



Namoi Valley Independent (Gunnedah)

Thursday 13/08/2009

Page: 2
Section: General News
Region: Gunnedah NSW, AU
Circulation: 3406
Type: Regional
Size: 281.16 sq.cms.



slice
slicemedia.com

press clip

Andrew is Monsanto's man in Breeza cotton

BREEZA farmer Andrew Pursehouse was named **Monsanto Grower of the Year** at the **Australian Cotton Industry Awards' dinner** in Narrabri last night – but he wasn't there to accept it.

When Breeza Station operations manager, Peter Baldo, phoned with the good news, Andrew and his wife Cynthia were visiting the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Andrew said he was proud and extremely excited to receive the award, paying tribute to his wife and family and the staff at Breeza Station.

"It has been a team effort and I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support," he said.

Adam Kay, CEO of Cotton Australia, was very impressed with the standard of this year's nominations.

"The awards continue to go from strength to strength and this year's finalists and winners are indicative of the incredible talent in our industry," he said.

"Their knowledge, innovation,

exceptional farming practices and strong commitment to our industry is outstanding. I congratulate them all on their achievements."

Andrew Pursehouse considers cotton the most exciting and profitable crop to grow on his property Breeza Station, and he believes that the "high risk and high reward" crop is well worth the challenge.

Andrew rotates cotton with grain crops, and a typical summer sequence on the irrigation land is two thirds cotton and one third corn.

To maximise crop quality, he maintains a high attention to detail to ensure quality issues are addressed, and uses an intensive agronomic service on Breeza Station that provides regular checks and records of each field and collates paddock histories.

Due to a reduction in groundwater allocations, Andrew has implemented a range of water use efficiency practices on Breeza Station including laser levelling on irrigation and dryland crop areas, long fallowing, and

implementing no-till and controlled traffic practices. He has also undertaken various soil improvement measures, and fenced off riparian and native vegetation areas.

Andrew is actively involved in the cotton community as President of the Breeza Progress Association, a member of the Upper Namoi Cotton Growers' Association and was President of the Upper Namoi Water Users' Association.

He has been involved in the NSW groundwater reallocation process and is committed to the ongoing success of the irrigation industry. Andrew has also participated in Cotton Seed Distributors' dryland variety trials and is a contributor with researchers from the Myall Vale Research Station.

Andrew believes that Australian cotton is some of the highest quality cotton in the world, and through research, investment and the work of committed growers, the industry will continue to improve in the years to come.



BREEZA Station operations manager, Peter Baldo, representing Andrew Pursehouse (winner of the 2009 Monsanto Grower of the Year Award), pictured with Bec Diprose from Monsanto, left, and Joanne Grainger, Chair, Cotton Australia.

Photo: Margot Palmer