

myBMP



Australia's myBMP farms produce some of the world's best cotton using responsible and efficient management practices





BEST PRACTICES FOR AUSTRALIA'S COTTON GROWERS

ONLINE SELF-ASSESSMENT MECHANISMS, PRACTICAL TOOLS
AND AUDITING PROCESSES TO ENSURE THAT AUSTRALIAN
COTTON IS PRODUCED ACCORDING TO BEST PRACTICE

“The health and safety of our staff and contractors is our number one priority, and the myBMP program outlines principles necessary to ensure safety is consistently prioritised.”

Kevin Schwager - Dryland cotton grower Narrabri NSW

Operating four farms in the Narrabri region, all certified under the myBMP program, Kevin aims to instil this safety mindset across the entire farming business.

about myBMP

myBMP is:

- The Australian cotton industry's voluntary farm and environmental management system for growers.
- Designed for all cotton growers, big and small
- An online self-assessment program which identifies best management practices and standards for Australian cotton production.
- A system that allows growers to compare practices and measure improvement, confidentially.
- Aligned with internationally recognised quality assurance programs and marketing initiatives for sustainable cotton production.
- A way to access the latest research and farm management information.

top 5 grower benefits of myBMP

Growers participating in myBMP benefit in a number of ways, including:

- 1 Access to premium global markets, including Better Cotton
- 2 More efficient and more profitable cotton businesses
- 3 Safer farm operations and safer workers
- 4 Responsible land management
- 5 Cutting-edge management practices

“The idea of myBMP certification seemed daunting initially, but the actual process turned out to be much more manageable than I expected.”

Ian Gourley - dryland grower Narrabri, NSW

The Dryland Cotton Research Association is keen to see more dryland growers achieve their myBMP certification.

access to premium markets: BCI

The world's leading brands and retailers are increasingly demanding raw materials produced using more sustainable methods. Some of the world's largest brands have committed to significant targets for Better Cotton use in their products over the next five years.

Better Cotton – a global sustainability program focused at farm level improvements – directly aligns with myBMP's certification standards, and provides an avenue for Australian cotton growers to access global premium markets.

Cotton from a myBMP-certified farm can be sold through Better Cotton. Many Australian growers have successfully negotiated Better Cotton premiums of between \$3 and \$8 a bale, representing a significant opportunity to leverage the sustainability investments made on farm.

Australian cotton growers must do three things to qualify as a Better Cotton grower:

- Achieve myBMP certification
- Pay your full Cotton Australia levy
- Register with Better Cotton.

dryland grower case study

Ian Gourley a dryland cotton grower from Narrabri and President of the Dryland Cotton Research Association is keen to see more dryland growers achieve their myBMP certification. Drawing on insights from his recent myBMP certification, Ian aims to demystify common misconceptions surrounding the process.

Ian expressed his initial concerns, stating, “The idea of myBMP certification seemed daunting initially, but the actual process turned out to be much more manageable than I expected.”

Attributing his success to the guidance provided by

his local Cotton Australia Regional Manager, Ian stated, “With support, I adapted my practices to meet myBMP requirements. The collaborative effort made the journey straightforward.”

Discussing perceived challenges, Ian emphasized, “While the myBMP program demands effort, most growers already have 90 to 95% of the necessary information in place. We've adapted over time to industry and agency requirements, incorporating practices such as maintaining spray records, implementing employment contracts, and ensuring safety

through first aid and Chem Cert training.”

“The myBMP process is not as intricate as it may seem. It's about incorporating practices we already follow. Plus, the online accessibility of the BMP platform allows us to complete it at our own pace.” He stated.

myBMP certification offers a number of benefits, including insurance discounts from Achmea Insurance.



“Dryland growers can streamline the certification process by skipping over questions related to irrigation, and with typically only one or two fuel storages, the signage or bunding requirements are minimised.”

Alec Macintosh, Cotton Australia
Regional Manager

how myBMP works

myBMP is structured into ten modules covering all areas of Australian cotton production. Each module is divided into key areas. Each key area has specific industry standards and is supported by checklists, additional information and resources. The ten modules include:

- Biosecurity - Prevention, management and control of pests and diseases
- Energy and Input Efficiency - Efficient energy inputs such as electricity, fuel & fertilisers
- Fibre Quality - Growing the best quality cotton possible
- HR & Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) - Managing employees and contractors whilst providing a safe workplace
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - Management of pests, weeds and diseases
- Sustainable Natural Landscape - Managing the vegetative and riparian assets on farm

- Pesticide Management - Pesticide management, storage and use on farm
- Petrochemical Storage and Handling - Managing fuels and lubricants on farm
- Soil Health - Maintaining and/or improving soil quality
- Water Management - Water quality, efficiency of storage and distribution

Each checklist item is assigned a level. These levels are broken into:

- Level 1 - Identified legal requirements (what you must do)
- Level 2 - Industry identified best practice standards (what you should do)
- Level 3 - Innovative practices (what industry leaders are doing)

To become myBMP certified an auditor checks that all Level 1 and Level 2 practices have been achieved on farm. Certification is voluntary and provides access to premium markets.

get involved

Registering for myBMP is simple. Growers can register at myBMP.com.au

The myBMP office also provides support to Australian cotton growers interested in participating in the program, and supports growers through the self-assessment and audit processes.

For more information and support, contact the myBMP office:

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