



Sustainable Cotton Farms

COTTON FARMERS ARE WATER SAVERS

Water is a farmer's most precious resource. Without water, crops would not grow, food and natural fibre would not be produced, and communities could not thrive. Cotton farmers are great water savers. In fact, they use half the amount of water to grow cotton than 20 years ago!

Cotton farmers save water by only planting cotton when there is enough water to grow it. They use seeds specially bred for Australian conditions and probes to let them know when the cotton plant is thirsty, so they only water when and how much is needed. Farms have clever watering systems that reduce water loss to evaporation and seepage.

Learn how the water on the cotton farm in Mungindi, NSW where Bess Gairns lives, is carefully used at: <http://tinyurl.com/kwhugd4>

ALWAYS IMPROVING

Australian farmers and the cotton industry are committed to research and science. Farmers value the contributions science makes to their daily lives on farm.

When a cotton farmer receives money from a harvested bale of cotton, some of this money is set aside for research. The Australian government then matches this money to create a pool of cotton research funds.

Learn how cotton farmer Georgie Krieg uses technology to ensure her family's farm in Brookstead, QLD, is more sustainable and profitable: <http://tinyurl.com/4fj9yb>

Cotton growers are land carers on a large scale with about 40% of their farms being native vegetation.

CARING FOR THE FARM ENVIRONMENT

A great Australian cotton farm has a healthy balance of life including plants, animals, insects and bacteria on the farm and in the soil and waterways.

Cotton farmers work hard to support healthy crops and the native environment by protecting native plants and animals. They plant trees to create wildlife corridors and conserve dead timber, rocks and shrubs to preserve the habitat of native species. They care for the soil by planting other crops to increase nutrients (like sunflower and maize) and sometimes plant nothing and leave the soil to rest. They protect the crop from pest insects by encouraging beneficial insects with food sprays and planting other crops they like to live in.

Learn how cotton farmer Andrew Watson (Boggabri, NSW) has improved the environment on his family farm at: http://youtu.be/MYIPPAw_d0s

SCIENCE ON COTTON FARMS

Cotton farmers are constantly finding new ways to save resources and grow better and more cotton using less – less land, water, chemicals, time and money. To do so, they use science in their daily lives. Farmers work with scientists by offering part of their farm for research and trials and also give advice to the scientists on what issues need to be investigated to solve challenges they are experiencing.

MEET SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO GROW COTTON



Richie Quigley
Richie lives on a cutting-edge cotton farm near Trangie in New South Wales. In partnership with his parents and brothers, Richie also grows wheat, sorghum and cattle.
Watch: <http://youtu.be/2yEpXeBVg4>



Liz Lobsey
Liz grew up in Toowoomba, in southern Queensland. Now she is the right hand woman to many growers advising on how to produce the best crop.
Watch: <http://youtu.be/YWbVzdDXWho>



Ben Egan
Ben's family has been farming 'Kiameron', north of Warren for six generations.
Learn more at: <http://tinyurl.com/nmu7zmo>

COTTON CLASSROOM

Cotton Australia's Cotton Classroom site has information, lessons, units, education kits, classroom videos and presentations and much more. Visit at: <http://cottonaustralia.com.au/cotton-classroom>

To find out about more great people involved in the cotton industry visit <http://cottonaustralia.com.au/cotton-classroom/people-in-cotton>



COTTON AUSTRALIA