

Cotton and grain water team update

By Graham Harris, Cotton CRC/DPI&F

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC Water Focus Team assists cotton and grain irrigators throughout Australia's cotton growing region. It is made up of 14 extension and research staff drawn from CSIRO Plant Industries, NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. The team is located throughout the Australian cotton industry and provides a wealth of expertise in irrigation engineering and the irrigation management of cotton and grain crops.

The team members are:

- Emma Carrigan DPI&F Goondiwindi 0408 703783;
- Nathan Ferguson NSW DPI Moree 0427 401593;
- Garry Giddings NSW DPI Dubbo 0427 201890;
- Michael Grabham NSW DPI Griffith 0427 107054;
- Jenelle Hare DPI&F Dalby 0427 372331;
- Graham Harris DPI&F Toowoomba 0427 929103;
- Rod Jackson NSW DPI Narrabri 02 6799 1500;
- James Neilsen CSIRO Narrabri 02 6799 1526;
- Jose Payero DPI&F Toowoomba 0428 734576;
- Dirk Richards CSIRO Narrabri 0428 322064;
- Peter Smith NSW DPI Tamworth 0411 128437;
- David Wigginton NSW DPI Toowoomba 0427 789 498;
- David Williams NSW DPI Dubbo 0428 401988; and,
- Stephen Yeates CSIRO Narrabri 0417 015633.

Members of the team are working on a range of projects addressing priority issues related to irrigation management within the industry.

The Advancing Water Management in NSW project (funded by the Cotton Re-

search and Development Corporation) concentrates on demonstrating that simple changes to surface irrigation systems and their management can produce 20 per cent improvements in water use efficiency.

The Rural Water Use Efficiency project (funded by Queensland Natural Resources and Water) focuses on demonstrating the benefits of improving irrigation efficiency in the industry.

Both projects will work collaboratively with consultants to build capacity within the industry for continual improvements in water use efficiency beyond the life of these projects.

Irrigation Knowledge Management project

Through the Irrigation Knowledge Management project (funded through the National Program for Sustainable Irrigation) the team is investigating ways to maximise the existing understanding and adoption of improved irrigation practices.

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