



FEBRUARY 2019

Welcome to the February edition of the newsletter. In this edition:-

Productivity Services updates, Election update, Far north Growers trip and more....

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Hi All,



Here we are in the peak growing period and unfortunately the weather isn't playing it's part. While irrigation access is going well the dry land crops are looking very dry. We certainly have had to deal with a lot more heat this year and as a result the crop is really looking for a good drink. At present there is cyclone OMA making it's way from Vanuatu but it is now unlikely to bring much rain to the coast, just big swells. With the strong

winds our battle is keeping the moisture up to the crops.

The nominations for the executive board have now closed as at the 18th February and we can confirm that Allen Birt is standing down from the board and his role as vice Chairman. Fellow director Alan Otto is also calling time on his work on the board.

I have agreed to start another term with the intent of handing over the reigns in a year or two to a new chairman from within the board and presenting an opportunity for one of our younger generation to represent our district as a board member.

Jeff Atkinson, Chairman



MANAGER'S UPDATE

Weather is always a major factor in our lives. Prior to Christmas the regularity of showers across the district was making for a promising run through summer but this year has brought on a genuinely hot summer with low rainfall in our southern areas. The latest CANEGROWERS magazine dated 11/02/19 has devoted numerous pages to the flooding experienced in the north and while some of the water would be appreciated, I'm wary of ending up with our own floods....

Of course Cyclone Oma has now gone and still no rain!



"Last Rain in December 2018"

Pilot/Escort training.

For anyone who completed the course with Transqual Logistics Training, they have now become insolvent and cannot validate your logged trips towards obtaining your Escort Licence.

There are now only 2 training providers who offer the Pilot/Escort course:- one is in Brisbane and the other in South Johnstone.

Both companies are prepared to validate your training via a refresher course – for a fee.

If we have a sufficient number of people ready to obtain their Escort Licence, Motor School; the Brisbane based training provider; will come to Maryborough.

As MSF Sugar has a number of people ready to do this refresher -We would only need approximately 5 more people to make it worthwhile.

Please let Cameron Waterson know if you would like to complete this course as we would like to book training for late March if possible.

Grower trip to Far north Qld

At our last board meeting the topic of a grower trip to far north Queensland was discussed and is gradually taking shape. Initial concept is a 4 day trip involving bus to Brisbane & flight to Cairns for overnight stay at start of the week in Mid June,

- Day 1 travel to Mareeba and visit Tablelands mill to look at MSF Sugar's new co- generation plant in operation. Also inspect harvesting operations as they will be commenced by Mid June.
- Travel to Atherton for overnight stay,
- Day 2 travel to Mulgrave to visit MSF Sugar Office and Mill, travel to Tully or Herbert



- Day 3 Babinda and berdekin areas for farm visits. Overnight stay in Ayr /Home Hill.
 - Day 4 travel to Townsville for return flight from Townsville to Brisbane and bus home.
- If this sounds interesting we need to gather potential numbers with a limit of 35.

Cost is the big question and we will be working on an accurate cost over the coming weeks. Initial estimate is all travel & accommodation will be under\$1000 per person.

Gas exploration

On my return from Christmas break we had an update on the gas exploration licenses. At the time it was advised all licenses had been cancelled however, only two had actually finished as at the end of December. The third license (covering Hervey Bay to Maryborough) is due to expire 31st March. We still need to stay vocal and vigilant to make sure this is cancelled.

Contact your local State Member of Parliament to ensure there is no gas on the Fraser Coast.

Activities from the Office

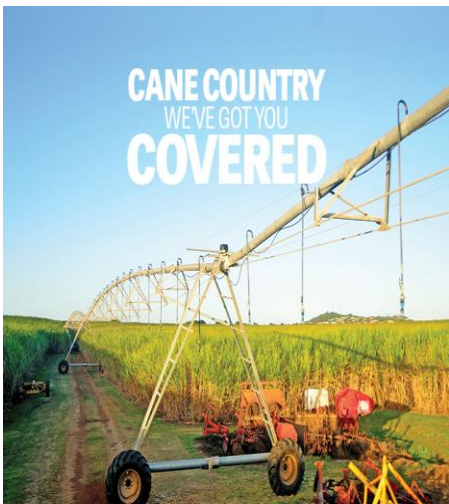
Meetings continue to happen with impacts on the industry.

1. GRDC council board members conducted a series of meetings accross the state finishing here in Maryborough. Members of our Canegrowers board and myself were able to meet and update on the use of break crops in the area and developments ahead for different grain species.
2. The Lower Mary Irrigation Advisory Board has been reviewing figures on the operation of the scheme & in particular with regards to the impacts of the QCA recommendations currently being proposed for all levels of water users.
3. SRA southern region update- Attended the event held at Waves Sports club in Bundaberg 26th February. Another busy day of presentations covering energy innovation for pumps, Cane variety developing and processing improvements, updates on the harvester loss trials and pest and disease updates. Copies information sheets are available from the office.

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Upcoming Events

- 26th February SRA Souther Districts Update in Bundaberg- see enclosed invitation
-
- 15th March- MSF sugar Sugar Markets update- Maryborough & Sunshine Coast. Details to come.
- 31st March expiry date for last gas exploration license in the district- let your local state member know you don't want it here.
-
- Easter holidays- 19th to 22nd April
-
- Mid June- Growers trip to Far North Queensland. Interested? Contact Cam



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"I'd like to see young faces and hear new voices involved in CANEGROWERS. We need our eyes firmly on the future of our industry in the decisions we make."

Jeff Atkinson, Maryborough



CANEGROWERS Elections 2019

Nominations now closed



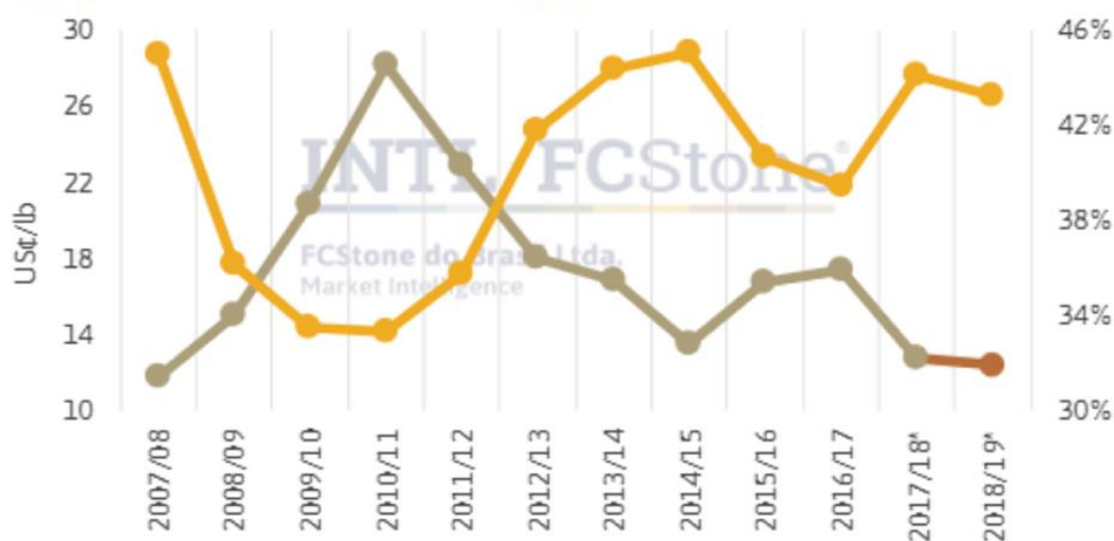
CANEGROWERS

MSF SUGAR MARKET UPDATE

The pinnacle of global sugar conferences the Dubai Sugar Conference has just concluded and as can be expected at such events more questions than answers were raised. At the commencements of the conference the sentiment was one of mild optimism as many in the market were forecasting a modest deficit (0 to 3 mmt) for the coming season. Whilst even the thought of a deficit is welcomed the overarching fact is that global stocks are forecasted to remain at historical highs.

With a background of ample stocks (see graph below) and the absence of a major production event it is hard to argue for any sustained price rally for the foreseeable future. With the knowledge that a deficit is probable but stocks are ample it would seem that the outside influences of currency and energy prices may play a major role in near to midterm.

Sugar global stocks/use ratio and average price on ICE/NY



Whilst the amount of cane produced forms the basis of price the macro impact of oil and currencies will impact the ethanol sugar mix and the price competitiveness of specific exporting nations. If oil prices rise as many are forecasting then a swing in the ethanol mix is to be expected and # 11 prices supported. Likewise if the Brazilian Real strengthens then Brazilian origin sugar becomes less competitive also supporting the #11 price. The caveat to all this is the converse is also true.

In all it seems the market is well balanced and seemingly heading for more of the same. Market consensus is gravitating towards a 12-15 cents range for the foreseeable future



Whilst the US 12-15 cents projections maybe far from encouraging all is not lost as the Aussie dollar may do a lot of the required heavy lifting. The AUD has started the year on the defensive as the outlook for interest rates has softened. Past RBA commentary suggested that the next rate move would be higher. The sentiment is now more balanced with a suggestion the next move could go either way. The financial markets are pricing in a small chance of a rate cuts by year end placing modest downward pressure on the AUD. The currency markets will also look to other macro factors such as the China US trade negotiations as well as the US own interest rate trajectory. AUD range seen as 0.6800 – 0.7500

Table 1 Sugar Price A\$/mt Matrix

| NY#11 Forecast | AUD Forecast Range | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 0.6800 | 0.6900 | 0.7000 | 0.7100 | 0.7200 | 0.7300 | 0.7400 | 0.7500 |
| 12.00 | 389 | 383 | 378 | 373 | 367 | 362 | 358 | 353 |
| 12.50 | 405 | 399 | 394 | 388 | 383 | 378 | 372 | 367 |
| 13.00 | 421 | 415 | 409 | 404 | 398 | 393 | 387 | 382 |
| 13.50 | 438 | 431 | 425 | 419 | 413 | 408 | 402 | 397 |
| 14.00 | 454 | 447 | 441 | 435 | 429 | 423 | 417 | 412 |
| 14.50 | 470 | 463 | 457 | 450 | 444 | 438 | 432 | 426 |
| 15.00 | 486 | 479 | 472 | 466 | 459 | 453 | 447 | 441 |

Terry Allom

Commodity Services Manager

MSF Sugar Pty Ltd

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Maryborough Cane Productivity Services

February Newsletter

YCS- To date not a lot has been seen so far in 2019- although it appears some may be present. YCS was quite evident in January 2018. Isis region has also reported very little so far this year also. Most of the yellow bottom leaves seen are very likely from dry conditions (early senescence)

Autumn tissue culture: For those growers who have ordered plants these are not due for delivery from the nursery until late March. Growers will be advised as soon as we have a delivery date

Cane Grubs: While it is still too early to begin monitoring activities for cane grubs, (the shovel) late March early April is usually the time to have a dig in blocks with a history of grub populations- grey forest/light soils for Southern One Year and red volcanics for the Negatoria (two-year life cycle). If growers are uncertain of numbers or yield limiting numbers, please use the attached monitoring sheet. Dig a hole at each corner of the block, recording the number per hole OR if there are suspect patches/areas noticed when driving along winch paths etc (yellowing, weaker patches. Please call if assistance with identification of grub species is required. Treatment options can also be discussed



(MANUFACTURERS NAME) **FARMERS FRIEND**

RSD testing for autumn has been completed (small autumn plant) however from April on MCPS will begin testing for Spring plant, if growers can please consider which blocks they would like inspected. The 2018 season resulted in a detection rate of 4.8%, on par with previous years when using juice extraction methods- 2019 will initially see some slight change in methodology, with the PCR leaf sheath disc collection method possibly again up for discussion and evaluation by SRA later in the season. Harvest contractors please ensure the best possible effort is made to sterilise the base cutters, knock down rollers etc between farms as RSD is being found where none has been detected in earlier years.

Varieties: The annual RVC variety selection meeting is to be held in early April. At this meeting the clone QN02-1707 is expected to be added to our Recommended planting list. This clone has very good CCS and TCH as well as much better fibre (milling) qualities. In the attached updated variety guide, SRA 1 is mentioned as a guide for harvest expectations x soil type only. It is NOT on the Recommended planting list.

For further information please contact Barry Callow on 0487017811



Useful Information

Maryborough Cane Productivity Services

- Barry Callow – Mobile 0487 017 811

Maryborough Office

106 Bazaar Street, Maryborough Qld 4650

2017 Office Hours:

- Monday: 8:30am – 4pm
- Tuesday: 8:30am – 4pm
- Wednesday: 8:30am - 1pm
- After 1pm Urgent matters call Cam's mobile
- Thursday: 8:30am -- 4pm
- Friday: 8:30am – 4pm

Postal

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2019 variety Guide

Maryborough-Morton

| <i>Soil</i> | <i>Early CCS</i> | <i>Early- Mid CCS</i> | <i>Mid-Late CCS</i> | <i>Late CCS</i> | <i>Mid to late CCS (high Pachymetra)</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Heavy Alluvial | Q252 | Q240, Q208, | Q240, Q208 | SRA 4, SRA11 | Q238, Q138 |
| Light Alluvial | Q252 KQ228 | Q240, Q208, SRA1, Q238 | Q232, Q242, Q138 | SRA4, SRA11 | Q242, Q238, Q138 |
| Black Clay | | Q240, SRA1, Q208, | Q232, Q138 | SRA4, SRA11 | Q238, |
| Red Clay | Q252 | Q240, Q208, SRA1 | Q242, SRA4, SRA11, Q138, Q232 | SRA4, SRA11 | Q138, Q242, Q238 |
| Red Forest | Q252 KQ228 | Q240, Q208, SRA1, | Q242, Q232, Q208, SRA11, Q138 | SRA4, SRA11 | Q242, Q238, Q190 |
| Grey Forest | Q252, KQ228 | Q208, SRA1 | Q240, Q208, Q138, Q238, Q242 | Q232, SRA4, SRA11 | Q242, Q238 |
| Hard-setting scrub soil | Q252 | Q240, Q208, SRA1, Q252 | Q138, Q240, Q208, Q238 | Q232, SRA4, SRA11, Q242 | Q138, Q238, Q242 |
| Scrub Soil | Q252, KQ228 | Q240, Q208, SRA1 | Q232, Q242, SRA11, Q138 | Q138, SRA4, SRA11 | Q242, Q238, Q138 |
| Wallum | Q252 | SRA1 | Q240, Q208, Q232 | SRA4, SRA11, Q138 | Q242, Q238, Q138 |

Maryborough Cane Productivity Services

Cane Grub Recording sheet

Record the following details in the table below:

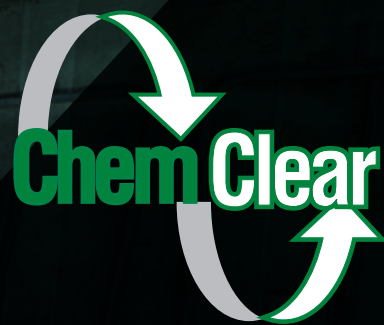
- Date / /
- Farm No
- Block no
- Variety
- Soil type _____
- Species. _____

Farm No _____ Block No _____ Crop Class _____

| | Hole 1 | Hole 2 | Hole 3 | Hole 4 | Hole 5 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Southern one year | | | | | |
| Negatoria | | | | | |
| Christmas Humus | | | | | |

More than an average of 1.5 grubs per hole indicates treatment is necessary. Christmas and Humus grubs are more white in colour, and when left alone for a few minutes on a shovel, can get onto their feet and crawl away- cane grubs can't do this.

Cane grubs have a raster pattern also.



ChemClear collection information

**Dispose of your
unwanted or
obsolete agvet
chemicals in one
easy collection.**

**FREE collection of
Group 1 chemicals:**

- with readable labels
- still in original containers
- not mixed with other products
- within 2 years of expiry or deregistration
- from drumMUSTER participating companies

**Fee for service for
Group 2 chemicals**

QLD - June 2019

Register your chemicals
by mid-April.
(date to be confirmed)



**For further information
please call Colin Hoey on
mobile: 0428 964 576**

Register your chemicals at ChemClear:



chemclear.org.au/register-your-chemical



1800 008 182

