

## Report from the Question & Answer Farm Walk held at Minato's Benerambah crop - 26<sup>th</sup> of October

There were 16 people turn up and this included 7 growers and 3 consultants. We had a look at the Minato's crop on the Bankless Channel irrigation layout and discussed what had been done to date. I gave them an update on the Cotton in Hillston for comparison, thanks to Todd Peach.

We then basically opened the discussion up to any questions and this covered many differing topics including plant populations, slow growth post cotyledons, soil water monitoring and the effectiveness of irrigation on bankless channel to date.



The invitation to the newer growers to call or visit growers with more experience and that the industry had no secrets was passed on and well received. The highlight for me was seeing two growers who had lived in the same region for many decades meet for the first time as growers of cotton.

For anyone looking to enter in to the world of Soil Water Monitoring and Irrigation Scheduling, I would suggest a look at the Agfact publication titled "Soil water monitoring – Choosing the right device". <http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/soilwater/ac27-full.pdf>

Thank you to the Minato family for allowing us to meet in their crop and thanks to all who turned up. Another similar local farm walk was requested and the details are listed here.

The next Q & A MIA Farm Walk will be held in Benerambah on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November at a site to be advised. One of Rachael Whitworth's rice groups will join us later on that morning.

## NOTE - Postponement of the Spray Application Workshops for Cottongrowers.

Due to insufficient numbers of confirmed participants, this series of workshops scheduled for Tuesday and the Wednesday this week have been postponed until the New Year at the earliest. The new dates and venue will be advised sometime in December.

## Pesticide Application Management Plans

I will be in Hillston and Griffith Tuesday til Thursday this week and I am available for some of that time to assist with PAMP creation.

## Change of name for IDO's

When the Southern Cotton Industry Development Officer position is advertised shortly, it will be advertised as a Regional Cotton Extension Officer.

## Researcher visit

David Nehl (NSW DPI – Cotton CRC, Narrabri) will be visiting his trial sites in both valleys this week. If anyone has any disease queries, David is willing to assist. Call me for his contact details.

## Cotton Jargon and Acronyms

Are you having trouble sorting your spindles from your squares, your pests from your predators or your trash from your turnout ? Do you struggle to work out who or what is the CRDC, the CGA or the CRCCCC. One thing about the cotton industry is that there is a lot of jargon and terminology.

**What should you do about it ? . Simply ask.** Don't be afraid to ask, even in the middle of a talk or event. Improving your understanding is

an expected situation with anyone new to the industry and no-one will hesitate in providing an explanation because we have all been there before. Here is a listing of some of the industries acronyms from the Cotton Australia website. <http://www.cottonaustralia.com.au/growerstoolkit/acronyms.aspx>

**Day Degrees:** Heat accumulation is calculated progressively during the growth season to monitor crop development and progress. Daily values are summed over the developmental phase of a crop or over a season to enable a crop's progress to be monitored as a guide for comparison with its potential development.

To calculate day degrees:

Add the daily maximum temperature minus 12 to the daily minimum temperature minus 12 and divide the lot by two. This gives the day degrees for a given day. Add the daily Day Degrees to get a running total for the season. (Note—if the minimum is less than 12°C a value of zero is used)

Temperature and consequent day degrees affects the actual time the plant takes to move through the various growth stages.

(Source: Cotton – Harvesting and Marketing, Updated by G Salmond, DPI&F Delivery, Dalby, Queensland - <http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/fieldcrops/8100.html>)

*The following table contains simulated data for the Trangie Research Station with a crop planted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. This data is not intended to represent conditions in either the Lachlan or Murrumbidgee valleys, but has been included to show the various stages of the crop and an indication of climatic and chronological occurrence.*

Crop stage	Day degrees	Earliest date
Emergence	80	13 <sup>th</sup> Oct
5th True leaf	330	14 <sup>th</sup> Nov
1st Square	505	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec
1st Flower	777	24 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Peak Flower	1302	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan
Open boll	1527	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb
60% open	2050	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr

## Revisit on Cold Shock

Since the farm walk I have found the following article and information on cold shock and its impact on young cotton.

<http://www.regional.org.au/au/asa/2003/c/5/bange.htm>

### What are hot days?

At high temperatures many biological processes don't respond as markedly to temperature as they do at moderate temperatures. Hot days are classed as days in which the maximum air temperature is equal to or above 36°C.

**What are cold shocks** Cold shocks occur when daily minimum temperatures fall below 11 °C, which may cause growth and development the following day to be reduced regardless of the maximum temperature reached. Cold shocks particularly effect the rate of early development including the timing of emergence, squaring and flowering, but have no association with boll period. **The average number in Whitton is 41.**

**Hillston Day Degrees** - Oct 1 to Nov 5  
**314** (Average is 254) 2005 – 281, 2004 - 292  
Number of hot days = **2** (Average is 1)  
Number of cold shocks = **23** (Average is 20)

**Hay Day Degrees** - Oct 1 to Nov 5  
**296** (Average is 241) 2005 – 249. 2004 - 283  
Number of hot days = **2** (Average is 1)  
Number of cold shocks = **22** (Average is 22)

**Whitton Day Degrees** - Oct 1 to Nov 5  
**302** (Average is 223) 2005 – 248, 2004 - 262  
Number of hot days = **2** (Average is 0)  
Number of cold shocks = **23** (Average is 24)  
It's a HOT year so far in Whitton this year !!!

**Bourke Day Degrees** - Oct 1 to Nov 5  
**438** (Average is 347) 2005 – 413, 2004 - 373  
Number of hot days = **6** (Average is 3)  
Number of cold shocks = **6** (Average is 10)

### Upcoming Events

- The next Cotton Growers Association meeting will be held in Griffith on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 4pm. This meeting will be followed by dinner. Arrangements are being made for speakers to be part of the day. Please direct any inquires to Jo Begbie. [jbegbie@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jbegbie@bigpond.net.au)
- Rescheduled spray workshops in the new year
- There will be a meeting of the Cotton Consultants Association on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December at 4pm in Goolgowi. Please direct any inquires to Pat McGuinness. [patmcguinness@cgs.com.au](mailto:patmcguinness@cgs.com.au)