

The Macquarie Bale up

what's going down in cotton town.....

AWARDS SEASON

Cotton awards were held at Trangie this year congratulations are extended to Michael, Marieanne and John Noonan of "Braeburn" Nevertire, and agronomist Mat Ceeney for taking out the Chesterfield Farm of the Year Award. This award was based on total farm yield, management and water use efficiency.

Also well deserving of congratulations were Scott and Cath Vincent, "Wirrigai" Narromine and agronomist Matt Ward, who took out the Suncorp Top Field Award, this award was based on ginned yield on a field greater than 20Ha.

Sinclair Steele of Warren took out the Tracserv Young Achiever of the Year, in recognition of the time that Sinclair takes in sharing the information from the various trials and different production methods that Auscott undertakes. Sinclair regularly interrupts his own work to explain and show other growers what is happening on Auscott, often cutting into his after-hours time. It is this sharing of information and time that makes the cotton industry in the Macquarie Valley so outstanding for its support of all growers.

Mike Shields was a well-received recipient of the Jim Beale Memorial Service to the Industry Award. Mike has been a colourful

and integral part of the Macquarie Valley cotton industry for years, and his contribution was recognised at this year's awards dinner.

To Plant or not to Plant.....

Aside for the water issues we usually have this questions does not have evoke the pain that it used to , CSD have taken much of the guess work out of it for us , they have a traffic light system that gives us the green light to go ahead and some up to the minute weather stations that provide a ground temp summary of the area. Please check this out on their website when making your decision this season .

http://www.csd.net.au/soil_temperatures

[Traffic Light \(3\).pdf](#)

another issue we have at planting is

Wireworm, how do we know if its going to be a bad year?? There is a pretty simple test you can do, grab a bag of potatoes and mark some areas in the fields that you will be planting (make sure you mark them well) put the spuds under the surface about the same as a cotton seed , give it a few days and come back and have look if the wire worm are present.



Julie Wise, CA; David Searston, Chesterfield Australia, Michael, John and Marie-Anne Noonan, Farm of the Year



Nitrogen Trial in a Nutshell

The Nitrogen trial the cotton info team ran in conjunction with Auscott last season had some interesting results. I will be running the same trial again with some different rates to try and find out where the use efficiency curve starts to drop in the Macquarie. Our question is pretty simple and is not a new one, how much, when and where do I apply my Nitrogen?. Answer: Not so simple, but one thing is clear, the answer is different for every grower, we need to learn more about our soils from the bottom up, we can use research to find out what the plant removes, and what events might cause us to lose Nitrogen stored in the Soil. We want new research to tell us what happens to the N the plant doesn't use, what's the best way to get the Nitrogen to the plant? These factors will affect our final decisions around our Nutrition program on our farms.

I am writing about the results of the trial in an informal manner, the next issue I will attach the results along with what happened in the other valleys, as the trials were done most of the cotton growing areas.

We have all seen the curve that Rocky achieves over years of research at "Myall Vale" and its good validated research, however Nutrition trials results in terms of

numbers are relevant to the soils they are done in, given that Rocky achieved 8b/ha on his Nil strip he is playing in a very different school yard to many growers. We can still use the principles to get more accurate when doing our N budgets, we still want to know at what point are we most profitable and efficient with our N use. The trial measured the Mineral N in the soil before the trial, and the high and low treatments after the crop was harvested. The highest treatment left behind the most Nitrogen (see final write up for more detailed results)

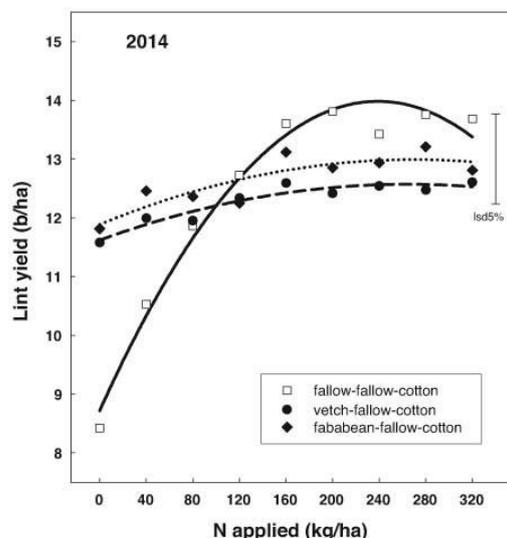


FIGURE 1. Lint yield as influenced by N fertiliser response experiments at ACRI Narrabri. The economic optimum N fertiliser rates were 220, 135 and 153 kg N/ha for cotton in the fallow, vetch and faba bean rotations.

The trial didn't not show any major visual differences throughout the season I had a time lapse camera between the high (320 units) low (230 units) go to the YouTube link to have a look http://youtu.be/yzLuqjv_KoQ . at the time lapse photography of the trial.

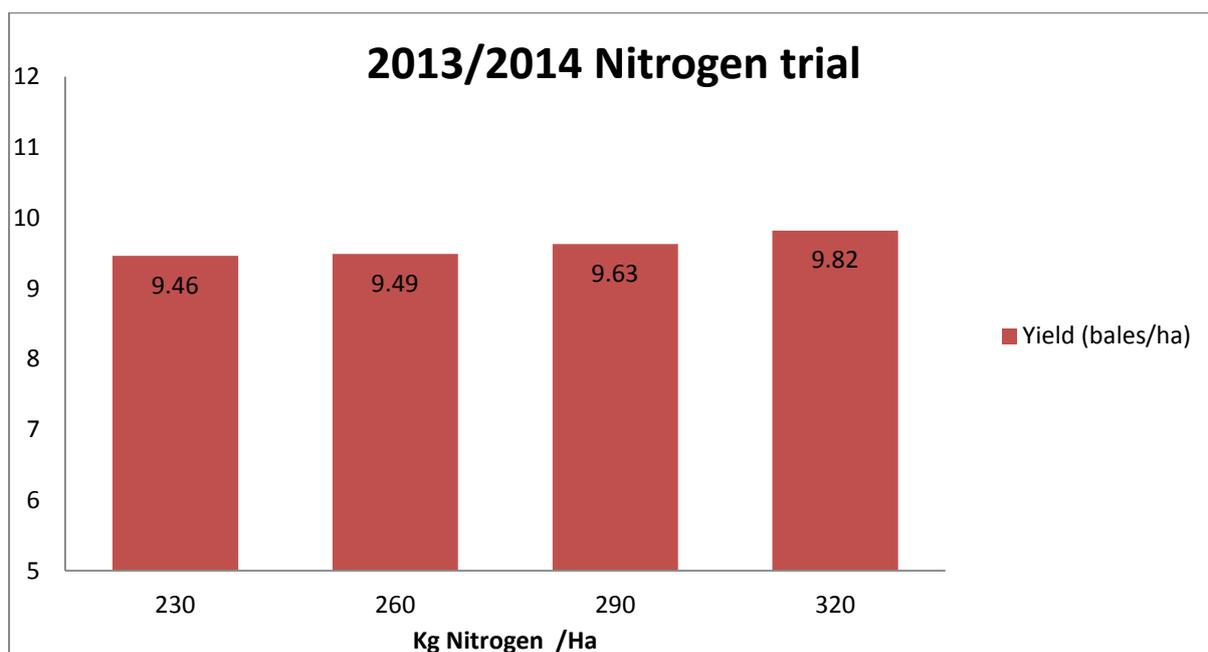


Figure 2 : Yield results in Bales / ha on 60 Inch Row spacing's.

Treatments: Each treatment had four replications 8 rows each

Up front N kg/ha	Water run N kg/ha	Total N
90	140	230
120	140	260
150	140	290
180	140	320

Figure 3 : Rates and delivery method

The best economic return was on the highest rate of Nitrogen this tells us that we need to have some higher rates for the next trial to try and find out where the curve starts to fall. I will get the complete trial write up to growers in the next few weeks. If anyone else had a good replicated trials that they learnt something from and would like to share it please let me know as I am trying to get a trial booklet together for the valley.

References

Growing High Yielding Nitrogen Efficient Cotton 2014 - Ian Rochester CSIRO Narrabri

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Young Achiever Pictured Amanda Thomas Cotton Info, Dick Kirby Tracserv and Winner Sinclair Steele Auscott



Crop of the year Winner

Scott Vincient