

Hi all

For those that have not yet heard I commence a new position with NSW DPI as District Agronomist for Moree West next Monday 27th August. In addition to the traditional broadacre cropping responsibilities the Moree West DA position also has time committed to irrigated cotton and grains and water use efficiency.

I would like to thank those cotton growers and consultants who have assisted with trials and field days during my time as Cotton Extension Officer.

NSW DPI is currently commencing recruitment to refill the position of Gwydir Valley Regional Cotton Extension Officer.

Julie O'Halloran

CRCIF Centre Pivot and Lateral Move Training Course

The Co-operative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures is offering national training courses for consultants and growers on centre pivot and lateral move irrigation systems.

There is a 2 day course for growers/managers which will be held at the Goondiwindi Training and Technology Centre, 15-21 Russell Street, on **19-20 September**. Times are from 8.30am – 4.30pm for both days.

To register and view details of the Goondiwindi CP&LM course, logon to the CRCIF web site listed below, complete the registration form and fax the completed form to 02 4570 1684. Alternatively, please give Janelle Montgomery a call and she can fax/post out the registration form.

www.irrigationfutures.org.au/imagesDB/event/CPLMtrainingcourseGoondiwindi.pdf

The cost of the course is \$330 (including GST). This course is approved for FarmBis funding for Queensland participants, however, it is not yet approved in NSW. As the FarmBis program has only recently started the CRCIF may not know about the approval for the course until late August. At this stage they are asking NSW participants to pay the discounted price of \$155.50 and if approval is not granted to pay the balance of the amount which will be \$214.50.

Further information on FarmBis funding is available from their website www.farmbis.gov.au.

The Cotton and Grain Irrigation Workshop series

A series of workshops focusing on irrigation benchmarking, budgeting, scheduling and storage and distribution systems are now available through the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC Water Extension Team. The Cotton and Grain Irrigation Workshop series will cover a range of irrigation related topics in a practical and informal manner. The focus is on providing high level skills for growers, farm managers and consultants, with an emphasis on practical material that can be taken away and applied in the field.

In addition to the topics above, there will also be workshops on irrigation optimisation, pumps and flow metering.

The workshops can directly support issues that may be identified through the BMP Land and Water Module. The workshops will generally run for about 3hrs each. Whilst they are flexible and practical they are also mapped to national training competencies, so they can contribute towards obtaining a nationally recognised qualification if desired.

The workshops will be conducted on an on-demand basis, and can be delivered on farm to different groups - growers, consultants, consultants and their clients etc. So if you are interested in any of these topic areas, and would like to be involved in a workshop or require further information, please contact your local Water Team Member – Janelle Montgomery, NSW DPI, Moree 67506302

Water Use Efficiency Incentives

IRRIGATORS are looking for ways to use their water allocations more efficiently and help is at hand with the Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (BR-G CMA) providing funding for eligible projects. Incentives up to \$15,000 are available to landholders to carry out works which improve environmental outcomes and improve water use efficiency.

Applications for the rebate must be lodged by **August 31**. Guidelines and specific conditions can be downloaded from the BR-G CMA website.

The four categories for water use efficiency funding include irrigation management (eg irrigation evaluations); electro-magnetic induction surveys (map soil variability at field or farm scale); c-probes, storage meters; and changing land use incentives.

For more information on the water use efficiency incentive funding, visit the BR-G CMA website at www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au or contact Nicole Gammie at the Inverell office on 02 6721-9841.