



Lower Namoi Cotton News

"news to feed the biggest bolls"

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

March
2008

From the Chairman's Desk

From Rob Eveleigh, LNCGA Chairman, 0427 915 921.

As the growing season draws to a close, it is likely that 2007/08 will be remembered for the widespread, severe and continuing cases of hormone damage. In fact drift is still happening. I have seen crops that have been drifted with hormone in the last few weeks. Late season drift can impact on the defoliation of cotton crops by freezing leaves onto the plant.

If you have had crops affected by herbicide damage this year and have not reported the drift to the APVMA (Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority) or Cotton Australia I urge you to do so. If enough cases are reported the APVMA will act to restrict to use of herbicides containing 2,4-D. Personally I do not want to see this group of herbicides banned, but I would like to see their use during summer regulated to prevent drift to sensitive crops. A system similar to the restriction of endosulfan applications would allow 2,4-D to be used by experienced operators using the right equipment and environmental conditions.

If you do not record your drift events with the APVMA or Cotton Australia we maybe faced with a similar situation again next season. The web address below will take you to the APVMA web page where adverse experiences can be reported. It is not the most user friendly site on the web but it only takes about 5 minutes to complete your report.

<https://services.apvma.gov.au/AerpWebApp/>

As an alternative contact Peter Cone from Cotton Australia, 0427 264 445 to report your experience.

Namoi Water Update

From John Clements, Namoi Water, 0428 896 554 .

Groundwater Transfers

All groundwater entitlement holders will soon be posted an aquifer update from the Department of Water and Energy. As most would be aware the Department used to make presentations at local meetings and take questions on the data. Namoi Water believes this the minimum standard for the delivery of this information. While we welcome the posted document we are still pursuing more detailed data and a public presentation. Namoi Water is also concerned at the delays in the availability of the aquifer data. Our industry has always been proactive in aquifer management and your security is enhanced by timely data and the capacity to question trends and make decisions based on this information.

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.

National Water Planning Process

The Commonwealth Water Act 2007 is now taking shape in practical terms. Namoi Water is actively questioning CSIRO's report on the Namoi. In a nutshell, the Water Act demands a new assessment of the sustainability of water diversions on the basin. There is way too much room for politics in this process. We will need irrigators to be involved in promoting outcomes driven by economic and environmental needs.

Ethanol

Ultimately water entitlements are only as valuable as the profits that can be made from the crops grown. In the USA ethanol is providing new competition for cropping areas. While cotton will continue to play a major role in the Namoi landscape, ethanol production represents a new opportunity. If you are interested in more information look at;

Ethanol 2008 Australia Conference, April 8-10 Sydney, www.ethanol2008.com

Support for the Cotton Centre

From LNCGA Executive, 6795 3777.

At the March LNCGA meeting, the executive unanimously agreed to assist the Cotton Centre in Narrabri with a cash donation. The Centre faces imminent closure without your short term financial help and ideas for the longer term. The CGA believes it is important to support the Cotton Centre as it is the industry's only grassroots avenue for promotion and dissemination of information about the cotton industry to the broader community. Please contact Ross Brown on 6790 3047 or Michael Carberry on 0427 665 662.

Network in the Namoi

From Yvette Cunningham, Cotton CRC, 6799 2471.

Attracting and retaining young professional staff is an issue in many rural communities. A recent Cotton CRC report showed that from 2001-06 there was a loss of young people from the Narrabri Shire. The Shire is below the state average for those aged between 20 and 40. In an attempt to address this issue, the Cotton CRC is initiating a 'young professionals network' which aims to bring together young people in the community to expand their professional and social networks. The project will be trialed for 12 months in Narrabri and Wee Waa with the expectation that it will be self sustaining. Ultimately, if there are vibrant networks for young professionals in our community it will hopefully lead to a willingness for them to remain living here for the long term. See the Noticeboard for details of the first 'Meet and Greet'.

Newsletter
Contributors



Lower Namoi Cotton Grower's
Association Inc.



Cotton Catchment Communities CRC



NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



COTTON
AUSTRALIA

Namoi Water



BMP
COTTON
BEST MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES



Lower Namoi Cotton News

"news to feed the biggest bolls"

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

March
2008

Rotation Crops and Vert Wilt

From Tracey Farrell, NSW DPI, 6799 1548 or 0427 260 344.

The relatively cool wet conditions experienced this season have favoured the development of Verticillium wilt. What does this mean for next season? There are 2 characteristics of the Verticillium pathogen that require consideration;

1. It is able to survive in soil without a host for several seasons.
2. It has a wide host range including weeds and rotation crops.

When making decisions about crop rotations, consider the importance of minimising Vert wilt for maximising the yield of your next cotton crop. The table summarises the likely impact of rotation crops on the future Vert risk for cotton.

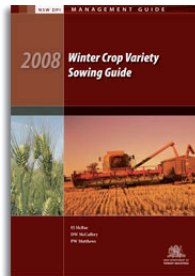
	Increase Verticillium	No Data	Decrease Verticillium
Winter Crop Options	faba beans chickpeas safflower		vetch wheat, barley canola
Summer Crop Options		soybeans dolichos lablab mung beans	pigeon pea, lucerne maize, sorghum sunflowers

Winter Sowing Guide - now available

From Tracey Farrell, NSW DPI, 6799 1548 or 0427 260 344.

Call in at the ACRI (Myall Vale) to collect a copy of the 2008 Winter Crop Variety Sowing Guide. This guide contains information to help with planting decisions for wheat, barley, oats, canola, chickpea, faba bean, field pea and lupin.

It is also available electronically via the NSW DPI web site. Click on the book.



Late Defoliation and Pupae Busting

From Tracey Farrell, NSW DPI, 6799 1548 or 0427 260 344.

For conventional cotton crops, the 2007/08 Insecticide Resistance Management Strategy (IRMS) allows the decision of whether or not to pupae bust to be made by the grower, based on risk. The later a crop is defoliated, the greatest risk of harbouring diapausing pupae that can carry insecticide resistance into next season. A new tool on the Cotton CRC website can help to quantify how much risk is associated with this decision.

For example as of the 25 March, the Diapause Induction Tool predicts that in the Lower Namoi, at least 20% of

H. armigera pupae will be in diapause mode. As a general recommendation, crops defoliated after the 9th March should still be pupae busted to minimise the risk of insecticide resistance. Check out the Tool at;

<http://tools.cottoncrc.org.au/cl2/diapause/index.aspx>

Desiccating Sorghum

From Tracey Farrell, NSW DPI, 6799 1548 or 0427 260 344.

Grain sorghum can be delivered at 13.5% moisture. The time taken to dry grain down from physiological maturity (25–30% moisture) to ~13% for harvest can be reduced by desiccating the crop. When 95–100% of grains have formed a 'black layer', herbicide can be applied. How do you tell when the black layer has formed? Grain matures from the top of the head down, meaning that grains at the bottom of the head should be monitored for maturity. When an individual grain is pulled off the head it is mature if there is a black mark at the point where it was attached.

It is important to harvest desiccated crops as soon as they have dried down in order to minimise the risk of lodging. However withholding periods must be observed. Where glyphosate CT products are used, crops are not to be harvested for 7 days after application.

Noticeboard

Cotton Consultants Ass'n AGM

Claim the Date 13–14 May. Contact Amber Dimond 6792 5459.

Sorghum Field Walk & Nutrition Workshop

At "Lockhearn", Trevena Lane, Bellata. 9th April starting 7:30 am.
Varieties, Row Configurations, Impacts of Sodicity.
Contact Tracey Farrell 6799 1548.

Meet and Greet with Drinks and Nibbles

At The Cafe, Narrabri on Friday 4th April from 6 pm.
Open to all in their 20s and 30s working locally.
Contact Yvette Cunningham at the Cotton CRC 6799 2471.

Radiation Safety Training

Use a neutron probe? Contact Graeme Rapp, CSIRO 6799 2450.

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



Lower Namoi Cotton Grower's Association Inc.



Cotton Catchment Communities CRC



Namoi Catchment Management Authority



NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



COTTON AUSTRALIA

Namoi Water



BMP COTTON

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES