



UNCGA & AgVance Weekly Newsletter

Introduction Newsletter



Hello, from your new Network Development Officer.

As some of you may have heard my name is Sarah Clift and I am your new Network Development Officer, servicing both AgVance and the Upper Namoi Cotton Growers Association (UNCGA).

A little background on me – I have lived in the district my whole life, firstly near Breeza and recently my family have relocated closer to Gunnedah. My family, traditionally grain producers, have moved into a more mixed farming enterprise based out of Gunnedah.

I have recently completed a Bachelor of Education and currently completing postgraduate work specialising in both cotton and grains production with the aim of completing my Masters in Agriculture. In the past I have worked with Practical Systems, Armidale, and most recently spent the current cotton season with Pinnacle Agriculture, Gunnedah.

Over the next few weeks I look forward to meeting growers in the district and gaining an insight into the areas which interest you. Please feel free to give me a call or email to introduce yourself (my contact details are below).



I spent Thursday at the Australian Cotton Research Institute as well as the CRCD in Narrabri meeting and chatting with researchers and technical specialists. This was a great opportunity to build contacts and discover the new and exciting projects they are all working on. Current projects in the works range from heat and stress tolerance, impacts of increased carbon dioxide on cotton and water logging, just to name a few!

I hope to travel to Tamworth DPI in the coming weeks to have a chat and see what is happening over there in terms of grains.

Climate Risk Management

As some of you may know there was to be a field day in regards to the rainfall and climatic analysis specific for our region. I heard Jon speak in Tamworth last week and his presentation on Climate Risk Management was very informative. Unfortunately the field day was cancelled, however I have the presentation by Jon Welsh (Cotton Info Team). If anyone is interested in this presentation or would like to speak with Jon directly let me know.

Below are some websites that Jon suggest may be of use for you;

www.iri.columbia.edu

www.bom.gov.au

www.aegic.org.au

Dates for your calendar

The Premier field day will be held next Thursday 10th April at 8.30 am. This years day will include a tour of the region's top sorghum and sunflower crops. The tour will also visit trail sites hosted by Pacific Seeds and Pioneer Hibred Australia. The day will include morning tea and a barbecue lunch. Andrew Trotter of Latevo will be the days guest speaker. If anyone would like further information in regards to the day please contact either myself, Phil Whillock 0427 476 217 or Simon Thompson 0427 476 228.

Network Corner

I plan to continue to run the network corner in each newsletter. If anyone has anything they would like me to add to the network corner please let me know.

Soil Testing Trailer for Hire

Just a reminder that AgVance farming have a soil testing trailer with all the necessary testing gear. The trailer is available for AgVance members for free, and can be hired by non members for a small fee. Please contact me if you would like further information.

That's a wrap for this week, I hope to meet you all soon and I look forward to working you.

Until next time,

Sarah

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