

Hi & welcome to the 06/07 season

Hello to everyone that has an association with the 2006/2007 Southern NSW Cotton Season in the Lower Darling, Lachlan and Murrumbidgee valleys. I am filling in as the Cotton Industry Development Officer (IDO) until a recruitment process provides you with your next IDO.

What does an IDO do ? The role is funded by industry to service the industry. The IDO is there to assist both growers and consultants and to provide a link to the knowledge bank that is research, extension and the growers throughout the industry.

During the last two weeks I have been in the Lachlan and Bidgee valleys as planting starts to increase. At this stage we have 23 growers in the two valleys and an area of just under 8700 Ha. There are 10 new cotton growers (1040 Ha) from Whitton, Benerambah and Tabbita.

To these new growers, welcome and I hope your introduction to growing cotton is a positive and profitable experience for you. I would encourage you to join the Lachlan and Murrumbidgee Growers Association.

The president is Mick Storrier (0427 672 622) and the secretary is Jo Begbie (0428 311 079) and jbegbie@bigpond.net.au)

Also, well done with some of the 7 day emergencies that have been happening.



It has been good to catch up with most of the consultants as well over the last couple of weeks and I appreciate the time you have taken to introduce me to your growers. If you are not already a member, join the local branch of the Cotton Consultants Association through this years Regional Coordinator, Pat McGuinness (.0429 967 276 and patmcguinness@cgs.com.au)

On an interesting note, most of the new MIA cotton has been planted on the Bankless Channel layout on furrows.

Dave Williams – 0428 401 988.

david.williams@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Some minor housekeeping issues.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please let me know and I will remove you from the list. Conversely, if you are aware of someone that should be receiving this newsletter and they are not, again let me know. Also let me know if you prefer email over fax or visa versa. If you have received this by fax, then I probably do not have your email address. Send me an email and I will change the fax contact over to an email contact.

A few introductory words of wisdom

What to get right when growing cotton.

- Talk to growers with experience, get involved in your Cotton Growers Association and ask questions. There is a lot of industry support available to you.
- Talk to your neighbours about what you are doing and what they might do that might affect you. Ensure your PAMP is up to date and active.
- Seek 2nd and even 3rd opinions
- Growers from the past couple of years say to take advantage of the powerful tool that you are privileged to have with the Bollgard II® and Roundup Ready ® technology. If you are growing the GM cotton then the Resistance Management Plan (RMP) and refuge rules must be followed in order to ensure continued

product access and the longer term desired impact to Heliothis.

- Understand and comply with the Insect Resistance Management Strategy (IRMS) for Cotton. If you don't have one they are online on the Cotton CRC website at <http://cotton.pi.csiro.au/Assets/PDFFiles/IRMS/IRMS0607/IRMSt67.pdf>
- Utilising the techniques from the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Guidelines.
- Understanding the recipe for growing cotton in a known cool (short) season area.

What to avoid when growing Cotton

- Off farm spray drift. (refer to pesticide label requirements and Cotton BMP Manual)
- Underestimating the impact and management of secondary pests and the relevant spray thresholds i.e. Mirids damaging squares prior to Christmas and post emergent Thrips and Aphids. (reference ENTopak and Cotton Pest Management Guide)
- Poor timing of nutrient applications. (look at nutriLOGIC)
- Poor water management – too much leads to waterlogging and reduced growth; too late will impact yield; prolonged drainage backup will kill the plant; timing of first and last irrigation. (WATERpak)
- Try not to take "shortcuts" without checking whether the decision will affect you later in the season.
- Not asking enough questions. There is a whole industry that can and will help if you ask.

Reminder to Update PAMPs:

Growers are reminded that Pesticide Application Management Plans (PAMPs) are legally required to be fully maintained each season if employing restricted use products such as Endosulfan. Regardless, PAMPs remain very important documents for cotton growers to consider using each season, whether a legal obligation exists or not.

With increased reliance on minimum till and the resulting reliance on herbicides for fallow management as well as cotton being grown adjacent to rice crops and the increase in planting of transgenic herbicide resistant varieties, PAMPs are the most appropriate mechanism to open dialogue between neighbours ensuring all parties are aware of each other's activities and risks of exposure to drift.

Please note that I also have copies and templates of the PAMP and can help you with its preparation.

Contact: Peter Hollingworth
Cotton Australia Ltd, 0427 707 867,
peterh@cotton.org.au

Footnote: If you would like assistance to compile and activate your PAMP, both Peter and I are available to help you. Just let us know. I will also be asking in the next two weeks if these have been completed and activated. Dave Williams

Upcoming events

Wednesday 18th of October 3pm - Lachlan and Murrumbidgee Cotton Growers Association meeting at Goolgowi Council Chambers. Contact Jo Begbie on 0428 311 079 or jbegbie@bigpond.net.au.

A meeting of the local Cotton Consultant Association may be held in conjunction with the Growers meeting.

Early Season Terminology

Cotyledons: Paired first leaves that emerge from the soil when the seed germinates.

True Leaf: Any leaf produced after the cotyledons.

Node: a leaf bearing joint of a stem, used in plant mapping and is also useful for determining the rate of growth.

Square: a cotton flower bud which after flowering and fertilisation becomes the lint bearing **Boll**.

Replant considerations - CSD



COTTON TALES

Southern New South Wales "The industry's ice chest"

David Williams, Acting Cotton Industry Development Officer – 0428 401 988

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If you are considering a replant, don't forget the Replanting Guide from Cotton Seed Distributors. www.csd.net.au