tested and the value represents survival by two individuals which did not successfully pupate.

For the full report please contact Kate.

Farm health and safety

Many people think of this as a 'soft issue' and not as important as yield or water use efficiency. Until that is something terrible happens on a farm, and ends up costing a fortune in lost work days, medical bills or worse.

Four new fact books have been released to aid in the ongoing battle to reduce farm-related deaths and injuries in Australian agriculture. The booklets are designed to raise awareness of farm health and safety issues and to better inform government agencies, farm groups and individuals when making government and industry policy on farm safety.

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

To obtain copies of these booklets please contact Kate..

Innovative farmers wanted

The young dairy farmers on the Darling Downs will be holding a discussion forum in late March about technical innovation and labour savings. They are looking to other farmers for ideas and contributions to the forum.

Do you have any great ideas on how to save time and labour and want to tell others how you implemented these in your farming enterprise? Here is your opportunity to talk about it and encourage our young farmers to stick around.

Contact Kate if you want to participate.

Cotton and global warming

With media attention on gas emissions, 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/>