

Maize Report 2018

The approaching season for summer crops at this stage is looking difficult however as we all know the weather can do anything any time. There is still time but signing contracts based on available water & price (water has hit \$400 + per meg in MIA) will be difficult. Maize does have a wide planting window depending on end use & in some cases access to grain drying facilities. Hopefully rain not far away.

On the association front we are waiting for reply from GRDC on our projects we put forward earlier in year. I know Liz is chasing this up & may have some news for us today. I think it is important the Association is involved with the environmental aspect of the industry in regards to keeping up with chemicals that we commonly use & their sustainability along with fertiliser use & efficiency/yield & the big one being water use efficiency/yield (I think this one would already be a positive surprise).

On a personnel note I think for the Maize industry to grow in Australia we need to target niche markets & end use with absolutely best quality product backed by our clean image targeting human consumption. However maize being the versatile crop it is there will always be a demand in the stock feed market for high quality grain or silage & this cannot be ignored. The difficulty in growing maize using irrigation water is it is priced against grains that are rain feed. Our only leverage we have to combat this is Maizes unique qualities/varieties/end uses (which I don't think has been highlighted enough) and extra yield (x fertiliser ratio) that can be generated by irrigating. Agronomic ally it has great rotational benefits which should be investigated more I believe.

Preparation is under way for 2019 summer grains conference to be held on the Gold Coast at the Royal Pines Resort. I extend an open invitation to the Maize community to get on board with this event. It is a great way to network with other summer croppers and their associated industry people and just plain old have a good time! We are always looking for people from maize industry to participate in the event. If you think you can demonstrate the benefits of your work with maize on farm, agronomic ally or industry and you think it would be of interest to others could you let us know please.

Once again a big thank you to Steve Wilson & Rob Johnston as they put in an enormous effort every time the conference rolls around to make sure the maize side of things is a success. Once again on behalf of the association a big thank you to Steve and Rob and everybody else involved.

To finish off I would like to take the time to thank our Executive Officer Liz Mann who does all the work in regards to keeping the association running. She does a great job across the board but special mention on her work sourcing articles for the Cobb. If you haven't read the Cobb I strongly recommend you Google Maize Association of Australia web page & follow top info bar to find the Cobb. It has some really good information in there and she continually comes up with informative articles. Please take the time to have a look and as they say it is a good read.

A big thank you to all involved in the Maize Industry with better times ahead

Bernie Walsh