



Lower Namoi Cotton News

"News to feed the biggest bolls"

Newsletter inquiries..... contact Judy English, LNCGA Public Officer, phone 6795 3777.

October
2007

LNCGA AGM

From Rob Eveleigh, LNCGA, 0427 657 532

The 2007 AGM of the Lower Namoi Cotton Grower's Association was held in Wee Waa on the 15 August. The Chairman, Rob Eveleigh, delivered his end of year report and executive positions were filled;

Chairman	Robert Eveleigh	0427 657 532
Vice Chairman	Paul Hawkins	0428 639 451
Treasurer	Mandy Gilmour	0408 411 649
Secretary	Brendon Warnock	0429 944 800

Grower members of the Executive Committee: Mike Carberry, Mel Crockett, Phil Firth, Andrew Greste, Jeff Hamblin, James Kahl, David Meppem, Geoff Phelps and Ben Stephens.

Associate members of the Executive Committee: Ross Brown, PJ Gileppa, Tracey Farrell and Rod Jackson.

The Executive meets monthly to discuss the local response to industry issues as they arise and to enact the Association's business plan. These are open forums and members are encouraged to attend. The October meeting agenda will focus on reviewing the Strategic Plan. For a copy of the Chairman's report, meeting minutes, or to find out how your CGA can help you, contact;

Public Officer	Judy English	6795 3777
Cotton Australia	Gus Macrae	0407 956 586

Incentive Funding for the Namoi

From Jane Macfarlane, Namoi CMA, 6799 2417 or 0447 261 014.

Incentive funding is available for landholders who have a history of growing cotton in the Namoi Catchment. Funding is available for:

- River management e.g. fencing, stock water, in-stream structures.
- Native vegetation e.g. pasture restoration, subdivision of large paddocks to enable rotational grazing.

Recently, landholder Charlie Melbourne has obtained incentive funding to:

- Realign large woody debris and revegetate the river bank to control erosion.
- Fence the Namoi River and provide alternate stock water to better manage the impact of stock.
- Control lippia and remove willows.
- Attend a Prograze course.

Charlie says "I should have started earlier. The natural regeneration is going to be improved by the works". If you are interested in a project or would like to know more about the available funding please phone Jane Macfarlane.

CA Releases Federal Election Strategy

From Gus Mcrae, Cotton Australia, 0407 956 586

Opinion makers from both sides of politics are being engaged by Cotton Australia to communicate the industry's position in the lead up to the Election. With the operational aspects of the National Plan for Water Security still being finalised, CA supports critical investment in infrastructure, but wants to ensure any acquisition of water rights are from willing sellers via the market place.

Summer Crop Production Guide

From Tracey Farrell, NSW DPI & Cotton CRC, 6799 1548.

The NSW DPI has recently released a new publication on grain sorghum, maize, mungbean and sunflower. Both irrigated and dryland situations are included. The guide aims to assist with pre-plant planning decisions right through to on-farm grain storage and receival standards for marketing. Full variety lists are included. For your copy, please phone or visit the ACRI or click on the book to go to; www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Noticeboard

LNCGA Meeting

At CRDC on 17 Oct, 12 noon. Contact Judy English 6795 3777.

Healthy Soils Regional Forum

At Narrabri RSL on 7 Nov, 9:00 am. Contact Helen Squires 6799 1588.

Lower Namoi Water Meetings

Regulated Users Meet at ACRI, Myall Vale on 24 Oct, 10:00 am.

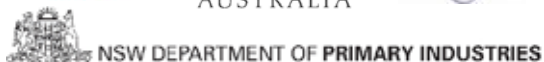
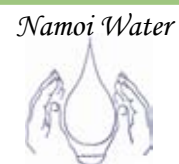
Groundwater Users Meet at Wee Waa Bowling Club on 7 Nov.

Namoi Water AGM at Gunnedah Services Club, on 28 Nov.

Contact: John Clements, 0428 896 554.

Disclaimer: Authors represent the position of their organisation, however this may not be the shared position of all organisations contributing to this newsletter. Every effort is made to ensure the information presented is correct at the time of publication.

Newsletter Contributors





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Namoi Water Update

From John Clements, Namoi Water Executive Officer, 0428 896 554.

Namoi Water is the Namoi Valleys representative water group. Our board consists of entitlement holders from four water source groups;

Regulated – James Kahl (Chair), Bernie George

Unregulated – Tim Leo, Ian Coxhead

Lower Groundwater – Philip Lawrence, Jeff Carolyn

Upper Groundwater – Trevor Loveridge, David Wallis

Current issues

- Representing entitlement holders as the groundwater payments process continues to encounter problems.
- Preparing a climate change position for the Namoi Valley in response to approaching government moves to debate entitlement in the light of new information.
- Water pricing issues, particularly delays in billing unregulated water users and the huge price increase that these delays are masking. Seek to have fixed water charges waived as a government response to the financial impacts of drought.
- Efficiency gains, we are working with Cotton Australia to provide some framework to the Commonwealth public statements regarding funding of efficiency gains for irrigation farmers.

Harvesting Chickpeas

From Tracey Farrell, NSW DPI & Cotton CRC, 6799 1548, 0427 260 344

Chickpeas can and should be delivered at 14% moisture. Overdry grain is more likely to split during handling which can lead to quality downgrades. Where crops are maturing unevenly, or are contaminated with late season weeds, consider applying a desiccant. Options for desiccation are; Reglone® @ 2–3 L/ha, Roundup PowerMAX® @ 0.68–1.8 L/ha and Roundup PowerMAX® @ 0.5–1.1 L/ha plus Ally® @ 5 g/ha.

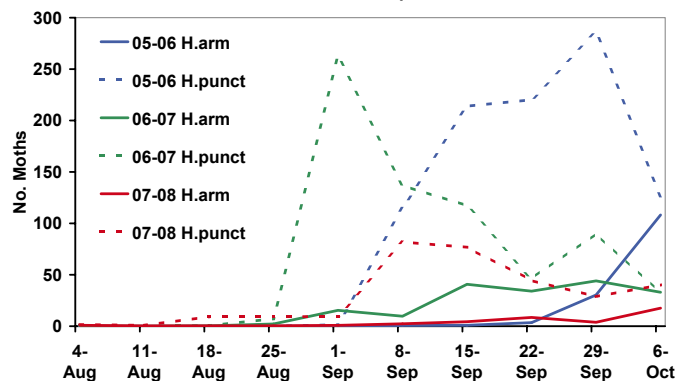
Avoid keeping weathered grain as planting seed. Weathering reduces germination rate and vigour. It also causes grain discolouration and increases the number of unthreshed pods in the sample. For further information visit www.pulseaus.com.au

Lower Namoi Pheremone Traps 2007-08

From Tracey Farrell, NSW DPI & Cotton CRC, 6799 1548, 0427 260 344

This year CSIRO, through entomologist Colin Tann, is again monitoring local *Helicoverpa spp.* populations. The network of pheremone traps shows that the low levels of activity that commenced earlier than usual this year has been curbed by the drought conditions. Not only are current numbers well below Oct 2005 and 2006 levels, the proportion of *H. armigera* within the population is also quite low at 30% compared to 50% in '06 and 46% in '05.

Lower Namoi Pheremone Trap Catches 2007-08



Food for Thought

From the Fact Files of Geoff Phelps, LNCGA

Did you know that...

The oscar winning movie "An Inconvenient Truth" (which has been handed out by the British government to all secondary schools) met with 'an inconvenient judgement' in the British court system. Nine scientific errors were found. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7037671.stm>

There has not been a continental record high temperature set since 1974. The highest temperature ever recorded was 57.78°C (136°F) at El Azizia Libya 13 Sep 1922. <http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/globalextremes.html>

The CSIRO considers 30 years to be suitable for a long term weather station. http://www.bom.gov.au/inside/eiab/reports/caa03/chapter2/meteorological_observations.shtml

Contrary to popular opinion, both polar ice caps are not melting. The Arctic (Northern Hemisphere) is at its lowest measured level and the Antarctic (Southern Hemisphere) is close to (or at) record highs, for ice level. The Antarctic's temperature has also declined by approx 0.5 °C in the last 50 years. <http://arctic.atmos.uiuc.edu/cryosphere/>

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