

Classing workshops for growers and ginners

In an industry first, Australian Classing Services (ACS) has developed a series of classing workshops to help the Australian cotton industry maintain its high quality profile.

ACS General Manager Peter Bunce said the workshops aim to educate growers and ginners on the classing process, and how they can get the best possible result for their cotton.

“Cotton classification has sometimes been referred to as the ‘missing link’ in the chain of events from field-to-fabric,” Peter said.

“But with quality becoming more of an issue, we believe classing organisations have an important role to play.”

The classing workshops have been trialled with 13 gin sites, and ACS plan to continue the workshops with other ginning companies and cotton growers.

“The trial workshops produced some really positive results so we hope to take the workshops to cotton growers and



Peter Bunce says the classing workshops should remove some misconceptions.

other ginning companies across Australia — particularly in Emerald and Hillston who often get left out because of their geographical location,” Peter said.

While the ACS workshops are designed for the whole cotton industry, Peter believes they will be of most benefit to cotton producers.

The workshops will cover a range of topics including the classing process in Australia and recent changes, an overview of classing industry developments, the impact of various fibre parameters on yarn spinning and fabric manufacturing and the measurement and characteristics of each fibre property.

As well educating growers and ginners on various quality issues, ACS also plan to provide participants with some hands-on experience of manual classing and High Volume Instrument (HVI) testing.

“As part of the workshops we are going to take participants through exactly how manual classification and HVI testing is performed to help them gain an understanding of what affects the quality of their crop including all of the various varietal, agronomic and general farming decisions.”

Peter also hopes the workshops will remove some of the misconceptions about classing.

The ACS ginning classing workshops will be held until August and the cotton classing workshops will be held from August 2005 until February 2006.

For more information on the classing workshops contact Peter Bunce at Australian Classing Services on (02) 6790 3052 or email pbunce@ausclass.com.au.