R&D reform: your questions answered

Sugarcane growers scoop the pool at sustainability awards
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CHAIR’S COMMENT

I was delighted to be invited to join the Thai industry in Bangkok over the June long weekend to celebrate a magnificent achievement, their production of 10 million tonnes of sugar for the first time after just missing that milestone last year.

Alf Cristaudo,
CANEGROWERS Chair

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EDITOR’S DESK

The crushing season is now under way in the majority of regions. Fine weather experienced has assisted the harvest to start in earnest, and we hope it continues.

This edition of the magazine features more information on the research and development reforms, with three pages of points, frequently asked questions and a ‘you ask, we respond’ feature, starting from page 12.

The ‘sugar is toxic’ debate has been raging in the media again, once again brought to the fore by Channel Nine’s 60 Minutes program, which featured American research. We bust some myths on page 9.

This magazine also features the Rossi brother’s sugarcane operation from the Cairns region. These three brothers work hard to implement the newest technology, but adapt it to really make it their own. For more, see page 16.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Jasmine Hunt

Media Watch

When you’re hot, you’re hot: sugar headlining for all the right and wrong reasons

By CANEGROWERS Communications Manager, Suzi Moore

It’s been an interesting rollercoaster of good news stories which have reported sugarcane growers up there as some of the best farmers in the State and shock reporting as a fringe US researcher grabbed primetime television coverage this month demonising sugar as toxic.

Sweet poison, or a natural part of a balanced diet

The phones ran hot after an uninformed program run by 60 Minutes singled out and demonised sugar as ‘sweet poison’. Growers were horrified and affronted when the crop they have grown, as their father and grandfather before them, was described as a killer far worse than any drug.

CANEGROWERS wrote to 60 Minutes, voicing disappointment that a show many Australians have enjoyed over the years, made a decision to portray the views of a fringe researcher - who is clearly going against the grain of the scientific community - as fact.

Here is a guy who has grabbed headlines by selling a quick-fix for weight loss and health problems.

It’s just the latest in a series of attacks on food - in the last few years we’ve seen attacks on red meat, fruit, eggs, potatoes to name a few - and these foods have always been vindicated by science who agree nutrition is about a balanced diet. Excessive consumption of just about anything is not good for anyone. These simplistic solutions, like singling out just one component of our diet, is unhelpful and will not solve the problem.

It pays to keep in mind that this research was done in the United States which has a very different demographic - very different from Australia. As Steve Greenwood was quick to point out, a quick check by the researcher would have revealed that consumption of sugar in Australia is declining - a drop of 23% since 1980 - however obesity has doubled and diabetes has tripled in this time. This does not support a correlation between sugar and obesity here in Australia.

Clean sweep of sugarcane growers, finalists in State sustainability award

All eyes have turned to the sugarcane industry which has dominated in the prestigious awards by the Queensland Government for farming sustainably. All three finalists in the rural category of the Premier’s Sustainability Awards 2012 were sugarcane growers. Canegrowers Doug and Kim Rasmussen from Mossman, Ray and Rosemary Vicarioli from Bartle Frere and Paul and Donna Marbelli were all recognised for projects, innovations and practices that were leading the way in farm sustainability.

CANEGROWERS had nominated each of the finalists. They all said they were amazed at winning for just doing their job. They said they didn’t think they were doing anything special and said they thought many growers in their districts were using similar techniques.

The key for CANEGROWERS is using the stories of a few of its growers to show the massive change which has taken place in the Australian sugarcane industry. Importantly, these awards are run by the Queensland Government and the message that sugarcane not only featured in the rural category - but dominated it - is an important message as CANEGROWERS lobbies to unwind regulation and revert to more a practical system based on best management practice.

Golden tips

State Government announces ‘Everyone’s Environment’ grants

The State Government has announced $12 million in grants under the Everyone’s Environment initiative. It aims to support community groups to take action to improve their local environment. The three-year program will provide grants between $2000 and $100,000 for a range of local environmental initiatives including: tree-planting and land restoration; community and waterway clean-ups; run-off reduction and water quality improvement; enhancement of the natural beauty of local communities; monitoring pollutants in streams.

The opening date for applications is 1 July 2012. For information visit www.ehp.qld.gov.au.

By CANEGROWERS Communications Manager, Suzi Moore
CANEGROWERS engages in discussion with Mitr Phol on marketing

By CANEGROWERS Chair
Alf Cristaudo

The Thai and Australian sugar industries have developed a close relationship. Over many years we have engaged in a dialogue and participated in regular reciprocal visits. We worked together and with Brazil in the successful challenge taken in the World Trade Organisation against European Union export subsidies and have developed a great deal of mutual trust and respect.

I was delighted to be invited to join the Thai industry in Bangkok over the June long weekend to celebrate a magnificent achievement, their production of 10 million tonnes of sugar for the first time after just missing that milestone last year. The significance of this achievement was not in the 10 million number itself but the fact that two years ago production was at 7.5 million tonnes and the industry has had the capacity to accommodate such a huge increase in tonnage and crush the whole crop during their season. The investment made in earlier times has ensured that when the wheel turned and the planets lined up they were able to capitalise on the opportunity that came their way.

The increase in value of sugarcane above cassava and rice saw a move away from these crops (particularly cassava which had suffered setbacks with disease and drop in productivity), to grow sugarcane as an alternative higher value crop. Considering the logistics involved with transport and delivery of the cane to factories (growers deliver cane to the mills at their own cost) the Thai industry deserves to be congratulated. It will be interesting to see if this production shift continues with more rice and cassava land converted to sugarcane.

As well as expanding at home, the Thai industry has invested in sugar assets in the Asia-Pacific region, most recently in Australia. Mitr Phol, the largest milling company in Thailand, made headlines earlier this year with its purchase of MSF sugar assets. This followed MSF’s takeover of Mulgrave and more recent acquisition of Bundaberg Sugar’s milling assets.

Mitr Phol has a strong record of working closely with its growers in Thailand as it develops its business. Mitr Phol’s underlying business philosophy reflects its understanding of the importance of responding to grower issues and concerns. We are encouraging the company to bring that philosophy to their Australian acquisition, MSF, as we work together to evaluate the QSL value proposition, involve growers in the decision on how the sugar in which they have such a strong economic interest is marketed, and in doing so address growers’ concerns flowing from MSF’s unilateral decision to withdraw from QSL.

As the new owners of MSF, Mitr Phol has agreed to seriously evaluate the QSL value proposition. Growers will appreciate news that they have agreed to do this as soon as possible. CANEGROWERS has offered our assistance to facilitate this evaluation process.

I certainly believe that QSL can deliver value and lower costs and Mitr Phol would benefit if they agreed to QSL performing their marketing function.

Season under way

In other news, the crushing season is now under way with the first of the mills having kicked off crushing last month. We can only hope this fine weather stays on for the next few months and gives us a good start to the season.

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Looking for a deal that is as sweet as sugar?
ACCC to launch carbon claims hotline

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) launched its new ACCC Carbon Price Claims Hotline last fortnight.

The ACCC says it is concerned consumers may be duped into accepting a price increase for a product or service because of the carbon price, when the carbon price is actually not the cause.

“The ACCC Carbon Price Claims Hotline, 1300 303 609, and online carbon price claim form, will make it easier for consumers and business to complain if they suspect false price claims are being made about the carbon price,” ACCC chairman Rod Sims said.

“Through the Carbon Price Claims Hotline, the ACCC invites complaints about false or misleading carbon price claims.”

“While businesses are free to set their own prices, if they make claims about the impact of the carbon price these need to be truthful and have a reasonable basis.”

To report a claim or for further information on the ACCC’s role in relation to carbon price claims and a range of associated publications for businesses and consumers, visit www.accc.gov.au/carbon

Suspect claims can also be reported on 1300 303 609.

Blueprint for Australian Agriculture: Four weeks left to contribute

There are now only four weeks remaining for input into the Blueprint for Australian Agriculture.

Those who are yet to input into the Blueprint have been encouraged by the NFF to do so by Friday 13 July 2012, when opportunities to provide comment will close. Members are asked to pass this information on to their members and networks.

Getting involved in the Blueprint is simple: complete the online survey or interact via two online web-based seminars, one at 5:30 pm on Thursday 5 July, and one at 5:30 pm on Monday 9 July. For details on all, visit www.nff.org.au/blueprint or call the NFF on 02 6269 5666.

AgriFood Skills 2012 Environmental Scan launched

Attracting new workers to the agrifood industry and building skill levels across the sector are among the challenges identified in a new report launched by the federal government last fortnight.

Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Sid Sidebottom officially launched the AgriFood Skills Australia 2012 Environmental Scan at an event in Canberra.

The AgriFood Skills 2012 Environmental Scan – Disruption or evolution: The challenge facing agrifood’s employers in a time of structural adjustment – is the fifth annual report into the skills and training needs of the agrifood sector.

It identifies four areas for priority action:

- Attraction of new workers.
- Increasing skills levels across the workforce.
- Sharing widely the benefits of research, innovation and new technology.
- Improving the retention and skills use of the existing workforce.

“Clearly we need a cultural shift in the way we go about promoting the industry, attracting and retaining a workforce and providing relevant training and skills,” Mr Sidebottom said.

For more information about AgriFood Skills Australia and to view the 2012 Environmental Scan visit www.agrifoodskills.net.au.

Macroeconomic uncertainty and stocks sour sugar markets – Rabobank

The uncertain global macroeconomic environment continues to impact commodity markets – and the sugar sector is not exempt according to Rabobank.

Rabobank sugar analyst Tracey Allen says New York sugar futures have declined sharply in recent months, driven by a combination of factors.

On the fundamentals side, the progress of key harvests in India and Thailand have added to the growing consensus that the 2012/13 international crop year is likely to register a second consecutive surplus that Rabobank estimates at 8.1 million tonnes.

“Meanwhile the ongoing Eurozone crisis continues to tarnish investor confidence,” Ms Allen says.

“Clearly such projections are preliminary and depend on assumptions regarding weather conditions – and there is an assumption of normal weather patterns. This is something that may also be called into question in coming months if recent concerns regarding a return of El Niño in the second half of 2012 prove justified.”

With favourable growing conditions this year in most regions, cane yields and sugar content are expected to rise.

“Growing season conditions have been favourable, however the latest rainfall outlook from Australia’s weather bureau suggests that a wetter-than-normal winter could be ahead for cane-growing areas,” Ms Allen says.

“Rain has already delayed the start of the crush and the priority this season is to get as much cane off as soon as possible.

“Meanwhile, normal daytime temperatures can be expected, and while this outlook presents the preliminary risk of some early delays during the crush, most harvesters will be equipped to manage wet conditions.”
Queensland government promises protection for reef

The Queensland Government will undertake a "strategic assessment" of the Great Barrier Reef to ensure coastal development is planned properly and doesn’t compromise environmental standards.

This announcement follows ongoing argument between the Queensland and federal government over Reef management issues over the last week.

In a media conference last week, Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke was critical of the LNP Government’s approach to the approvals for the Alpha Coal project in central Queensland, and associated port development at Abbot Point.

He said he was dissatisfied with the Queensland Government report on the development, while Premier Campbell Newman said Minister Burke was playing politics with the issue. Following this, Queensland Farmers’ Federation CEO Dan Galligan, along with many other business and industry leaders, met with Premier Newman to discuss the Queensland Government’s priorities in streamlining major project approvals.

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Sugarcane growers have once again been recognised for their environmental credentials with north Queensland cane grower Doug Rasmussen awarded the State’s top award for sustainability (rural category) last Friday night.

At the Premier’s Sustainability Awards ceremony in Brisbane, three sugarcane growers were chosen as finalists of the Rural Award, with Mr Rasmussen taking out the winning trophy.

Surprised, yet delighted with his win, Mr Rasmussen said the award showed the State that sugarcane growers were putting in place techniques designed to reduce the impact of farming on the environment.

“I was surprised and excited to win the award in a category with such worthy candidates - I had to pinch myself to make sure it wasn’t a dream,” he said.

“I really didn’t think I had done anything special, I was just doing what is the right thing to do. The perception that farmers have scant regard for the environment is outdated – it’s just not true.”

Mr Rasmussen caught the judges’ eye for his efforts in creating sediment traps on his Mossman farm - shifting topsoil and laser levelling each block when it becomes vacant so rainfall travels slowly and evenly to the sediment trap. Mr Rasmussen has used a laser-leveller on all fallow blocks since 2007, and pinpoints the location of the sediment traps so any topsoil washed away during the wet season is captured and can be applied to the areas which are situated lower. The use of filter mud has reduced fertiliser use where it is applied by 25%.

CANEGROWERS CEO Steve Greenwood said the awards highlighted the effort farmers invest in protecting the environment, by utilising new and sustainable techniques.

“Australia’s sugarcane growers are the most innovative in the world and by winning this award, Mr Rasmussen and
the other sugarcane finalists have shown that they are also some of the most innovative farmers in Queensland,” said Mr Greenwood.

“After years of working hard to reduce the impact of farming on the environment, sugarcane growers’ enviro-cred is only just coming to pass, and awards like these help recognise this. I congratulate Mr Rasmussen and the finalists on their significant achievement.”

The Premier’s Sustainability Awards were developed as a state-wide program to recognise the achievements of Queenslanders in actively reducing carbon emissions and taking action towards the abatement of climate change.

Although current Premier Campbell Newman could not attend the awards ceremony, the Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, Andrew Powell, was on hand to present the winners’ trophies.

In his acceptance speech, Mr Rasmussen thanked the Premier and Minister for the award, and also the sponsors of the Rural Award, Australian Country Choice and Coles who had been enduring sponsors, continuing to recognise rural sustainability in what is principally a city and development centric awards arena.

Finalists in the Rural Award category were Ingham sugarcane grower Paul Marbelli and Babinda grower Ray Vicarioli.

Mr Marbelli and Mr Vicarioli were both local winners of the CANEGROWERS Sugarcane Grower of the Year awards in 2011, with Mr Vicarioli also the overall Australian winner.

Left: Rosemary and Ray Vicarioli, who were finalists in the rural category.
Middle: Kim and Doug Rasmussen, who won the Premier’s Sustainability Award.
Right: Paul and Donna Marbelli were also finalists in the rural category.

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Brazil – perhaps the party’s over

By CANEGROWERS
Head - Economics
Warren Males

The world is entering its third year of global surplus. Occurring in a year when production in Centre-South Brazil is struggling to surpass last year’s 496 million tonnes of cane, it begs the question – how quickly will CS-Brazil’s production recover?

It is clear that Brazil has a cane production issue. UNICA’s initial production estimate last year (2011-12) was for cane production to reach 568 million tonnes of cane, making 34.6 million tonnes of sugar and 25.5 billion litres of ethanol. As the season progressed it became clear that the production target would not be reached. After a challenging harvest, just 493 million tonnes of cane were processed.

To maintain sugar production, mills aggressively reduced their production of hydrous ethanol - the least remunerative product. In the end 31.3 million tonnes of sugar and 20 billion litres of ethanol were made.

The current (2012-13) harvest is proving to be no less challenging. UNICA’s initial estimate was for 509 million tonnes of cane, to produce 33.1 million tonnes of sugar and 21.5 billion litres of ethanol. Others are not so sure and it’s been a very wet start. Canaplan suggests the harvest may be just 470 million tonnes of cane.

What’s gone wrong?

Brazil’s spectacular production growth was driven by ethanol, the availability of easy credit and unbridled optimism. Installed crushing capacity reached 620 million tonnes of cane. Then came the global financial crisis. Everything changed!

Many cash strapped mills could not borrow to reinvest in the field. Replanting slowed; for some it stopped. Across CS-Brazil, the ratoons were getting older.

The average age is now more than four years, many ratoons are much older. This increased the vulnerability of the crop to pests and diseases. As this was happening, there was little money to invest in new farm production systems to support the switch from hand to mechanical harvesting.

The inevitable happened. Farm yields collapsed, from around 90 t/ha to 69 t/ha. Yields are not expected to rebound this year. Loss of throughput has caused a sharp increase in average production costs, making it more difficult for producers to borrow, further weakening their financial structure. In the last few years at least 26 CS-Brazil mills have not crushed any cane. Many others are operating well below capacity.

In a tougher credit environment, cane expansion appears to have taken a back seat. The cheapest way to make more sugar is to make less ethanol. Aware of this, Brazil’s government has moved ethanol regulation from the Agricultural Ministry to the Energy Ministry.

"Change is happening, but its pace is slow. It takes time to repair balance sheets and restructure operations. It takes time and money to renovate crops and set up farms systems to cope with mechanical harvesting."

In the meantime, cane and beet expansion is happening elsewhere. Four new mills are being built in Thailand and, with sugarcane prices better than dryland rice and tapioca, cane areas are increasing.

There is significant new investment in Australia. Wilmar, COFCO and Mitr Phol have demonstrated their confidence in our industry. Their investments are not limited to the factory. Each is working to increase agricultural production and throughput.

Perhaps the party is shifting to the Asia-Pacific region.
CANEGROWERS dismisses toxic sugar claim: Irrelevant

CANEGROWERS has dismissed toxic sugar claims made by a United States researcher on Channel Nine's 60 Minutes program last fortnight as irrelevant.

“The assumption’s based on a US demographic – it simply doesn’t apply here in Australia, and if they’d bothered to fact-check it for Australian conditions, they would have realised that,” says CANEGROWERS CEO, Steve Greenwood.

“Consumption in Australia is declining – a drop of 23% since 1980 – however obesity has doubled and diabetes has tripled in this time – this does not support a correlation between sugar and obesity here in Australia.”

CANEGROWERS has told media the US study shown on the 60 Minutes program doesn’t apply in Australia. Mr Greenwood said social conditions here are different, and around 80% of sugar produced in Australia is sold to overseas markets.

“Australia exports the majority of its sugar production – the vast majority to the burgeoning Asian market,” he said.

CANEGROWERS has reiterated that nutrition is about a balanced diet.

“Singling out one component of our diet is unhelpful and will not solve the problem,” said Mr Greenwood.

“This is about energy-in, energy out. Picking on a food and demonising is not a pragmatic or informed approach.”

The ‘sugar is toxic’ debate has been a hot topic in the media for the past four years, since the release of writer David Gillespie’s book, Sweet Poison.

CANEGROWERS has consistently agreed with the sentiments by leading Australian nutritionists and organisations that a balanced diet is the healthiest.

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) says on their website that it is “simplistic and unhelpful to blame sugar alone for rising rates of obesity and other related health problems across the world”.

DAA goes further to say:

“Weight gain is caused by eating more energy (or kilojoules) than is used up in physical activity. So to achieve and maintain a healthy weight, the focus needs to be on eating fewer kilojoules and moving more.

When it comes to sugar, DAA supports the recommendations of the Australian Dietary Guidelines which are:

- To eat only moderate amounts of sugars, and
- To limit those foods that are high in added sugar and low in nutrition – such as carbonated soft drinks, confectionery, cakes and biscuits.

A healthy diet involves eating a wide variety of nutritious foods – while occasionally still being able to enjoy small amounts of foods containing added sugar. Labelling sugar as ‘toxic’ and ‘addictive’ and placing it in the same boat as alcohol is incorrect and misleading.

Sadly, when it comes to reporting on nutrition DAA has heard many sensationalist stories before. Not unlike fad diets, these reports often appear cyclically like the proverbial ‘bad penny’. Rather than focussing on the results of a single study or opinion piece, DAA bases its recommendations on the best science available at the time.”

Nutrition Australia has also posted an article on their website disputing the claims by writer David Gillespie that fructose, and therefore sugar, is toxic.

Nutrition Australia says:

“Unfortunately, Sweet Poison is based on gross misinterpretation and neglect of key aspects of the nutrition-related scientific literature. Moreover, the advice contained within is inconsistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Australians published by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), and with the NHMRC guidelines for treatment and prevention of obesity which emphasise the importance of physical activity in weight control.

In fact, Sweet Poison is replete with errors and dubious claims. Though strong evidence suggest that excessive consumption of sucrose (and therefore fructose) is harmful to health, no evidence supports that claim that added fructose is a poison at any dose. This is recognised in the advice given by all national and international health authorities to limit (not avoid) intake of sugars and sweetened foods.

Many Australians eat excessive quantities of sugar and would benefit from reducing their intake of sweetened foods and drinks. However, total avoidance is unnecessary, and there is no evidence to support Gillespie’s claim that ‘Every day that fructose remains a part of our diet, is a death sentence for thousands of Australians’.

Sweet Poison is not a reliable source of information regarding the effects of fructose on body weight and health.”

CANEGROWERS will continue to monitor this issue in the media.

For more information on the mentioned articles, visit www.daa.asn.au and www.nutritionaustralia.org ■
Prices declined during the early part of this reporting period (4 to 15 June) but climbed back to just above the US20c/lb mark at the end of the fortnight. Prices on the global market are being impacted by the global economic outlook as well as the fundamental surplus on the market.

During the second week of this reporting period we saw a significant increase in price volatility, with seasonal factors, particularly in Brazil, starting to come into play as they often do at this time of year. The July'12 contract opened at US19.06c/lb on Monday 4 June and closed at US20.84c/lb on Friday 15 June.

China imports and Brazil weather playing a key role

By QSL Executive Manager, Sugar Marketing, Simon Burgess

Analysts have noted two key factors driving market behaviour and price volatility in this reporting period are seasonal conditions and China’s purchasing activity.

Centre-South (CS) Brazil has experienced heavy rain that is disrupting both the harvest and the shipping program. Logistical difficulties can occur regularly in this region, and combined with the poor weather which is impacting on the actual volume of sugar being produced, traders have developed concerns about the accessibility of shipments scheduled for early July. Analysts noted this led to a lot of market activity, particularly in the trade of the July short position.

China has also played a key role in the market during the past fortnight. Reports this week indicated that with its strong appetite for sugar at the moment, China may relieve some of the pressure on prices if it continues to import raw sugar.

In recent market activity, China appears to have made larger than expected purchases for June and July delivery and analysts have noted the lower prices on the global market at the moment are a strong incentive for China to import sugar to rebuild depleted stocks.

Other importers are also taking advantage of the lower prices to rebuild stocks at this time.

Thailand beats expectations on crop

Although Brazil is experiencing some seasonal difficulties, Thailand is on track to produce a record quantity of sugar in 2012-13. It is expected its total production will exceed 10.24 million tonnes (the total volume produced in 2011-12) and exports could reach eight million tonnes.

This is a significant turnaround from earlier reports which suggested Thailand may face a reduced crop due to drought. However, the Thai Sugar Millers Corporation has noted that rains have now arrived which is benefitting Thailand’s key cane growing areas.
Maximising returns with sugar from around the world

By Greg Beashel, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

Last column I discussed QSL’s other origin sugar program, why we need to source and supply sugar from countries other than Australia, and how the program is really about maximising returns, meeting customer demand and maintaining long-term, sustainable business partnerships.

This column I will explain how the other origin sugar program helps us maximise returns for members and answer some other common questions.

QSL’s sales into the Asian region, where we export the majority of our sugar, command higher premiums than other markets. When Australian sugar cannot meet the region’s existing demand, sourcing sugar from other origins helps us increase our sales volumes to the region and helps us to position Australian sales against highest priced shipment positions. The profits from these increased sales are passed back to members in the form of reduced marketing fees and operational costs.

QSL’s core objective is to maximise returns for members, so we only sell sugar from other origins when there is the opportunity to generate revenue for members. We have a policy in place to ensure this core objective is always supported and this policy guides all activities.

As we know, the structural supply deficit in Asia and the moving supply demand situation in each of the shipment positions listed on the futures market means there are strong premiums on offer in Asia and values for delivery months will move over time.

We view this as likely to continue, so the other origin sugar program is an important growth opportunity that will complement our core business. The program continues to evolve and we now have processes in place to oversee foreign ship loading which helps preserve the quality and integrity of this sugar.

Some questions about this program have been raised in the past, so I’ll answer a few of the most common.

Does supplying foreign sugar lower the reputation of Australian sugar?

Australian raw sugar has a well-deserved reputation for premium quality that we take seriously. QSL has a series of robust quality assurance and control safeguards in place to monitor the quality of our product. We apply controls to all sugar to so that all sugar meets our customers’ expectations.

As I mentioned before, QSL has a policy in place to only source and supply sugar from other origins when there is a clear opportunity to generate revenue for our members. This ensures QSL does not pursue sales that have an unacceptable potential to incur losses. There are a number of robust risk management practices overseeing this program.

Is QSL helping foreign sugar industries by exposing customers to other origin sugar?

QSL only sources and supplies sugar from other origins when it helps us meet clear customer demand that cannot be filled with existing volumes of Australian raw sugar. This helps us maintain our long-term, high-value customer relationships for the benefit of our members. Australian raw sugar remains a premium product and our customers’ exposure to foreign sugar does not change that.
Research Reform Update

Are you ready to vote? Read up on why a YES vote is all-important to the future of the Australian sugarcane industry

In early August 2012, CANEGROWERS will be calling on every sugarcane grower to vote in Sugar Poll 2012, to form a new, stronger research body.

It is only a few weeks before you receive information about the election process, but CANEGROWERS is adamant that it is important that every grower votes in the forthcoming election – and vote YES – so we thought we would get a head start and answer the seven most frequently asked questions about the reforms.

Years of extensive research and consultation has gone into what we believe to be the best way forward for the sugarcane industry – formation of a new sugar Industry Owned Company, Sugar Research Australia.

CANEGROWERS has been at the heart of the reform process every step of the way. Your organisation says the changes being put forward are the best outcome and mark an exciting time for the industry as we move to modernise our old research structures in order to better service the needs of our again growing industry. CANEGROWERS fully supports the proposed reforms and believes they are critical to the strength of the Australian sugar industry into the future. Now it’s your turn to ensure this important reform gets up. In August, CANEGROWERS is calling on every grower to VOTE, and to VOTE YES in Sugar Poll 2012.

Steve Greenwood. CANEGROWERS CEO

The changes being put forward are the result of years of extensive research and consultation into the best model for the sugarcane industry, and CANEGROWERS has been at the heart of the reform process - on behalf of its members - every step of the way.

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sugar poll

Early July:
You will receive a first letter explaining the poll and postal voting.

Late July:
Information pack to all growers.

Early August:
You will receive the AEC voting papers.

Late August:
Postal vote deadline is by Friday, 31 August 2012.

This August it will be over to cane growers across Australia to form a wall of solidarity and get behind strengthening the future of their industry by voting YES in Sugar Poll 2012. CANEGROWERS fully supports the proposed reforms and believes they are critical to the strength of the Australian sugar industry into the future. Not voting could see Australia slowly left behind in the race to develop new technologies. A YES vote is a vote to keep Australia ahead of the game in the competitive world market for sugar. Photography by Eve McDonald BSES Limited
Research reform: Get your answers to the 7 most asked questions here

1. More: research and varieties
Why you should vote and vote YES:

- The variety, breeding and biosecurity programs will be maintained and enhanced over time.
- More research funding will be available.

If you don’t vote, you risk:

× Growers would have to pay significantly more than the current BSES fees and SRDC levies – for no additional benefit.

2. Funding: mills to pay their fair share
Why you should vote and vote YES:

- Mills will be required by law to pay their fair share of levies for research, development and extension.
- A compulsory statutory levy would be paid equally by growers and millers (35 cents/tonne each in place of the current fees for BSES and levy for SRDC).

If you don’t vote, you risk:

× There not being another opportunity where mills agree to be bound by law to contribute equally.
× Some mills will continue to simply not pay their fair share.

3. Influence: a direct say
Why you should vote and vote YES:

- Growers will have a direct vote on how much they pay for research, development and extension.

If you don’t vote, you risk:

× The decision on how much growers pay for research, development and extension will continue to be made by others.

4. Extension: locally driven and more effective
Why you should vote and vote YES:

- The creation of a well resourced and professional extension information group, which will make research outcomes available to all researchers, extension officers and growers.
- Growers will have far greater control over the extent and quality of extension services provided in their district.
- More focused workshops, seminars, field days and more local experts with sugar industry knowledge.

If you don’t vote, you risk:

× A declining system, which is not working efficiently, and losing money.

5. Better: for research and researchers
Why you should vote and vote YES:

- All information on research and extension will be freely available to everyone in the industry.
- Selection of research projects will be determined by a highly skilled, industry-driven funding panel, guided by a single, focused strategic plan.
- Sugar Research Australia will retain and attract high quality research staff in a rock-solid organisation providing career certainty.

If you don’t vote, you risk:

× Selection of research projects will continue to be less coordinated and not as focused on industry priorities.
× Continued funding uncertainty would lead to lack of career security and hinder our ability to attract and keep the best and brightest scientific minds.

6. Every dollar: fully targeted, accountable, measurable
Why you should vote and vote YES:

- Every dollar directed to research will be spent on research - keeping Australia at the cutting edge of technology.

If you don’t vote, you risk:

× A continuation of lower levels of funding for key research priorities for our industry.
× A research program that has significant financial challenges and limitations.

7. Proven: system in agriculture
Why you should vote and vote YES:

- There are already nine similar research and development organisations that operate successfully, including meat and dairy among others.

If you don’t vote, you risk:

× Our industry falling behind in technology and innovation compared to other commodities and other countries.
× Continued inefficiency with research organisations going in different directions.

Don’t forget that the changes to localise extension out from under BSES’ roof are happening regardless of the outcome of Sugar Poll 2012. This was a business decision by BSES which has addressed an ongoing issue of all growers paying for on-farm extension, with only a minority of growers using it.

The proposed reforms will significantly boost information transfer to local providers.
You ask, we answer: R&D Reforms

Letter to the editor

I recently attended a presentation in the Burdekin Civic Theatre by the Sugar Reform RD&E group and a very comprehensive presentation it was. However, unfortunately, they ran out of time and we did not get to hear all of the questions and suggestions that the growers had.

I have for a number of years, been an advocate of reform of the BSES and SRDC and believe that growers missed an opportunity to take full ownership of a new BSES and incorporating SRDC when deregulation happened.

A couple of aspects that I have extreme concern about came to light during questions at the Burdekin presentation:

- Because it is proposed that the three groups, BSES, SRDC and SRI be combined, the millers proposed 35¢ per tonne is actually 30¢ because they were paying approximately 54¢ to SRI.
- As a result of doing more milling research than previously because of SRI being rolled in to the new SRA (Sugar Research Australia), there will be a lot of in-house arguments as to where the research money goes. This can be time consuming, wasteful and delay needed research and potentially create more angst between grower and miller.
- Is research money going to be spent on projects that growers don’t get any monetary gain from, eg. bagasse products (co-gen, paper or whatever) or that for projects that may give the millers better recoveries etc?
- A question was asked and during the response, it was stated that the new SRA Board would not be a representative board and that it would be a commercial company and that a commercial board could make a profit. I was not aware that a representative board were not allowed by ASIC to make a profit. The problem I have with SRA not being a representative board is that the grower representatives will be threatened by the rest of the SRA board with disclosing any information to their members but miller directors would be telling the millers almost every thing that is happening at the SRA Board level.
- Mention was made during the presentation of other primary industries, eg. dairy, that have adopted the Industry Owned Company principle. However, on reflection, there was no mention made on the issue as to whether the dairy processors pay a similar levy as their farmers pay.

I would expect that the above concerns are similar to other grower concerns and that the proponents of the SRA alter the process where needed so that SRA is a representative board.

Tom Callow
Past Canegrower Rep – various positions.

Response to your queries

By CANEGROWERS Chief Policy Officer, Bernard Milford

The Editor has asked me to provide some points in response to some of the questions raised in the previous letter, which will be of benefit to others with similar queries, as follows:

- Research spending in the new structure will be allocated according to industry priorities. There will be indicative percentages so that funds can be allocated across programs such as varieties, plant breeding, biosecurity, farming systems and so on. The current plan is that an indicative 10 -15% would go to milling and supply – which is the full value chain from harvesting to the mill. Arguments about what goes where will be avoided by using an independent Research Funding Panel, separate from the SRA Board. And, no project is guaranteed of funding; each will have to stack up as feasible and likely to produce positive results. If a proposal to work on bagasse comes through these hoops, it is likely to be funded, just as a proposal to work on a new pest would be.
- SRA will not be a commercial entity; it will have the singular focus to complete excellent research for the Australian sugar industry. Its board will be independent – there will not be grower or miller members on it, although there must be people with growing and milling expertise. This is the industry’s wish and a government requirement for forming an IOC. The board will have the duty to report to the whole industry, both through direct contact, through the delegates (there will be a grower and miller delegate from each mill area) and through the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance (ASMC) and CANEGROWERS.
- Dairy processors do not contribute to the dairy levy – the fact that millers and growers will share the statutory levy in the sugar industry is a big plus. Not only does it assure funding into the future, it also demonstrates that mills, by voting for the levy, recognise the importance of research in maintaining a profitable and productive growing sector.
CANEGROWERS Board approves structured international investment policy

By Jonathan Pavetto – Policy Officer

At its June meeting, the CANEGROWERS Board endorsed an official policy on international investment that maps out a direction for this investment in the Australian sugarcane industry. The policy is to ensure that international investment will result in the best outcomes for sugarcane growers, the broader industry and the communities that depend on the prosperity of the sugarcane production.

The CANEGROWERS policy is consistent with the policy of the National Farmers’ Federation in relation to the Foreign Investment Review Board; however the CANEGROWERS policy goes into greater detail on two key policy areas: the “National Interest Test” for the sugarcane industry and that of ownership of land where this may not be in grower’s.

For the grower, the best and most efficient milling sector is the most desirable outcome, irrespective of the nature of its ownership. The injection of capital into the milling sector and more efficient management are vital for surviving in an exposed and volatile global sugar market. But, in an industry as heavily interconnected as the Australian sugarcane industry, it is important that the owners of the milling infrastructure are willing to operate for the best outcomes of the whole industry.

The CANEGROWERS international investment policy aims to achieve this outcome, ensuring respect for industry structures such as independent pricing through QSL and ongoing support for equal funding of vital industry research.

CANEGROWERS’ position on the issue of international investment in both milling and land assets is now clear. We will continue to support investment in the Australian sugarcane industry but will call on the Foreign Investment Review Board to increase their transparency of their dealings with foreign companies.

CANEGROWERS will take this policy position to appropriate bodies such as NFF, Treasury (which operates the FIRB), DFAT and the political sphere.

CANEGROWERS supports increased investment in the Australian sugar industry, including international investors, subject to:

- The lowering of the international investment review cumulative threshold to $50 million to capture reporting requirements to FIRB of all sales of mill and associated assets.
- Expanding the current automatic international investment reporting that exists for residential real estate to encapsulate agricultural land.
- FIRB providing increased compliance and enforcement of its undertakings.
- Increased transparency of FIRB decisions.
- Recognition that the National Interest test should take into account the unique interconnectedness of the sugar industry.
- Milling companies being restricted from the ownership of land and water where this is not in growers’ interests, particularly by State-owned entities.

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Building their own machinery works wonders for Gordonvale brothers

Photos by Jasmine Hunt.

By Jasmine Hunt

We often hear that Australian sugarcane growers are some of the most innovative and inventive farmers in the world. It’s bandied around quite often, but it’s certainly true – and growers such as the Rossi brothers epitomise the sentiment.

On their efficient sugarcane farm on the banks of the Mulgrave River, south of Cairns, they use innovative drainage and revegetation techniques, high-tech, custom-made farm equipment and fallow cropping to boost productivity and yield.

An old farm with a modern future, the Rossi brothers Mark, Tony and Chris are third generation sugarcane growers. Their grandfather, Giovanni, arrived in Australia in 1924 and started off as a cane cutter. After several years, and with the help of his young sons, Robert and Ricky, who would cut cane before and after school, he was able to purchase a small farm. The family farm continued to grow, and then youngest son, John, also joined the enterprise. In 1979, the older generation of Rossi Brothers (Robert, Ricky and John) amicably split the farms and machinery between the three families.

In the late 1970s-1980s, Mark, Chris and Tony took more of a hands-on role on the family farm, guided by their father, Ricky.

Mark is a mechanic (diesel fitter) by trade, and has been on the farm since 1978. In the off-season he would work in the shed and in-season he hauled cane. After completing his apprenticeship as a fitter and turner at Mulgrave Mill, Chris came back onto the farm in 1988.

Tony is a sugar chemist, who has been back on the farm 20 years. He worked at Mulgrave Mill first, and then was at the Harwood Sugar Refinery for a few years when it first began operation.

Key learnings

- The Rossi brothers are sugarcane growers in the Gordonvale region in Cairns.
- They are part-way through building a high rise sprayer, with funding from Reef Rescue. The high rise will use a system of hydraulic rams and a turntable to improve maneuverability.
- Wheel widths and the boom will be adjustable, meaning soil compaction will be improved.
- Rate will also be variable and will adjust with speed, reducing over and under-application.
- Trees have been planted by the Rossis to great effect, with filtered, clean drains and wind-break benefits.
Their oldest brother Peter is a photographer, based in Cairns. Steven, who is also a diesel fitter by trade, lives in Brisbane.

All of the brother’s skills come into play on their 230 hectare operation, with most of their machinery built on farm.

Their shed is a farm engineer’s dream with a collection of machinery, equipment and lathes ensuring machinery they design can be made from scratch right on the property.

Chris does all the machining, Mark does the welding.

“Without the machinery and infrastructure, we wouldn’t be able to build this sort of equipment,” says Mark.

**Reef Rescue to the rescue**

Currently, the brothers are working on a high-rise sprayer, part funded by the federal government’s Reef Rescue project.

Mark says by the end of the build, the Reef Rescue funding will amount to about a third of the cost, however it’s been crucial.

“It’s been a big help, we probably wouldn’t have built it if we didn’t get the Reef Rescue funding,” says Mark.

“Reef Rescue has definitely stimulated the whole area – there are a lot of growers going for Reef Rescue projects.”

“We received a lot of help from CANEGROWERS Cairns Region,” says Tony.

“Sarah Standen [CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Manager] and Sandra Heinrich helped us a lot with the Reef Rescue application – as it was a multi-farm project there was a lot of admin required,” says Mark.

Mark says the Reef Rescue funding help has allowed them to implement spray controllers which will allow the amount of chemical applied to automatically adjust, based on the speed the machine is travelling. This reduces instances where too little or too much is applied.

“We probably wouldn’t have been able to integrate the spray controller without the funding,” he says.

The machine’s cab will be where all of the control takes place – with not only the rate but also the row width being controllable from inside the cab.

The wheel widths and boom will be adjustable based on the cane row widths. While the brothers work on 5ft 3in rows (160 cm), the machine will be able to cover most row widths up to 6ft (183 cm).

The manoeuvrability is driven by a system of hydraulic rams and a turntable. All of the parts were made by the brothers, who designed and constructed the parts on site. The seven-row machine will have a 2.3 m clearance and should be able to spray approximately 50 hectares a day.

The machine also has rear wheel steering so it has manoeuvrability similar to a forklift. At the end of the build, the machine will be stripped, sandblasted and painted in town, and then put to work in around September/October this year.
New farm allows fallow cropping

In 2006 (right before Cyclone Larry hit), the Rossi family purchased a new farm across the highway about 3 km from the home farm. It’s a dry farm in contrast to the home farm which is often affected by wet weather and flooding.

On this block, the brothers jumped at the chance to implement their own silt traps and drainage techniques – which they have in place across the whole farm. They have also revegetated drain ways – starting on the corner blocks on the original family farm. Tony says Landcare philosophies have been used to plant trees which have brought many benefits.

“The little corner blocks were only a nuisance to harvest,” says Tony.

“Some of these trees [on farm] now are 19 or 20 years old.

“We first planted Burmese teak, and other forestry species, but then realised that local native species were better suited to the wet conditions.”

Along some of the drainways, the brothers say river cherries have really taken off, and provide a perfect filter for the drains.

“Up until 20 years ago we used to have to clean the drain out once a year. There was not a tree on it, what was there was sprayed out. Then we got the flush of river cherries - they must have seeded just at the right time,” says Mark.

“We get them hedged every second year, and when you get closer to the roads you can see the ‘cathedral’ effect with the trees touching at the top – this makes the water cooler and keeps the oxygen levels up.”

Now, the drains are fast-flowing, crystal clear creeks.

“Once you commit to trees you can’t physically get in and clean out the drains anymore,” says Tony.

“So you have to have dedicated silt traps upstream of the trees. Every year or so, you get in and excavate the sand out, and you use the sand on the farm for headlands and drainage.

“We are trying to get the water from this side of the valley to the Mulgrave River in the best condition possible.

“By shading out the grasses, herbicide usage is greatly reduced, and in a few years the trees will have completely covered over and be a totally pristine creek,” says Chris.

The silt traps collect all the excess sand and mud, which is dug out once a year.

“Having the silt traps stops the sand from going through the rest of the system,” says Chris.

The trap consists of a high rock wall at the base of a wide drain section, which aids in allowing the natural settling of the solid matter in the water to sink to the bottom.

About 12 years ago, the Rossi’s and neighbouring Farmers helped with a large infrastructure project that constructed a 4ft (1.2 m) drain pipe through to the Mulgrave River. This added to the 3ft (91 cm) drain pipe that already existed, and Mark says this has dropped the water table by at least 30 cm.

“It’s been really good for our farm,” he says.

Soy beans and mini fallows

The Rossi’s new farm across the highway is on higher land, and thus has allowed them to use beans as fallow crops.
Farmers Teaching Farmers is another grass-roots Reef Rescue initiative. Reef Rescue is aimed at addressing off-farm impacts on water quality by encouraging voluntary uptake of the latest technology and best practices.

“By planting it late the year before, flowering is reduced and the top doesn’t go woody. It’s still vigorous when we’re cutting it for plants. It’s grown with no chemical fertiliser at all.”

Q208 is the major sugarcane variety planted by the Rossi’s.

“It really suits our farm. We are currently phasing out the Q200,” says Mark.

The Rossi’s harvested their own cane for 50 years until two years ago they decided to focus more on the other aspects of farming.

Mark contract fertilises, for which he has built his own machines for.

The fertiliser machine has its own fertiliser bag lifter and lifts two tonnes at a time.

Capable of holding six tonnes of fertiliser, the machine is also complete with a stool splitter which applies the fertiliser subsurface. The rate is controlled by the machine’s computer, which ensures the correct amount is applied.

Another machinery invention of the Rossi brothers is a rotary hoe with a cutter bar. “The idea is that all the dirt that goes through the rotary hoe goes over that cutting edge and is cut by the blades, so prevents the hard pan that a normal rotary hoe leaves. The drum floats so it keeps the rotary hoe at a certain depth,” says Mark.

In among their cane operation and machinery engineering, the brothers also run a small timber milling operation. Using an Australian made Lucas Mill, they have been milling timber planted by their father 55 years ago. It must be very satisfying for 85 year old Ricky, who still tails out at the sawmill, to be milling hoop pine that he planted all those years ago.

The bulk of the timber is milled and sold to a roofing iron company that use it for ‘dunnage’, which is the 3 by 2 inch blocks they have under loads of roofing iron. They also cut cane bin chocks for Mulgrave and South Johnstone Mills, and any logs brought to them by neighbours in the valley.

It seems that with all this going on, the brothers would have no spare time whatsoever, but what they do have is spent fishing and catching the odd barramundi in the local river.
Diabetes is a chronic condition in which the levels of glucose (sugar) in the blood are too high. Blood glucose levels are normally regulated by the hormone insulin, which is made by the pancreas.

In people with diabetes, the pancreas doesn’t produce enough insulin or there is a problem with how the body’s cells respond to it. The two main types of diabetes are type 1 and type 2.

Diabetes is the world’s fastest-growing chronic disease. It’s the sixth-leading cause of death in Australia. Every day, 62 Queenslanders are diagnosed with the condition including two people with type 1 diabetes, and 60 people with type 2 diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes is:

- Caused by an autoimmune destruction of insulin-making cells in the pancreas, which means insulin is no longer made.
- One of the most common chronic childhood illnesses in developed nations.
- Most common in people under the age of 30, but can occur at any age.
- Sometimes called ‘insulin dependent diabetes mellitus’, however this term is no longer in use.

Type 2 diabetes is:

- Caused by either inadequate levels of insulin or a failure of the body’s cells to respond properly to insulin – most people have both of these problems.
- Most common after the age of 40, although the age of onset can be earlier.
- Known to have been diagnosed in overweight teenagers and children.
- Often brought on by a lack of exercise or an unhealthy diet.
- Frequently, but not always, associated with being overweight, particularly when the excess weight is carried around the waist – it is also common in people with high blood pressure or heart disease.
- Found more commonly in people whose close relatives have diabetes and certain ethnic groups; however, the full picture about the role genes play in diabetes (the ‘genetic profile’) has not yet been worked out.

- Sometimes called ‘non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus’, however this term is no longer in use.

Symptoms of high blood glucose

Most people do not have any symptoms when they develop type 2 diabetes, and regular check-ups are needed to diagnose type 2 diabetes early. However, when the levels of glucose in the blood are particularly high (this is common in type 1 diabetes), symptoms develop.

These symptoms include:

- Significant weight loss.
- Tiredness and lack of energy.
- Excessive thirst.
- Blurred vision.
- Increased risk of infections, such as thrush.
- Frequent urination.

Seek medical advice if these symptoms occur

Occasionally, the onset of diabetes can be abrupt. This is particularly the case with type 1 diabetes. This can lead to a condition called ketoacidosis, which is a medical emergency.

Treating type 1 and type 2 diabetes

There is no cure for diabetes. Treatment aims to prevent complications by controlling blood glucose levels, as well as blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and by achieving a healthy body weight. The treatment depends on the type of diabetes.

Treatment options for type 1 diabetes include:

- Insulin injections.
- A balanced, healthy diet.
- Monitoring blood glucose.
- Physical activity.
- Having regular checks.

Treatment options for type 2 diabetes include:

- Healthy eating.
- Physical activity.
- Medications and (potentially) insulin at a later stage.
- Weight management.
- Monitoring blood glucose.
- Smoking cessation.
- Having regular checks.

Blood glucose monitor.

Things to remember:

1. People with diabetes have high blood glucose levels caused by a problem with the hormone insulin.
2. The two main types of diabetes are type 1 (insulin dependent) and type 2 (non-insulin dependent).
3. There is no cure, but the symptoms can be controlled with diet, exercise and medication.

Where to get help:

- Your doctor.
- Your local community health centre.
- Your diabetes specialist.
- Diabetes educator.
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Bundaberg - Rocky Point

Toyota Landcruiser Tray back, 2003 model. Many extras – new tyres, excellent condition, roadworthy cert. $36,000 incl GST. (07) 4157 7319 (Bundaberg)

John Deere 7810, 4WD A/c 178HP. Quad box transmission, front weights 3 x SCV’s. 5,000 hrs. Tyres front 70%, rear 100%. $75,000 incl GST ONO. 0409 597 446 (Bundaberg)

College Dam Water allocations for sale, 50 megs and 20 megs. Phone 4954 1164 or 0401 567 874 (Mackay area)

2 tonne side tipper for cane plants, $2,500 + GST. 0448 034 046 (Bundaberg)

50 foot rotary hoe, gear drive, $660. 0407 585 497

For hire 20T excavator with operator. Fitted with power tilt hitch, ripper, 1.8m batter bucket + 2.4m open mesh drain cleaning bucket. 0417 193 385 / 07 4159 8216 (Bundaberg)

John Deere 6530 Premium 4WD, A/c, 125HP. 24 speed power quad transmission, front weights, 2 x SCV’s. 3,400 hrs. Tyres 520R70x38 and 420R70x28. Tyres 80%. $66,000 incl GST ONO. Ph. 0409 597 446.

John Deere 7810, 4WD A/c 178HP. Quad box transmission, front weights 3 x SCV’s. 5,000 hrs. Tyres front 70%, rear 100%. $75,000 incl GST ONO. Ph. 0409 597 446.

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(Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent). These rainfall figures are subject to verification. Cardwell’s year to date amount is inaccurate due to equipment failure as a result of cyclone damage. Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the farming community can be accessed on www.bom.gov.au
Howard heavy duty 90 inch rotary hoe with gear box and crumble roller, $6,000 + GST. Krone 120 inch rotary hoe, new blades and crumble roller, $7,500 + GST. 2 tonne side tipper for cane plants, $2,500 + GST. 0448 034 046.

**Wanted**

Tractor tyres of all sizes. 07 4168 4664 all hours.

Double row weeder rake in fair condition. 07 4959 5207 (Mackay)

Front Diff – Massey Ferguson 698 or complete tractor. (07) 4157 8164 (Bundaberg)

Red David Brown 990 for wrecking. Phone (07) 4157 7319 (Bundaberg)

Toft 6000/6500 elevator slew rack. Also wanted, new chopper blades to suit Massey 102/105 harvester. 0419 601 959

Full track cane harvest in good condition. 07 4958 5253

Wanted to buy land plane north from Tully. 0419 741 996

Wanted, Moller style billet planter bin. 0432 119 930

Wanted three row stool splitter, 1 tone fertiliser bin, good cond, hyd drive preferred. 0422 115 811

Wanted - Cane harvester for cutting billets for planting, Cameco or Toft, reasonable condition. 0403 505 074.


Land plane. Any condition. Any area. 0427 638 381 or 07 4954 1090 (ah)

Fiat 1300 super, fiat 880,980,80-66,100-90 no cab tractor.02 6646 0207

Wanted to buy tractor, dozer, backhoe and drott any model or condition. Ph 07 3201 5099

**Work Wanted**

I am Lee 23 from Ireland and just finishing up a seeding season in WA. I am looking for work during the sugar cane harvest. I have experience driving big horsepower machines and doing grain and silage harvest back in Ireland. Please phone 0414 310 349 or email Mcgra167@hotmail.co.uk for more details.

Wanted- haul out job, HR-UV license, willing to learn. Ring John (Saturdays) 0457 355808. (Tully/Ingham/Ayr areas).

I hold a UD licence and have just finished a Cane Haul Out cause in Mareeba and would like to gain employment. I also have a HR and would like to work in the Northern Beaches to Edmonton areas. 0409 728 336

**Property**

MARWOOD CANE FARM. Total area 185 acres. 147 acres of CPA. 110 mega litres Kinchant Dam Water. 105 mega litre Bore. 4 Bedroom Home. Machinery List available. $1.1 Million. Please contact 4959 2640 or 0428 165 142.

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90 inch rotary hoe with gear box and crumble roller, $6,000 + GST.

**KRONES**

120 inch rotary hoe, new blades and crumble roller, $7,500 + GST.

**2 TONNE SIDE TIPPER**

For cane plants, $2,500 + GST.

0448 034 046.
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