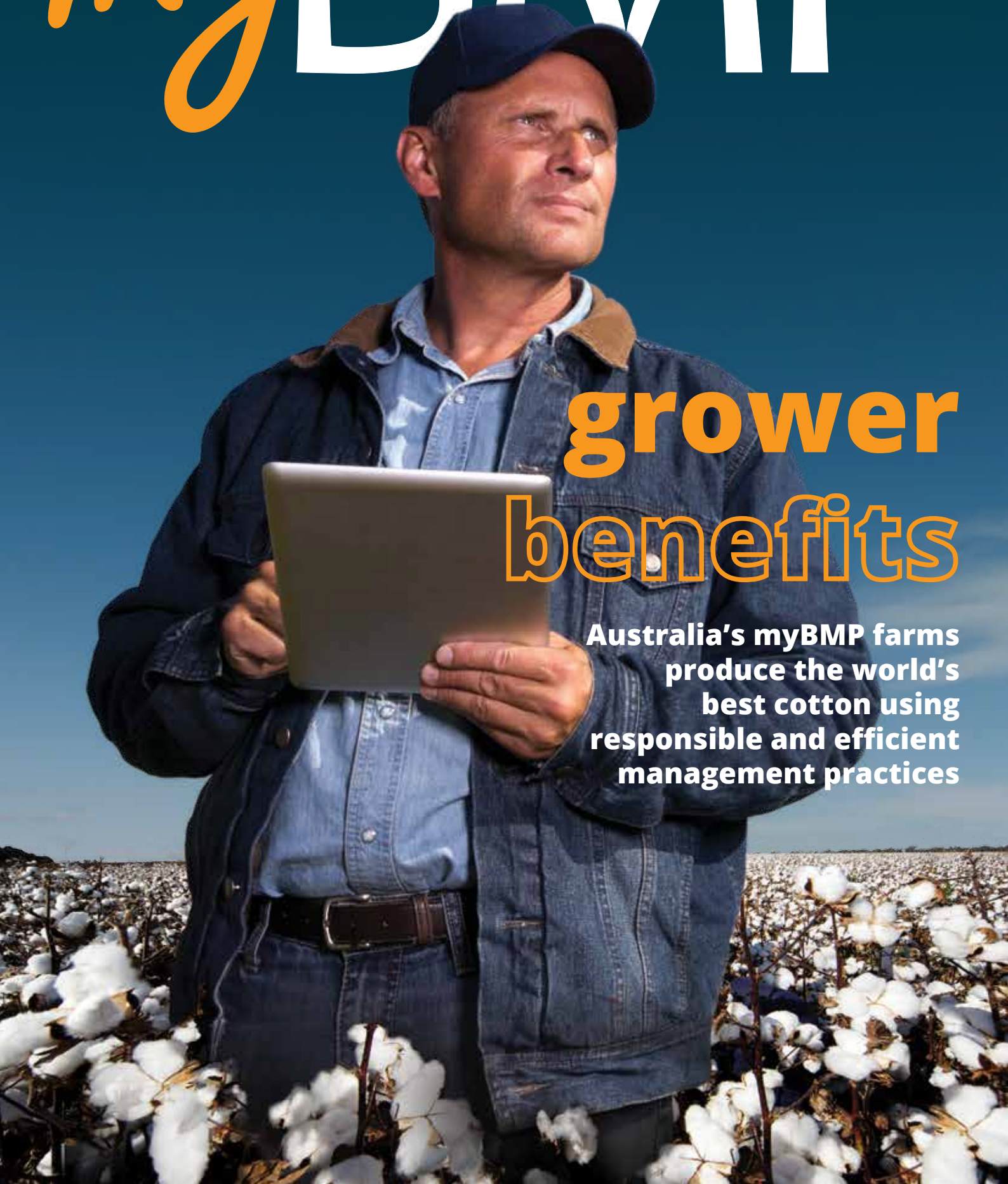


myBMP

grower benefits

Australia's myBMP farms
produce 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

“Individuals are now far more aware of and responsible for their actions and this has made the job of managing farm safety far easier.”

**Barb Grey - grower
Mungindi, Qld**

All farm staff were recently involved in reaching the certification standards of the myBMP program, which sharpened everyone's focus on the small things that needed to improve, including workplace health and safety outcomes.

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 the Better Cotton Initiative
- 2** More efficient and more profitable cotton businesses
- 3** Safer farm operations and safer workers
- 4** Responsible land management
- 5** Cutting-edge management practices

“To any farmers thinking about myBMP or about to start, it’s not as daunting as it first looks and the outcomes are definitely worth it.”

Vanessa Parkes - grower Carrathool, NSW

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.

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) – 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 the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI). Since 2014 many Australian cotton growers have been able to negotiate a premium for BCI cotton, representing a significant opportunity to leverage the sustainability investments made on farm.

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

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

grower case study

With **myBMP** certification completed in March 2015, the Gundaline farm in the NSW Riverina district was able to opt-in to the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) for the 2015-2016 season and sell its cotton as Better Cotton. Farm managers, Vanessa and Andrew Parkes, also found that completing myBMP had a number of other benefits, including making their farm safer and more efficient.

Vanessa and Andrew, along with Paul Mulcahy, manage 3000 hectares of cotton at the Gundaline farm at Carrathool, NSW. The Parkes family and their business, Customised Farm Management (CFM), have been working with cotton for over 20 years and have been managing the 15,000 hectare farm since the start of 2014. Gundaline is

one of six cotton farms managed by CFM. Vanessa says that Gundaline is the first of the six cotton farms to achieve myBMP certification.

“We joined myBMP because we wanted to follow industry standards and best practice. We want to be the best that we can be and to do this we see following industry standards through the myBMP program as paramount. We can also go to bed at night knowing that we are doing the right thing,” Vanessa says.

Gaining market access through BCI was also a major incentive to undertake myBMP. The Gundaline farm has also seen productivity gains and improved efficiencies since participation in myBMP began.

The myBMP process also increased awareness to many aspects of safe and sustainable farming. “We gained a better understanding of methods such as Come Clean, Go Clean,” Vanessa says.

“The biggest thing would be awareness of staff and visitor safety. This includes improving maps and locations of safety equipment, and having a pre-season meeting with our neighbours and agronomist,” Vanessa says. “From here, there will be continual maintenance and keeping up a high standard in areas such as diesel bunding, as well having plenty of safety signs and fire extinguishers,” Vanessa says.



“Through the myBMP program, we’ve reduced our reliance on pesticides by 95% in the last 15 years and just this last season I only sprayed for insects once, with a very soft control option.”

Mike Carberry - grower Narrabri, NSW

The other main area of environmental improvement has been in water use efficiency, with the Carberry family investing in a whole-of-farm study examining every drop of water.

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** - Avoidance, 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 (Natural Assets)** - 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 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:

**1800 COTTON
(1800 268 866)
admin@mybmp.com.au
myBMP.com.au**