

January 2010

Pixel Information Session

The first information session of 2010 will be held on Friday 29th January at the Haller Wealth Building – 15 Queen Street, Ayr. The information session will commence at 11.30am following the BBIFMAC General Meeting.



Reef Protection Officers Craig Cruickshank and Shane Hunter from the Department of Environment and Resource Management will kick off the information session with a presentation outlining the new Reef Protection legislation, including what growers are required to do to comply with the new legislation in the Burdekin.

Adam Connell and Kate Gosney from BBIFMAC will then be presenting the results from the last two years of monitoring during the Pixel project. This will include:

- Nitrate, Phosphate and EC results from creek sampling for the Lower Burdekin and Bowen regions.
- Nitrate and phosphate levels from farm samples collected in the BRIA, Delta and Bowen areas.
- Preliminary pesticide results from creeks sampled in the Lower Burdekin and Bowen regions.
- An overview of the results from the on-farm pesticide monitoring program.
- Specific farm examples of improved farm management using the WQ Pixel Project.
- A general update of project progress.

Growers in attendance will also be asked to make comment on the development of guidelines and a report card for atrazine and diuron specifically for on-farm monitoring.

The information session will also be a good chance to chat to other participants of the project and find out what other growers are doing.

BBIFMAC staff will happily answer any questions you may have during the session.

Finger food and light refreshments will be provided.

Please let BBIFMAC know if you are able to attend on 4783 4344 or email adam@bbifmac.org.au

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Sampling Rainfall Run-off

Although it has been a fairly dry start to the wet season we do encourage growers to monitor their water quality during rainfall runoff events as the more data you collect, the better control you will have over farm management practices.

It will also be interesting to see differences between rainfall runoff and irrigation runoff. However we understand the difficulties involved with sampling in wet conditions and we advise growers to only sample during these times if it is safe to do so and it will not damage farmland while accessing the site.

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Reef Wise Farming Website

The Department of Environment and Resource Management has created a website which has links to a variety of information including

- record keeping forms
- fertiliser information (including calculator and fact sheet),
- environmental risk management plan requirements
- chemical fact sheets
- soil testing requirements and instructions

and much more.

Go to www.reefwisefarming.qld.gov.au

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The WQ PIXEL Project is run by the Burdekin Bowen Integrated Floodplain Management Advisory Committee Inc (BBIFMAC) with funding from NQ Dry Tropics and the Federal Government through Caring For Our Country.

