

## Breeza farmers prepare for farming in 2020 and explain how to get there

**"F**armers need to consider the challenges of operating in a global market and remaining competitive in the future," explains John Hamparsum, a cotton and grain farmer from Breeza.

"That's why this year's Cotton Conference is more important than ever before. It's like sharpening the saw," he says, "and we all need to hone our skills to produce better crops based on the best information we can get our hands on."

John currently produces irrigated and dryland cotton, sorghum, sunflowers and wheat on his 1500 hectare property, 'Drayton', and is also the president of the Upper Namoi Cotton Growers Association and secretary of ACGRA.

He and his sister, Juanita Hamparsum, will be speaking at this year's 14th Australian Cotton Conference at the Gold Coast August 12-14, discussing how to position our farms to meet farming challenges.

"We also need to confront our domestic problems and look at ways to deal with issues that affect us today and tomorrow. We need to plan to overcome the challenges of the skills shortage, competition for water and the strong Aussie dollar," Juanita said.

In the 'how we might get there' John plans to share the ways in which the Hamparsums have tackled some of these issues.

"With a shortage of skilled labour, we can't compete with the mining companies and other industries in relation to remuneration but we can attract staff by offering an attractive lifestyle on the land with family friendly hours and other incentives."

In this globally competitive environment for fertilisers and fuel, John is also investigating alternative energy sources to sustain his farm into the future.

**To register for the conference:**  
[www.australiancottonconference.com.au](http://www.australiancottonconference.com.au)



**John Hamparsum and Juanita Hamparsum at 'Drayton', Breeza will share the innovative plans they have in place to tackle the changing climate of cotton growing at this year's Cotton Conference, Gold Coast, 12-14 August.**

## Textile and trade experts on hand

**T**he merging of the Australian Cotton Shippers Association's bi-ennial conference with the Australian Cotton Growers Research Association's annual conference is a classic example of adapting to an evolving industry.

This could be contextualised by advice coming from experts in all links of the cotton production chain — that none can work in isolation from the other if the industry is to be successful in its major aim — providing a premium textile product to consumers in a sustainable way.

Growers, ginners, shippers, spinners, merchants and anyone in between are all links and the strength of the chain ultimately depends on the strength of each individual link.

According to ACSA chair Pete Johnson, the decision to merge conferences highlights his association's acceptance and promotion of the need to continue to strengthen the chain, especially under the current challenging business environment.

"The merging of the conferences creates an extremely diverse and exciting event — both in terms of the content itself, and the delegates," he said this week.

"The opportunities for networking and information sharing up and down the cotton supply chain are unprecedented, and we are confident there will be substantial flow on benefits for the industry as a result of this initiative."



**ACSA Chair Pete Johnson.**