



Cotton Catchment
Communities CRC



Queensland
Government
Department of
Primary Industries
and Fisheries

COTTON TALES

Central Queensland

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New Irrigation On-line Tool Under Development

Recent years have highlighted the difficulty faced by many irrigators (and extension personnel) when choosing the best mix of rotation crops which makes optimal use of variable and/or limited irrigation water.

In response to this identified need the QPIF Irrigated Farming Systems Group is developing a farmer friendly web based crop water use tool for estimating crop water use and irrigation requirements. It will assist planning decisions by comparing and analysing water requirements for multiple crops and different planting dates.

The tool calculates crop water use (ETc) using historical SILO weather data from 1957-2008, however further development will enable incorporation of locally based (i.e. on-farm) weather station data where available.

There are minimal user inputs to enter eg crop type, planting date, growth pattern and location. The tool has the capability to perform either a simple or a custom analysis. Outputs include seasonal ETc, rainfall and irrigation, irrigation requirement and timing plus weather information. Reports and graphs from the analysis can be saved in different formats or downloaded.

The tool is under development. A vital requirement is for ongoing input from research, extension personnel, growers, and consultants to expand the CWU tool's current capabilities before a final version is released. As part of this process to help validate the tool, 2 Eddy covariance systems have been installed in chickpea and wheat crops.

Over the coming months Lance Pendergast will be approaching growers and consultants for their advice on what such a 'beast' needs to include. This will help the researchers add rigour to its ability to meet grower requirements and will ensure that the final product is indeed user-friendly.

Those interested in trying the tool (as at its current stage of development) should contact Lance to arrange a suitable time to run a quick demo.

Where should training dollars be spent in Primary Industries for Queensland ?

Have you ever being concerned with either your own skills or those of your employees? Have you ever wondered who do I raise these concerns with to ensure I have an opportunity to met this skill gap ?

Well now for Queenslanders you have an opportunity to have your say. Within the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation is a group known as the Rural Skills Training and Labour Strategy Industry Advisory Group. Currently this group is conducting a state wide survey to find out what are the skills needed by those people who work in our primary industries and fisheries.

So if you are a producer, employee or business owner in any sector within primary industries, the unit are keen to here you thoughts. The unit would really appreciate it if you could take the time to complete a survey by 31st July. It should take you no more than 30 minutes to complete.

To go to the survey, please hold the Ctrl button and click on this link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=QT7pVGXiHZuEWhEp3_2bT9vA_3d_3d

If you have any questions or the link does not work for you & you want to contribute send your comments to either:

Di Edelman

Dianne.Edelman@deedi.qld.gov.au or Mark Hickman

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Resistance Roadshow:

Emerald Wednesday, 26 Aug 4pm - 6:30pm. Ag College

Theodore Thursday, 27 Aug 10am-12:30pm. Theodore Pub