



# COTTON TALES

## Darling Downs

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2007/08

14.

17/03/08

### Groundwater systems workshops

Groundwater resources support significant agricultural and community development in the Murray Darling Basin including cotton production. The systems that support these resources are complex and there is a need for all users to improve their knowledge of how they work.

To achieve this, the NSW DPI and the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC are holding a series of one day workshops throughout cotton growing areas of NSW and Southern Qld designed to increase the knowledge among water users of the science behind how groundwater systems work and the management of those systems.

The workshops will be led by Dr Wendy Timms from the Water Research Laboratory (WRL) at the University of NSW. Wendy has expertise in a range of field, laboratory and modelling studies in water management, groundwater hydraulics, water quality and geochemistry.

Topics covered in the workshop include:

- How is groundwater stored and how does it move?
- How and where does recharge happen?
- Groundwater-surface connectivity and groundwater dependent ecosystems.
- Hands on examples with the WRL perspex groundwater model.
- How much groundwater is there?
- Local groundwater systems and management
- The future of groundwater systems.

A groundwater workshop will be held at the **Dalby RSL on Wednesday 7 May 2008**. The workshop begins at 8.30am and concludes at 4.00pm and is provided FREE. Participants will receive course notes and CD-ROM developed by the WRL and a certificate of participation.

To register please contact Kate Charleston or Rob Welsh at Narrabri DPI office on 02 67992476 or email [rob.welsh@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rob.welsh@dpi.nsw.gov.au) Early registration is recommended as numbers are limited.

### Bt resistance monitoring 2007/08

Across all sampled valleys there were 28643 eggs submitted to the program until 13 February 2008. Of those eggs, 52% successfully hatched, 19% were parasitised (by anything, not just *Trichogramma*), and 29% did not successfully hatch presumably due to infertility, desiccation, damage or unsuccessful parasitism. Of the eggs that successfully hatched on cotton and pigeon pea, 42% were *H. armigera*.

The resistance monitoring results of samples collected from the Darling Downs between 17 January and 13 February 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	495
% hatch	20
% parasitised	51 (34-89)
% <i>H. armigera</i>	63

Bollgard II survivor work has focussed on St George this season. Unlike last season where 70% of collections comprised *H. punctigera*, the majority of surviving larvae this season consist of *H. armigera*. The number of surviving larvae is higher than the percentage of eggs collected in this region and suggests that *H. armigera* may be differentially surviving on Bollgard II. Testing on larvae survivors and plant material is currently underway.

For the full report please contact Kate.

### Pale cotton stainers

Cotton stainers are occasional pests of cotton but this season there have been numerous reports of this pest causing more widespread damage. A new fact sheet on pale cotton stainers outlining their lifecycle, identification, damage thresholds and management, has been developed by the Cotton CRC. The fact sheet is available on the web at [www.cotton.crc.org.au](http://www.cotton.crc.org.au) under industry/publications.

### Knowledge management in irrigated cotton and grains

The Cotton CRC has been conducting this knowledge management project for the past three years. As the project draws to a close, the CRC has engaged Jeff Coutts to compile an evaluation report for the project. The evaluation will include a random telephone survey of growers, consultants and industry representatives.

If you are contacted regarding this survey, it will take about 10 minutes of your time and responses are anonymous. Your assistance will help in continued improvement of information and training to the industry. For further information about this evaluation please contact David Wigginton on (07) 4631 1711 or [david.wigginton@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:david.wigginton@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

### Manures & compost Workshop

This FREE workshop is conducted by CFT Solutions on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of April at 2.00 pm at the Warra Hall. For more information please contact Kate.