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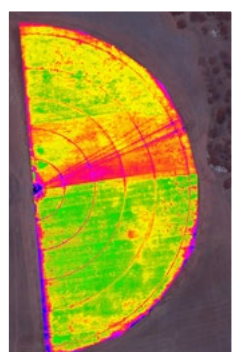


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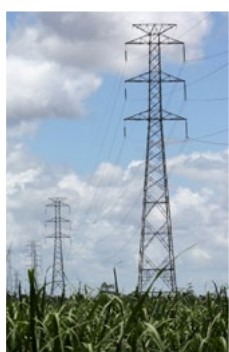
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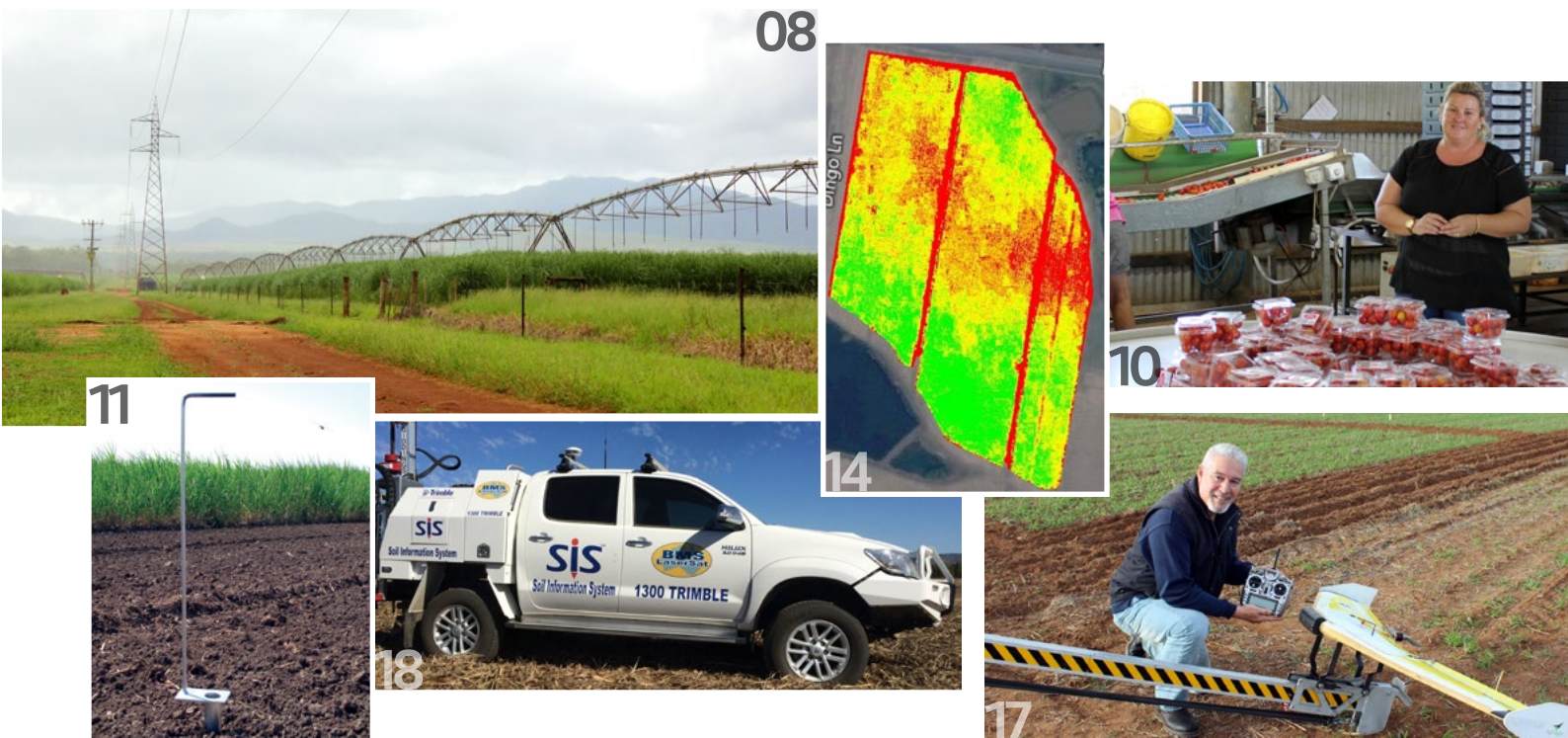
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Cover picture: Jason, Anna and Francis Attard on their Bundaberg district farm.

Editor: Neroli Roocke

Design, subscriptions, advertising and classifieds:
Wayne Griffin

Articles appearing in *Australian Canegrower* do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS

Published every second Monday by
CANEGROWERS

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AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 157-3039
Volume 38 Number 07
Printed by Printcraft
23 Links Avenue, Eagle Farm QLD 4009

Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 25 issues (postage included)
Within Australia \$160 inc GST
Overseas (AUD) \$250

Standing in the spotlight

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

The past couple of weeks have proven the fact that, as an industry, we are never far from the public spotlight!

We have already reported on the United Kingdom's decision to implement a "sugar tax", which is in fact a levy on soft drink manufacturers.

At the moment there does not seem to be any political will to follow the UK but regardless of the speculation of what may or may not happen here, there is one irrefutable truth.

Nutrition, and the role that sugar plays in our diets, is a real issue that we need to address. We can do this by first understanding the issue and then engaging intelligently in the conversation.

Our industry is doing that, but we need to be vigilant. Of course, when a nutrition debate meets a health policy issue and is mixed up in a slurry of taxation reform and popular culture, we have a dangerous brew. But we ignore it at our peril.

The other issue to put us in the spotlight recently has been the ever present discussion on the health of the Great Barrier Reef. Here there is a similar and potentially hazardous meeting of cross purposes - political opportunism, voluminous but often poorly understood science, public emotion and popular culture.

Both issues command public attention and in the ensuing debate, the public looks for an enemy and frequently they land on sugar!

It is absolutely and profoundly unfair, clearly, as well as stupefyingly simplistic that we are asked to descend into a myopic world of good guys and bad guys. People are essentially asked to believe that:

Sugar is bad and without it I would be fit and healthy! and

Cane is bad, and without it the Great Barrier Reef would be healthy!

Crazy! It is an over-simplification and a classic case of allowing people to disown any problem for the preference of blaming someone else. The scary thing is, is that it is working.

So what do we do about it.

In my view, we need to recognise that we are not alone and we are not marginalised. These issues are undoubtedly more complex and thereby require a more complex set of collaborative solutions.

CANEGROWERS continues to engage heavily and with every sector of our industry on these issues.

Our strategy is designed around speaking the truth and taking account of actions that we can control. To this end, we must make use of our secret weapon. You. The farmer.

Even the laziest, calorie over-consuming, voting, taxpayer listens to a trusted voice. A voice that can speak from an unequivocally relevant perspective.

Our members are at the centre of every aspect of these issues and bringing voice to your points of view, sharing your efforts to better your environment, grow your business and deliver a world class product to a competitive market will continue to be our approach to responding to these issues.

In these debates we want to position farmers as driving a solution. We do this by re-shaping the debate to recognise and value farmers. We point out what is obvious to us at CANEGROWERS, that farmers care about the product they grow and the environment within which they grow it - so you don't need to tell them take responsibility for these issues.

The community needs to value the role families take, and encourage, not berate and dictate.

We share your stories through this magazine and other industry platforms. The industry can arm growers with the tools to make their case and farmers need to be willing to take on the debate and take responsibility for their contributions to the solution. These things will help put us on the front foot in the current and future issues under the spotlight. ■



“When a nutrition debate meets a health policy issue and is mixed up in a slurry of taxation reform and popular culture, we have a dangerous brew. But we ignore it at our peril.”

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NEWS IN BRIEF

POWER PRICES SPARK NEW CAMPAIGN

A proposal to lift electricity prices for irrigators by a further 10.3% has lit the fuse on a new community campaign.

ARC UP was launched on the shockwaves of a Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) draft determination on 2016-17 regional regulated electricity prices.

Amongst the worst hit will be irrigated farmers who have borne a 96% cumulative increase in the electricity they use over the past seven years.

"The proposed hike shows the electricity pricing system is broken. Prices are out of control," said **Dan Galligan**, CEO of peak group CANEGROWERS.

"The spiralling cost of electricity to run pumps to irrigate cane land is becoming an untenable outlay and many of our growers are being forced to make the decision to switch the pumps off and lose vital productivity and profitability," Mr Galligan said.

"There seems to be so much focus on profit taking by State-owned electricity network operators, and no one appears to be listening to the concerns of users."

CANEGROWERS has been calling for prices to be cut by a third, a call now taken up by the ARC UP campaign.

Regional Queenslanders are being urged to follow and share ARC UP on Facebook to add community weight to its campaign.

There's more on electricity pricing from page 6 of this edition of *Australian Canegrower*. ■

BIOFUELS PLANT FOR GLADSTONE

A \$16 million advanced biofuels pilot plant is expected to be up and running at Southern Oil Refining's Yarwun plant at Gladstone within the year.

Within the next three years it will aim to have produced one million litres of fuel for use in field trials by the United States navy as part of its Great Green Fleet initiative, and also by the Australian Navy.

Sugarcane bagasse was one of the feedstocks listed for the production of bio crude oil which will then be distilled into saleable kerosene and diesel products.

Premier **Anastacia Palaszczuk** said the Northern Oil Advanced Biofuels Pilot Plant represented an exciting step in the development of an advanced biofuels industry for Queensland.

If it proves to be successful, the pilot plant will be expanded to a large commercial-scale refinery costing \$150 million and producing 200 million litres of biofuel annually, suitable for military, marine and aviation use.

Southern Oil Refining Managing Director **Tim Rose** said his company had also considered Wagga Wagga in New South Wales as a location but made the decision in favour of Gladstone on the back of the Queensland Government's Bio Futures Roadmap.

"This demonstration plant will be a big step towards creating a clean transportation future," he said.

"Once our biofuel is accepted by both navies, it will open the door to a commercial scale refinery capable of meeting the ADF's needs and provide green fuel opportunities for aviation and other heavy transport industries – and Queensland will be a world leader in this space."



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CRUNCHING THE BMP NUMBERS

Cane growers in the Wet Tropics region of north Queensland will help to quantify the economic and environmental impacts of introducing best practice management to their businesses.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), in collaboration with Life Cycle Strategies, is working with growers in a Sugar Research Australia (SRA) funded project which aims to build confidence that Smartcane BMP can increase business profitability as well as improve environmental outcomes such as reducing fossil fuel use, carbon footprint and water quality impacts.

"We understand that farmers are running businesses that rely on a reasonable rate of return. To change their systems they need the confidence that it will make them money, rather than eat into their profitability," DAF principal economist **Mark Poggio** said. "Smartcane BMP proposes management changes that can be implemented across the production system, from introducing rotation crops to

improve soil health to better fertiliser and herbicide usage and application."

Mr Poggio said six farmers would be involved in individual case studies that would depict the before and after scenarios of Smartcane BMP implementation over two years.



"We are currently working with our first grower to look at his practice changes and assess the real impact in a commercial setting. The results will be presented to industry very soon," Mr Poggio said.

"Each case study analysis will include a financial-economic, capital budgeting and risk analysis using the Department's Farm Economic Analysis Tool (FEAT) and an environmental analysis using the University of Queensland's CaneLCA (Life Cycle Assessment) tool."

Other project partners are Life Cycle Strategies, Terrain NRM, CANEGROWERS Herbert River and Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd. If you would like to be involved contact DAF economist **Ali Collier** on 3330 4508.

EL NINO IMPACTS SUGAR OUTPUT

Thailand is reporting its worst drought in more than 20 years is hitting its sugar production hard.

It is expected the country will export 20% less sugar this year than it did last year with Reuters reporting that farmers fear next year could be even lower as the lack of rain impacts on young plants.

The Philippines is reporting a 40% drop in sugarcane production driven by El Nino drought conditions and the effects of super-typhoon Yolanda. Indian and Chinese crops are also reported to be impacted by dry weather. Brazil, on the other hand, has had too much rain reducing the sugar content of cane in many areas.

The reduced production figures are contributing to forecasts for a widening global supply deficit this year and fuelling a rally in international prices.

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Warren Males

CANEGROWERS
Head - Economics

“Powerlink is one of the country’s most profitable companies ... able to recover on a grossly inflated regulated asset base”

ELECTRICITY PRICES

the regulatory challenge

Electricity prices in Queensland are too high and they are set to go higher. The sharp increases we have seen in recent years are unsustainable. The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) draft determination, *Regulated Retail Electricity Prices for 2016–17*, contemplates increasing electricity prices for irrigation tariffs by a further 10.3%.

Identifying its lack of authority to address the issue, the QCA writes that it has no role in setting, determining or controlling the key drivers of electricity price increases (QCA p67).

The Queensland Productivity Commission (QPC) points to the cause of the problem writing, “Queensland’s electricity price increases have largely been driven by escalating network costs” (QPC *Draft Report Electricity Pricing Inquiry*, pviii).

Did you know that, “Around 6% of Ergon Energy’s network capacity is used for only 0.1% (less than nine hours) of the year” (QPC p65)?

Investment in network capacity has occurred to meet the peak load demands of urban and industrial users, not the needs of irrigated agriculture. The costs of this investment have been spread across all consumers. The resulting network prices, neither cost reflective nor efficient, are encouraging peak load demand and discouraging network use at other times.

The QPC makes it clear that the regulated asset base (RAB) of Queensland’s electricity networks is too high. With network investment continuing to grow at a time of declining network use, this is clearly the case.

CANEGROWERS has been arguing that the ever higher prices resulting from the regulated electricity pricing framework encourages investment in surplus capacity, provide incentives for the under-utilisation of sunk investments and risk assets becoming obsolete and/or stranded in the face of declining electricity use. This pattern has been widely described as the electricity price “death spiral”.

To avoid this adverse spiral, it is important that the value of non-performing and under-used assets in the RAB be written

down and shareholders be required to face the risks associated with their network investment decisions. This fundamental market discipline is faced by all firms in the competitive sector of the economy but it is not faced by Ergon, Energex, Powerlink or their shareholder, the Queensland Government.

CANEGROWERS concerns have been echoed during a recent forum held by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER). **Hugh Grant**, a member of the AER’s Consumer Challenge Panel, presented an analysis that showed the way in which the AER was applying the regulatory rules allowed Powerlink to recover more than twice as much money from consumers as they should.

Despite being one of the least efficient transmission networks in Australia, Powerlink is one of the country’s most profitable companies. No other ASX 50 stock comes close to it. Mr Grant argues that for a \$401 million investment the government has achieved return of \$9.4 billion over the past 15 years. This is 23 times the returns of Lend Lease, 15.5 times those of Telstra, 10 times those of NAB and BHP and well ahead of Woolworths.

The principal driver of this outcome is the guaranteed returns Powerlink is able to recover on a grossly inflated regulated asset base.

CANEGROWERS has long held the view that the electricity pricing framework is flawed and the RAB is too high.

One of the flaws in the pricing model is that the AER has little, if any, ability to review the size of the underlying asset base. Without this discipline, the RAB increases each year with inflation and capital expenditure more than offsetting the asset write downs due to depreciation. ▶

Although arguing the RAB is too high, Mr Grant's analysis suggests the AER can do something.

He argues the AER's methodology for determining the return on capital is inconsistent with the asset base to which it is applying that return.

The AER calculates a weighted average cost of capital (WACC) using a normal commercial approach.

But it applies this to a theoretical capital base. In the case of Powerlink, Mr Grant argues the theoretical capital base is four times the company's actual investment.

It follows that if the AER applied its WACC to the actual level of investment made by the Powerlink, Ergon and Energex, the resulting electricity prices would be much lower than current levels.

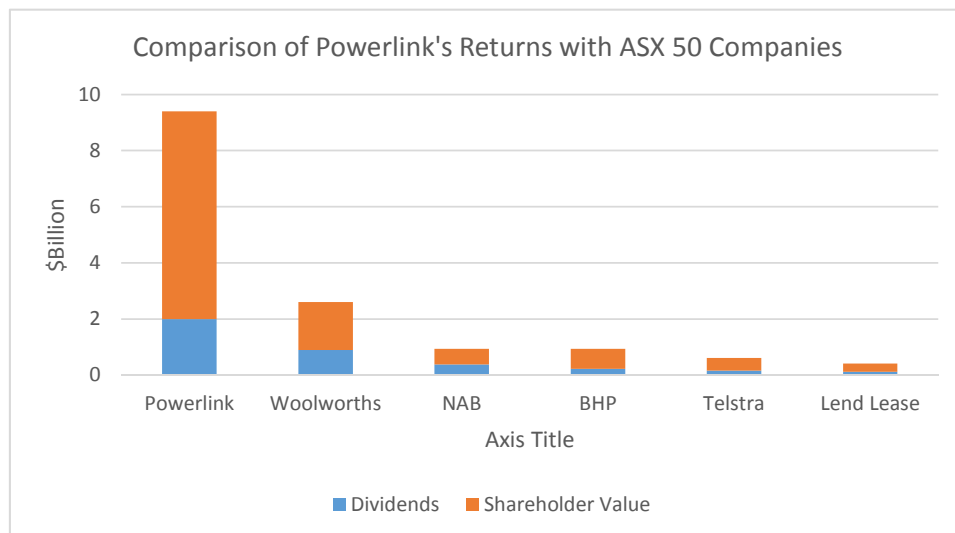
CANEGROWERS has called on the QPC as part of its current review of Queensland's electricity prices to undertake a comprehensive and economy-wide assessment of the costs and benefits of the price reductions that

would flow from a write down of the RAB to economically efficient levels.

Professor **Ross Garnaut** reminded his audience in a public lecture in Perth earlier this year that the first step towards rational pricing is to write down the value of redundant network capacity.

Standard economic analysis suggests that the benefits of doing so will more than offset the associated costs.

The abundant availability of low cost energy should be one of Queensland's comparative advantages. CANEGROWERS is working with state and federal electricity regulators and the Queensland Government to ensure that the cost of electricity does not undermine the growth and development of regional economies and reduce the living standards of the communities they support.



Source: Grant Hugh (2016), Preliminary Perspectives Powerlink's 2018-22 Revenue Proposal, Public Forum, 15 March.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

By Andrew Chamberlin, QFF Project Manager - Energy

THE Queensland Farmers' Federation is currently running the Energy Savers program in conjunction with Ergon Energy to help farmers reduce energy costs.

The program is designed to support the accelerated adoption of improvements in on-farm energy use that will lower energy costs for farmers and producers.

QFF and Ergon are currently conducting targeted audits of on-farm processing

such as heating, cooling, lighting and irrigation as well as assisting farmers to identify potential savings and provide information on financing options.

The Energy Savers program is designed to help farmers find the right solution

for their needs and to encourage them to make the right investments to improve their bottom line.

Simple tips to reduce your next water and electricity bill include:

1 GET FAMILIAR WITH YOUR ENERGY AND WATER USE

Businesses that monitor their energy and water consumption end up paying less. Take the time to record your energy and water consumption and your production output over time, and work out how much energy and water you use per unit of output - for example: kWh per bale and ML/bale. You can now compare this year-on-year to check your efficiency and compare with other growers. You can then set targets to reduce energy and water use.

2 LOOK FOR EASY-WINS

Conduct a walk-around to look for energy waste on site. Things to look for include running equipment you don't need such as empty cool rooms, lights in empty areas and appliances running when they don't need to be. Regularly maintain and dust equipment like motors, compressors, fan units and ducting.

Check regularly for compressed air leaks, ducting leaks or leaky cold room seals. Provide good air circulation for all appliances and ensure air intakes are well shaded.

Develop a start-up and shut-down procedure for appliances, keeping things running only when they are needed. Allow for smooth flow in irrigation systems - unnecessary check valves, right-angles, "T" junctions and pipes that are too narrow which increase resistance mean that more energy is used to pump the required amount of water.

3 THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF WATER AT THE RIGHT TIME

Water pumping is a major cost on many farms. A number of farmers have saved a significant amount of energy through water use efficiency projects, where water use has been reduced and efficient pumping systems have been installed. By optimising the amount of water applied to your crop and delivering it the most efficient way, large energy savings can follow water savings.

Audits conducted under the Irrigators Energy Savers program have identified a range of energy efficiencies across many irrigation systems.

Continues page 9 ►



4

PLAN FOR EFFICIENCY

Up to 80% of the lifetime cost of an appliance can be the energy bill after you buy it. Know what the most efficient appliances are for the specific purpose so that you can ask for them when needed; especially motors, compressors, fans and hot water systems.

If you are aware of the most efficient models on the market, you can make a cost-effective decision if you need to act quickly. Think about the 10-year running cost rather than just the purchase price.

CONSIDER RENEWABLES

There are a number of ways that farmers can incorporate renewable energy into their operations to reduce energy costs.

Hot water and process heat can be provided by heat pumps and solar hot water systems or other solar thermal technologies. If you produce organic waste on site, you may be able to capture biogas to use directly in place of gas, or use it to generate electricity.

Combined heat and power (CHP) plants will generate heat and electricity from biogas, or blended with natural gas. Some farmers are finding solar panels to be cost effective in generating power and many are watching closely as battery technologies improve and reduce in cost. Our recent Farm Energy Technology Forum highlighted some renewable energy technologies that may be suitable.

Remember, the cheapest kilo-watt hour is the one you didn't use, so look for efficiency opportunities to reduce your energy use before investing in solar panels.

As well as these simple steps to improve your energy efficiency QFF encourages you to engage with the materials and case studies online at qff.org.au/energysavers to find out more.

QFF is working with its industry member organisations to ensure best practice and knowledge is shared throughout the sector and assist producers to lower their overheads and improve their margins.

The Energy Savers programs are being delivered by Ergon Energy in partnership with the Queensland Farmers Federation and are funded by the Queensland Government. ■



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Power prices top new director's agenda

By Neroli Roocke

Meet **Anna Attard**. She's one of three busy partners in a 325 hectare sugarcane cane and small crops farming business and a director-elect for CANEGROWERS Bundaberg.

I caught up with Anna in her packaging shed where cherry tomatoes were rolling into punnets ready for local supermarkets and wholesale markets in Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle and Brisbane.

"There's my father-in-law Francis and my husband Jason in the business along with me," Anna explains.

"I manage the shed, the picking and do a lot of the sugar forward selling."

The family has been growing small crops alongside its sugarcane since 1978 when Francis first put in rockmelons.

"We've got 800 acres and, of that, about 200 (80 hectares) is small crops - cherry tomatoes, rockmelons and zucchinis," Anna says.

At its busiest the farm has 140 people on staff.

"Jason and his Dad do all the cane planting and the harvesting because we have a 35,000 tonne harvesting contract as well. We all work well together."

The farms are a mixture of red, dark and sandy soils.

All areas are GPS mapped, a process that had to be re-done after a January 2013 tornado and flooding destroyed the shed on which their GPS base station was located.

In 2015 the business cut 23,000 tonnes of cane, its biggest harvest for many years. During the drought-affected season of 2013 only 18,000 tonnes was cut.

"We have tail water dams and surface water and trickle, winch and flood gate irrigation," Anna explains but making sure they're getting the best production benefit from their irrigation, and the high cost of the electricity to drive it, is a constant battle.

"We are out late at night turning winches on because you're constantly chasing the cheaper tariffs," she says.

The price of power is the biggest of the issues Anna sees facing Bundaberg growers as she begins her term on the CANEGROWERS Bundaberg board.

She nominated for the board after being approached by other members.

"I think they wanted a female on board because they hadn't had one before," she says. "It's a good step."

"I attend the Women in Sugar meetings and the ladies there were very excited. It'll be interesting and a big learning curve for me but I'm really looking forward to it."



Looking to the future, Anna says the youngest of her and Jason's children, ten-year-old Sam, is the one who lives and breathes farming.

"He already thinks he's the farm manager and would be here every day if he could," Anna says. "One day he will probably run the farm." ■

Anna Attard (top) in the Attard Family Farms packing shed and (below) with father-in-law Francis and husband Jason.



GROWERS TAKE INSPIRATION

from BMP training for healthy soils

By Belinda Billing, SRA Adoption Officer, Brandon

A series of Smartcane BMP training sessions for improving soil health kicked off in the southern region this February with high grower attendance and even higher praise for the practical and inspiring sessions led by **Peter McGuire**.

The training was supported by local Smartcane BMP facilitators, CANEGROWERS and MSF Sugar agronomists, all of whom provided valuable local insights.

More than 50 growers attended three training sessions held in Bundaberg, Maryborough and Childers, with local extension providers attending an earlier workshop where they were able provide input to help tailor the grower training to local requirements.

Each session began with a visit to a farm where the grower had implemented recommended practice to improve their soil health.

In Bundaberg, growers and extension providers were motivated by the dedication of **Tony Chapman** to building his soil health through break cropping and avoiding compaction on his growing beds, along with producing his own compost.

Growers from the Isis region visited **Nathan and Michael Russo** at Farnsfield for a discussion on their peanut and cane crop rotations and the subsequent improvements they have seen to their soil health and fertility.

The Russos also showcased their use of variable rate product application technology and GPS guidance to enhance their controlled traffic system.

In Maryborough, growers visited **Jeff Atkinson's** farm where they learned about Jeff's rotation of soybeans and pineapples with cane grown on a two metre dual row system.

The group was also able to view Jeff's trial of a 2.4 metre dual row system.

The farm visits are an important component of the BMP training, with growers able to discuss farming



systems to support healthy soils with growers who have made these changes work on their own farms.

Discussion around the challenges, such as switching a conventional system to wider rows and controlled traffic, are important as growers can draw on their own experiences and how they have overcome the challenges.

Farm visits are followed with a classroom session working through the fundamentals of farming for healthy soil.

Participants benefit from open discussion on the soil health issues that arise through conventional farming practices and the changes that can be made to reduce the impacts of compaction, monoculture, damage to soil structure and loss of soil biology.

Feedback from the southern region training was very positive with growers reporting that they were able to identify practices they now intend to introduce on their own farms.

They also said they were inspired by the mix of local knowledge and experience and the wealth of research data shared during the training.

Further training has been run in Ingham and the Burdekin. Smartcane BMP Training is coordinated by Sugar Research Australia on behalf of CANEGROWERS, is supported by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and run in collaboration with local BMP facilitators and extension services.

For more information on BMP Training in Improving Soil Health, Practical Drainage Workshops, Improving Irrigation and Cane Grub and Weed Management please contact **Belinda Billing** at SRA on (07) 4783 8602.

For future events see the Cane Calendar www.canecalendar.com.au

The BMP training included a visit to Nathan and Michael Russo's farm at Farnsfield.

Contract	Latest Settlement	Monthly Change	High	Low
May-2016	14.64	0.14	16.75	14.12
Jul-2016	14.82	0.52	16.63	13.99
Oct-2016	15.03	0.62	16.68	14.10
Mar-2017	15.51	0.63	17.05	14.58
May-2017	15.31	0.69	16.62	14.34
Jul-2017	15.09	0.76	16.22	14.12
Oct-2017	15.06	0.82	16.22	14.02
Mar-2018	15.38	0.94	16.02	14.29
May-2018	15.32	0.92	16.13	14.35
BRL/USD	3.6238	-12.91%	3.9567	3.6859
Ethanol Parity	14.41			

Market Update

Current as of 4 April 2016

Sugar

WHAT HAPPENED?

Raw sugar futures were largely positive during March. An upward trend was seen in flat prices, as the prompt May16 Contract made fresh 12-month highs.

Numerous attempts to break through recent resistance levels saw a mid-month move that opened the flood gates for the market to ratchet higher. May16 surged 27% from mid-February to March amid concerns for global stocks.

The rally was driven by speculative buying which was confirmed in the Commitment of Traders (COT) reports that followed each week.

Whilst the majority of the price action was positive, the last week of the month has seen prices give back some of the gains made.

The view that the physical market is now more aligned to flat prices suggests we should see a short-term squeeze in the flat price.

GOING FORWARD...

Despite the latest bout of weakness seen in raw sugar futures, the near-term backdrop remains constructive.

Weather patterns in India, Thailand and China remain gloomy with all three regions remaining hot and dry. Our main focus looking ahead sits with the upcoming Brazilian harvest which kicked off in the last week of March.

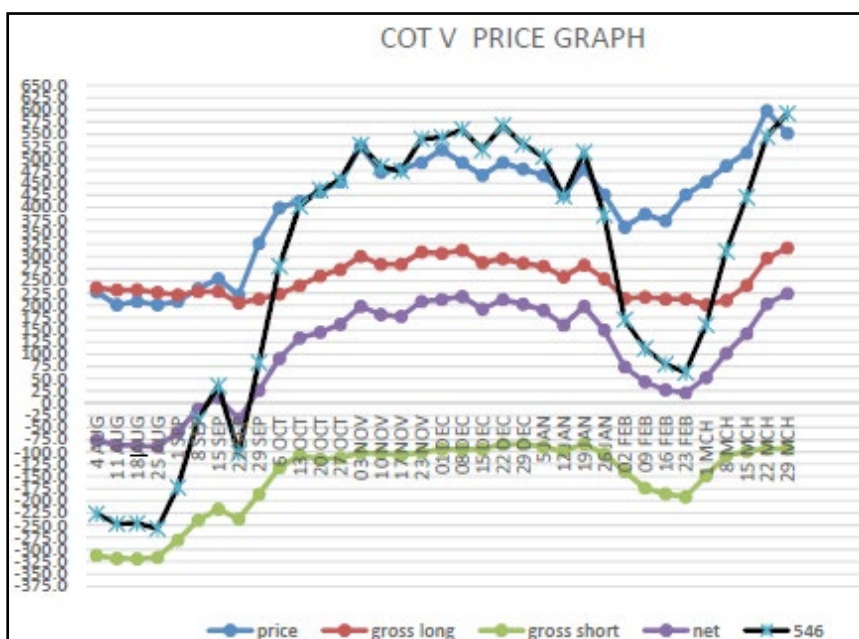
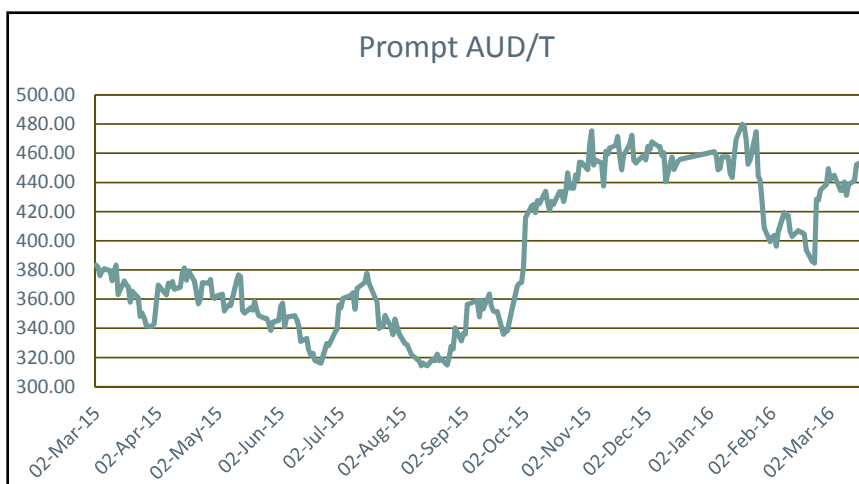
Weather in Centre South Brazil has been good, with plenty of rain during the growing period and some drier weather forecast for the commencement of the crush.

Additionally, we note that the non-index funds have continued to add longs as the market fell away over the past week.

History would propose that despite the latest surprise in the Commitment of Traders (COT) report, the funds should have begun to reduce their long positions now.

While fundamental aspects appear to dominate at present, it is important to note that the technical picture also remains key in trading the current market.

The near-term risk for sugar is on the downside and a 14 to 16-cent range is expected until numbers out of Brazil allow the next significant directional move to come to light.





WHAT COULD CHANGE?

Much like our key focus areas going forward, our possible 'curve ball' this month remains with the Brazilian harvest.

Weather risks are a constant variable which can easily disrupt the current harvest.

The key variable over the next month will lie in the Sugar/Ethanol mix.

Most analysts expect the struggling mills to favour ethanol production for early cash flow, however with recent speculation that the Brazilian Government may lower gasoline prices this could well add further downside pressure to the ICE11.

We will continue to monitor the weather and crushing progress as the harvest goes on to advise on possible changes to early crop estimates.

SPECULATIVE POSITIONS

As noted above, the latest Commitment of Traders (COT) report surprised the market as non-index funds continued to add longs despite the market falling.

Fund buying and selling is triggered by signals related to market price action.

Various technical indicators such as moving averages, momentum indicators and open interest are used to seek trends and identify buying or selling opportunities.

With other markets lagging so far this year, particularly in commodities, sugar has provided funds attractive returns recently, hence the rapid growth in the net-long position.

Currency

WHAT HAPPENED?

It was a monstrous month for the Australian dollar, which rallied just shy of 6 cents through March.

A buoyant commodity complex, improved risk appetite and a dovish US Federal Reserve saw the AUD step higher.

The Fed left rates on hold at their last meeting, noting that, "the change in economic conditions warranted a more gradual increase in rates for 2016".

While this decision to leave rates on hold was expected, the downward revision in dot plots wasn't and as such added to a lift in the AUD.

Despite the obvious flaws in the local economic picture, demand for the Australian dollar will remain, with investors still being provided stable positive returns (albeit lower than historic) against a backdrop of mostly negative rates worldwide.

GOING FORWARD

Looking ahead this month our focus will be on the RBA and local economic drivers following the strength and resilience seen in the AUD.

The RBA expressed a need for the AUD to head lower, but it did the opposite.

Market participants are pricing in a rate cut by the RBA sooner rather than later (May) to alleviate this remarkable strength.

This month from the United States, we will also see Federal Open Market Committee minutes from their last meeting and eventually this month's announcement.

The minutes will be watched closely for hints of a timing for the next hike.

If the US Federal Reserve lifts rates in April, this could provide some breathing space for the RBA.

We expect to see the currency trade a 75 to 78-cent range until real any action from either the RBA or Fed.

WHAT COULD CHANGE?

The RBA is expected to cut rates in May rather than April to give commodities time to finish their rally and also assess whether the local economic data warrants a cut.

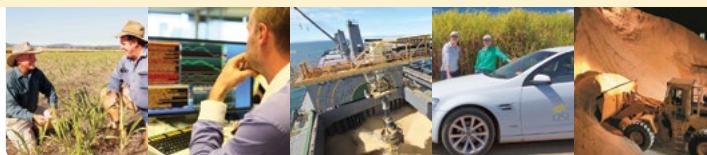
The risk is that neither of these factors could warrant a rate cut by May and the RBA have done nothing to pull back the Aussie dollar. Or, they could cut rates in May and the AUD gets back to a 71-cent handle (ie. back where it started).

It is also always worthwhile to keep an eye on Chinese markets and economic data, with our biggest trading partner always playing a key role in our currency performance.

	Settlement	Change	High	Low
AUD/USD	0.7605	1.35%	0.7723	0.7109

While all care is taken in the preparation of this report the reliability or accuracy of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this report.

GROWER BREAKFAST EVENT



Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) invites you to a free breakfast event at the Innisfail Agricultural Field Day.

Join QSL's team of experts as they provide key insights into the global raw sugar market.

When: Thursday 14 April **Time:** 7.30am-9.30am
Where: Russ Hinze Hall, Innisfail Showgrounds
RSVP: carla.keith@qsl.com.au | 0409 372 305

QSL: Working for you

Putting eyes into the sky above the cane crops

COULD DRONES BE USEFUL ON FARM?

by Matt Kealley, CANEGROWERS

Last week I visited a technology store and on the wall was a range of drones or UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) that you could buy off the shelf. They all looked like modified helicopters, some with up to eight rotors, and they all had the ability to attach camera technology.

As a kid in the 70s and a teenager in the 80s, video games and remote controlled cars were some of the things my brother, my friends and I wished for.

The pinnacle was radio controlled helicopters. They were cool - I imagined flying and looking at my house and the surrounding neighbourhood from the air.

Move ahead to the present day and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), or drones, are becoming more commonplace.

These toys have morphed into sophisticated tools that see the world from above and collect data that can be used for making management and business decisions. In some ways my imagination when I was young has become a reality.

Drones are now being used for remote sensing in agriculture and for precision agriculture, crop management, crop spraying, biosecurity and pest management.

Right: (half pivot), shows three over fertilised strips plus some problem areas (purple). Opposite page: shows mid paddock section in stress (red) and green areas are very healthy - do not need fertilising. Images courtesy of Falcon UAV.

Drones are now being used for remote sensing in agriculture and for precision agriculture, crop management, crop spraying, biosecurity and pest management.

Combined with GPS, a digital camera and sensor technology such as infrared, multispectral, NIR (near-infrared) and LIDAR (light detection and ranging) can offer the ability for agronomists and growers to capture information crop health, crop production and management decisions.

One current application is creating NDVI maps to pinpoint problem areas within a block or crop, or to show areas that are performing well.

NDVI stands for Normalized Difference Vegetation Index - it is an index that measures the colour range of plants. All plants absorb and reflect radiation in the near infrared band and this can be interpreted to identify healthy plants from plants under stress.

CANEGROWERS spoke with Phil Lyons from Falcon UAV, a business that uses drones and NDVI technology in Australian and New Zealand. Phil's recent work is in agriculture and particularly in sugarcane.

For cane, the drone application captured real time NDVI data of the cane blocks. This was then interpreted to identify areas where the cane was doing well and where there were problems.

The data was given to the grower which validated some of the farm operations.

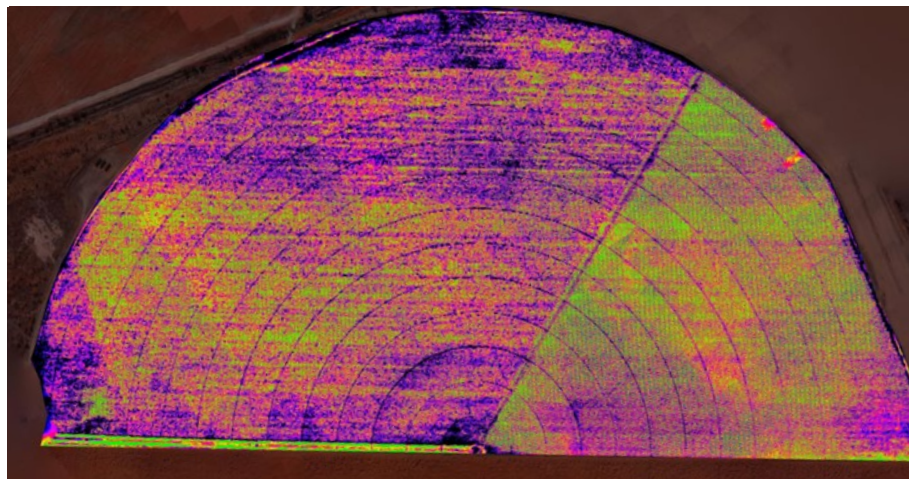
The application of drone technology and data can be useful for precision agriculture.

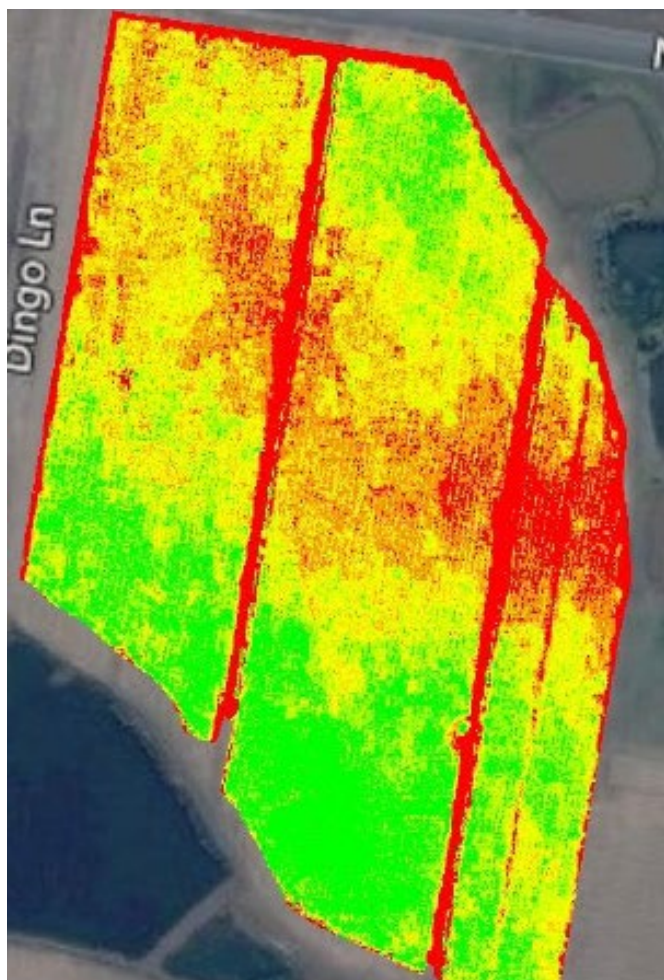
The grower could work with an agronomist and make productivity decisions based on the farm operations, practices, records and goals for the business.

Ideally the drone would be used three times in the season - initially when the cane is small to identify crop needs, again when problems have been addressed and finally just before harvest.

When I think about the possible uses for drone technology in sugarcane, nitrogen, chemical and water application come immediately to mind.

However, grub management, cane crop estimation, cyclone and flood damage assessment and identifying issues such as Yellow Canopy Syndrome can also be done. ►





NEW RULES FOR DRONES ON FARMS

The regulations around use of drones on farms will change this year.

From 29 September 2016, farmers will no longer need to get approval from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to use drones (or remotely piloted aircraft) on their own land, as long as there is no remuneration and the aircraft weighs less than 25 kilograms.

The new rule changes also mean commercial operators of very small remotely piloted aircraft will no longer need to obtain a number of regulatory approvals. The changes apply to remotely piloted aircraft weighing less than two kilograms maximum take-off weight used in commercial operations.

These operators will simply need to notify CASA that they intend to use very small remotely piloted aircraft for commercial flights according to a set of standard operating conditions.

The mandatory conditions include flying only in day visual line of sight, below 120 metres, keeping more than 30 metres away from other people, flying more than 5.5 kilometres from controlled aerodromes and not operating near emergency situations.

The application of drone technology, the regulations governing its use and the improvement of other data capture technology mean that drones could well be a tool that is used more frequently in sugarcane farming over the next few years. The sky is the limit! ■

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Supplied by Australian Certified UAV Operators Inc.

Contrary to what many people have been led to believe recently, the operation of ALL drones for hire and reward in Australia requires formal certification from CASA, regardless of size. There is no 'sub-2kg class' legalised by CASA yet, and there are currently no exemptions from the regulations for operating a 2kg drone. Whether its 2kg or 20kg, there is no difference in the CASR98 Part 101 aviation regulations which currently apply. [Note: Recently announced CASA amendments to the Part 101 regulations do not take effect for another 6 months (Oct 1st 2016)]

Until 1 October, if you are operating a drone for other than sport or recreational purposes, you must be certified by CASA and there are two certificates required:

1. A UAV Controller Certificate or Remote Pilot Licence (the personal qualification)
2. A UAV Operator Certificate (UOC) (the business qualification)

Currently, CASA is approving limited commercial operations under the following conditions:

- Daylight Visual Meteorological Conditions (Day VMC)
- Visual Line Of Sight (VLOS) operations only
- Not above 400ft Above Ground Level (AGL)
- Not in Controlled Airspace
- Not with 3km of an aerodrome, airport or helipad
- Not over Populous Areas
- Not within 30m of people - not associated with the operation

(For more info visit the ACUO website: <http://www.acuo.org.au/industry-information/what-the-regulations-say/>)

Qualifications and certification in the unmanned sector of aviation are essential to maintain aviation and public safety.

- Only certified UAV Operators have the appropriate safety oversight from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)
- Only certified UAV Operators are fully insured with appropriate Public Liability insurance
- Only certified UAV Operators are trained to capture accurate and reliable data, without endangering you or others

Employing or contracting aerial services from an uncertified UAV Operator is a disaster waiting to happen.

Before you employ or contract aerial services from a UAV Operator;

- Demand to see their business certificate from CASA, called a UAV Operator Certificate or UOC
- Demand to see valid Public Liability insurance documents as well, to ensure YOU are adequately protected

For more information on the operation of drones for commercial purposes, please go to www.acuo.org.au or email your questions to secretary@acuo.org.au

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ACUO's certified UAV Operators are experts in their respective professional fields

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For more information on the association, or unmanned aviation in Australia
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UAVs in agriculture - some major benefits

Supplied by Falcon UAV

With all the interest being shown in aerial imaging by an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), here is the case to support using this new technology on your farm.

The main use of UAVs to date has been the creation of Normalised Difference Vegetative Index (NDVI) Crop Health maps.

To explain NDVI, all plant life reflects Near Infrared (NIR) and the more a plant reflects, the healthier it is. The human eye cannot detect NIR but photography can and when converted to NDVI, it can indicate actual crop health.

Those areas indicated as very healthy, do not need further inputs meaning major savings in fertiliser costs while those areas showing up as 'stressed' can be investigated to determine if the cause is nutrition, irrigation, infestation, weeds, etc. With the cause determined, specific and curative treatment will bring those plants to improved yield.

Whilst satellites can do the imaging, it is generally only for very large areas and its average resolution is around 8 – 10 metres per pixel. It is only available when the specific satellite is overhead and if it is cloudy there is no data. A UAV can provide imagery at any time, even under clouds and to a resolution of 20-30cm per pixel.

The AgEagle UAV system has been designed specifically for agricultural use. The flying wing configuration is more practical than any multi rotor, as its endurance is greater, its speed is faster and it is built to be tougher.

The system is easy to operate: A flight plan is created using a Google Earth map image in a few minutes, the UAV is launched and the flight controlled by a laptop computer. After the flight, the aircraft returns to land at its starting point and the data is processed on-site.

The NDVI technology can be applied to any plant life revealing issues of nutrition or water stress which cannot be seen by the human eye. It's no wonder the use of UAV systems as a farming tool is growing globally.

Information gathered in the air can produce variable rate prescription maps for the application of crop treatments. By regularly monitoring crops health, costs can be reduced and yields improved.

The AgEagle is the largest selling ag UAV in the world with more than 300 taking flight in the past two years. The system is 'future proofed' - as new cameras and sensors are invented, they can be fitted to the AgEagle meaning it will give years of service.

Falcon UAV is Australia's leading UAV/drone company and offers full training on-site and on-going back up with every system sold.



Aerial Imaging by UAV

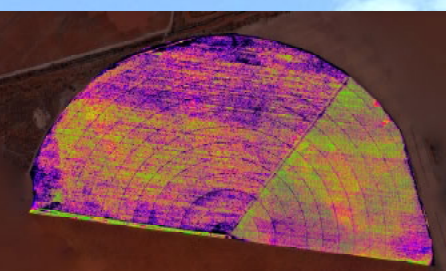
The very latest in ag technology.

Aerial imaging with a Near Infrared camera instantly shows which plants are under stress that the human eye cannot see. Healthy plants reflect lots of NIR and this is what our cameras detects.

Saves money, increase yield!

The AgEagle aerial imaging system is the best Unmanned Flying System designed specifically for Agriculture.


Contact us about having your crop imaged, or a new complete system for your farm.



We supply NDVI Crop Health maps of any type of crop. Ground proof for accurate treatment.

Fix problem areas; save on chemicals

Contact us at: www.falconuav.com.au



CANE PIVOT NDVI IMAGE

SOIL INFO SYSTEM SOIL ANALYSIS

looking subsurface to grow a better crop

Supplied by BMS Lasersat

Soil Information System (SIS) analysis gives growers the tools they need to optimise growing conditions and improve overall crop output and quality.

Plant materials within a field may be uniform, but the soils in which those crops are to grow are not. With SIS, growers can assess the variability within each field and treat different zones according to their unique needs, thereby raising outputs and quality to the highest grade achievable throughout the field.

Trimble's Soil Information System is a new leap forward in understanding paddock and yield variability. This system uses multiple technologies to create accurate and reliable 3D information from 0-1200mm.

SIS creates a 3D soil database of paddock soil for over 60 physical and chemical characteristics from which actionable diagnostic reports are extracted. This information creates the capacity for more precise farming.

THE SIS SYSTEM INVOLVES 5 STEPS

The first step is to define a paddock boundary using the RTK GPS that is fitted to the vehicle and this GPS data is fed into the on-board computer that is running the SIS software called Data Analysis Acquisition Software (DAAS). This software ties all the mapping processes together.

The software is designed to calculate optimal locations for collecting data to assist in paddock navigation to defined locations on the display and for transferring information for post processing.

The second step involves the use of the surfer to fill in the detail within the paddock boundary defined in step one. The surfer collects variability information using the electro-magnetic sensor in the sled, and its corresponding GPS position.

In conjunction with EM (electromagnetic) data collection, the software is collating digital elevation modelling information, which is being collected approximately every metre.

A topographical map is produced from this digital elevation model information and is used as a tool to help with irrigation/drainage planning.

The EM data is collected to give the SIS a better understanding of bulk soil variability patterns.

The DEM and EM data provide input for SIS intelligent targeting algorithms. This information is used for the next step in the process.

Step three is soil characterisation (Diver) which is the investigation of exactly what it is that is causing the soil variability and this is achieved by using a probe with a number of different sensors. The locations for the diver are calculated from the variability that has been identified from the surfer operation and are displayed on the on board computer.

The vehicle is anchored to ensure that all measurements are repeatable.

The geophysical probe is pushed into the ground to collect continuous data streams from the sensors: tip force, sleeve resistance, moisture and electrical resistance.

This data is displayed in real time on the on board monitor and is also stored.

Step four is soil characterisation and all of the data collected is used for this process.

The software uses information from the surfer and diver process to calculate where the optimal locations for chemical property core collection will be.

This is done to maximise 3D spatial representation for chemical property analysis.

In step five, all of this information is processed to interpret the data and create three dimensional maps.

These maps provide the most accurate soil information to make decisions. For example plant available water can be used to help design irrigation layout, moisture sensor targeting and irrigation scheduling.

SIS gives a real picture of the factors influencing your paddock variability, and gives farmers and advisors the confidence needed to manage portions of paddocks within paddocks to maximise yield potential, and to minimise input costs.

SIS can also be used if you are buying new land and want to be certain of its potential or possible issues.

Tracking improvements from farming practice changes or monitoring areas that previously had below average yield are other uses.

Reducing and managing inputs according to field potential is also an outcome.

SIS is a valuable tool in understanding paddock variability related to plant available water, salt concentration levels, hardpan depth and severity, root zone depth, clay percentage, nutrient holding capacity, compaction levels and many more.



Pictured right: BMS Lasersat's Bryan Granshaw in the field

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History shows **Case IH** has led tracks of innovation

Supplied by Case IH

Case IH led global development of track technology back in the early 1990s, releasing the first tracked tractor nearly 20 years ago.

Bruce Healy, Case IH Brand Leader – Australia, said equipment featuring track technology, including a combination of tracks and tyres, is becoming increasingly popular.

“Case IH developed the idea of using tracks as a way of putting more power to the ground and eliminating power hop, improving traction and leaving no berms,” he said.

“Uptake has been strong, as producers worldwide with soil conditions needing better flotation have taken advantage of the many benefits.”

Bruce said as well as very effectively protecting the soil, track technology gives the operator improved control of the tractor or combine.

“When we developed track technology on tractors, we set the benchmark—which the rest of the industry continues to chase—but we haven’t sat still; we’re continually evolving the technology.

“And of course, we’ve set the performance bar even higher for our 2016 models,” Bruce said.

“Case IH has continued to improve the technology, with specific drivelines and an

exclusive undercarriage system to handle the power and torque of tracks.

“The improvements we’ve made have come from us having the knowledge of developing track technology on tractors in the first place.

“Additionally, the Case IH dealer network is extremely experienced in servicing tracked machines, having done it for nearly two decades.

“People should never underestimate the value of having dealer service staff who can ensure machines are running to their full potential whenever they are needed.

“It’s that expertise that gives our customers peace of mind when they invest in a Case IH tracked tractor or combine.”

From that first 9370 Steiger Quadtrac, track technology is now incorporated across numerous Case IH tractor and combine models, including Steiger Quadtrac, Steiger Rowtrac, Axial-Flow combines and the Magnum Rowtrac family that Case IH launched in 2015.

Bruce said over the years, Case IH has developed track technology to suit a variety of farming enterprises in Australia—from sugarcane growers in far north Queensland, to wheat farmers spanning Victoria’s Mallee and Western Australia, through to cotton producers in New South Wales.

Steiger Quadtrac and Rowtrac models have a four-track system—with four individually driven, oscillating tracks—ensuring maximum manoeuvrability while increasing traction and reducing compaction and soil disturbance.

The track-wheel combination in Magnum Rowtrac models gives farmers row-crop flexibility.

For more information, and to find the best tractor for your farming business, talk to your local Case IH dealer or visit www.caseih.com.

The evolution of track technology. Below, the 9370 Steiger Quadtrac on show in 1992 and, bottom, the new Steiger Quadtrac 600.



“Uptake has been strong, as producers worldwide with soil conditions needing better flotation have taken advantage of the many benefits.”

More cane – more sugar – more profit

By Martin Shaw, Stoller Sugar Research

I recently had the pleasure of having smoko with **Max Srhoj**, his wife **Denise** and two sons **David** and **Wayne** at their Mareeba farm where they grow sugarcane and pumpkins - with sugarcane being the main enterprise

All their cane is grown on sub-surface drip irrigation put in three years ago.

The tape is set at a depth of 300mm and this has proven to be extremely successful

They were introduced to Stoller Liquid fertilisers in 2014 by a representative from their local independent distributor.

David and Wayne decided to give the Stoller Liquid fertiliser program a try as they were told that it would help maintain higher yields over longer periods before having to replant.

In 2014 part of a large block of Q228 was planted using Stoller ClearStart15KZ @50lts/ha + Bio-forge @1.2lts/ha directly onto the billets in the furrow.

As it happened, part of the treated and untreated block was sprayed with a pre-emergence herbicide and mistakenly incorporated into the soil.

It later became evident that the cane had been severely damaged by the incorporated herbicide, however

the Stoller-treated part recovered completely while the damaged area had to be replanted.

This event gave David and Wayne the confidence to plant a much larger area of Q228 in 2015 using the Stoller Liquid program but this time replacing the Bio-Forge with Action5 @ 0.5lt/Ha and keeping the ClearStart15KZ at 50lts/Ha.

David and Wayne also re-applied ClearStart15KZ @25lts/ha + Action 5@0.5lt/ha over the row to their first ratoon cane.

All their cane receives a side dress of 200kg/ha of CK67S and 130-150Kg/ha of urea put through the irrigation system following Six Easy Steps.

Cane yields on the farm are typically 150-200 tonnes per hectare with average CCS of 14.5 – 15.

When I asked David what he saw as the benefits of using the Stoller Liquid fertiliser program he said, "We see a much better strike rate, more even emergence down the row and a much bigger root system that is needed for

the yields we are looking for and an extra unit of CCS".

"Stoller Sugar Research working with cane farmers to find practical ways to improve yields gives us confidence to use their nutrient programs, knowing recommendations are backed by trials and research," he said.

"This is very important to us, after all its about dollars per hectare and improving yields - tonnes per hectare is king."

"One real benefit of this program is that with the much bigger root system it produces, we should be able to avoid having to replant quite as soon as we normally would, meaning more dollars in the bank.

"Because of the increased root mass, we should also increase our organic carbon levels in the soil over time, creating better water holding capacity and making more efficient use of our nutrients, especially nitrogen, so leaving less to run-off."

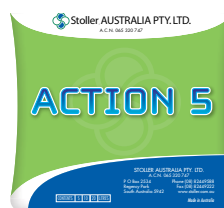
For more information contact **Martin Shaw** 0418 808 438.



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ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ON

Every day there seems to be another headline about sugar and the effect it is having on our health. From 'latest research' and 'expert opinion' to 'personal anecdotes' these stories can be conflicting, confusing and ill-informed.

When it comes to understanding sugar and finding reliable answers to your questions, it is best to get your information from credible, trustworthy and up-to date sources. That's why the Australian Sugar Industry Nutrition Team has developed a new website, All About Sugars (www.allaboutsugars.com).

All About Sugars takes you through tips to enjoy a healthy, balanced lifestyle by eating a variety of foods from the five food groups, being physically active and enjoying a treat or two in moderation.

There are several tools and resources available, such as a calculator to tell you approximately how much energy you might need in a day, guides on how read food labels (and what to look for) and healthy, nutritious recipes to try.

We believe that focussing on a single nutrient, sugar, as the culprit for obesity or Type 2 diabetes can be too simplistic; these are complex conditions with complex causes. Instead, we're about taking a common sense and balanced approach.

Did you know research has shown adding a little sugar to otherwise nutritious foods, such as yoghurt or porridge, means people are more likely to eat them? By making these foods more palatable, people are getting essential vitamins and minerals they might otherwise have missed out on.

If you are interested in getting more facts like this, have a question about nutrition, or have friends asking you about sugar at social events, the All About Sugars website now provides you direct access to the ASA Nutrition Team, through the Ask Our Nutritionist section.

Over the next year, we will be developing and sharing more resources to our members to keep you up to date on the latest research on sugar and health.

For more info, or to find out if reduced sugar or no sugar products are better for you, visit www.allaboutsugars.com.



sugar and health

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*As a FREE service to CANEGROWERS members, Australian Canegrower will print suitable classified advertisements UP TO 5 LINES FREE, FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY. A charge of \$5.50 will apply for each extra line or part thereof. A charge will apply for advertising of non-cane growing activities. Advertisements must relate exclusively to cane farming activities, e.g. farm machinery etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only pre-paid ads will be accepted.

Beaulieu R.U.M.

Attention Canegrowers

The first step in achieving a high yielding cane crop is a good strike and vigorous growth in the early stage of your crop.

This can be achieved easily by simply adding 5 litres of R.U.M per acre to your dip water.

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For further information contact –

Burdekin & Northern Region call Wally Ford 0417 937 722

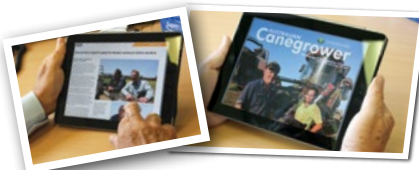
Mackay Region call Noel Jensen 0438 595 325

Childers Region call Peter Irwin 0428 427 212

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INVITING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR

Industry Auditors for the Smartcane BMP Program

Information about the program and
preparing an expression of interest
is available from www.canegrowers.com.au/page/work-for-us

Alternatively, contact Mick Quirk,
Smartcane BMP Project Manager,
on 0408 748 141.

Expressions of Interest must be
received by COB 29 April 2016.

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	
	28.03.16	04.04.16		
Jan - Apr				
Mossman	8	0	840	1585
Mareeba AP	22	0	326	680
Cairns	12	2	539	1459
Mt Sophia	47	0	833	2260
Babinda	58	0	932	2708
Innisfail	65	3	1188	2224
Tully	19	0	1287	2623
Cardwell	4	0	1037	1513
Lucinda	20	0	1180	1465
Ingham	8	3	1108	1397
Abergowrie	1	0	783	1286
Townsville	7	0	777	814
Ayr DPI	22	0	353	643
Proserpine	19	0	825	911
Mirani	14	0	857	996
Mackay	12	0	950	996
Sarina (Plane Ck)	29	0	1145	1147
Bundaberg	10	1	455	489
Childers South	12	3	421	396
Maryborough	18	0	454	581
Tewantin	38	0	539	867
Eumundi	25	4	402	861
Nambour	11	0	380	859
Woongoolba	0.2	10	122	617
Murwillumbah	42	2	554	800
Ballina	68	7	505	780
Woodburn	40	15	257	629



AustSafe
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regional Australia.

Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent. These rainfall figures are subject to verification and may be updated later. Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the farming community can be accessed on www.bom.gov.au. Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.

Mossman –Tully

Kubota B6100 4x4 tractor with slasher and Triple-K scarifier to suit. Schirmer 182 heavy duty forklife for tractor. 3-point linkage fert bin. 2 inch arch bar. 3-phase plasma cutter, Unimig 105. 3-row folding cotton king. Ph: 4066 9889.

Hodge 5 Furrow reverse Plough with new Hoses GC + 5 new Discs + 2 new Bearing Housings \$2,500 + GST. Newton Suscon Box GC. \$200 + GST. Ph: 0429681264

Toft 6000 with Rotary Chop & Cat 3306DI Motor, good Billet machine. Ph: 0428 100 564

2 x Kohler KD 110 KVA Diesel Generators \$22,000 each Inc GST. Ph: 0428681869

SURPLUS MACHINERY FOR SALE – Peanut combine, Hobbs Amadas six-row, Case header, 2388 AFX rotor, 4WD, 3500 hours, including John Deere corn head. 6m Honeybee draper front. Grain dryer GT 580. Case Magnum 7120, 4WD, aircab, GC. John Deere 6800, 40kph transmission, 4WD, aircab, total rear-end overhaul. Ph: 0419 911 226

Herbert River – Burdekin

2012 Case IH 8000 has 2070 hours on the clock. Steering wheel fitted at dealers work shop, original spare front & rear tyres to go with machine. Ph: 0429 840 117

Hodge 5 Furrow reverse Plough with new Hoses GC + 5 new Discs + 2 new Bearing Housings \$2,500 + GST. Newton Suscon Box GC. \$200 + GST. Ph: 0429681264

2 x Wholestalk Cane Planting trailers. \$100.00 each O.N.O. Ph: 0478 382 118.

CASE 7700 harvester 03, in GC, 2000 hours on engine with spare 10.3 Iveco engine. Ph: 0417 749 353

International 1486 cab tractor 2wd runs well not being used \$5500.00 firm. Ph: 47773059

Mackay – Proserpine

12T SELF-PROPELLED 6x6 elev infielder VGC. 6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem GC. Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mason 9550 4-row precision vacuum seed planter GC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay)

6500 TOFT cane harvester, GC, \$60,000. Ph: 0458 525 310

Toft 4000 cummings motor 4ft ext rams on elevator very tidy machine \$15000.00 +gst ono. Ph: 0427588037.

John Deer cotton picker with 3 point,mister,spray boom,1200litre tank,elect controls,\$1100+gst .PH 0427588037

Valtra 6400 4WD Tractor - 100HP, Air-Con Cab, 2004 Model. 3700 Hours. GC. \$30 000. (incl GST) ONO. Ph:: 0418710958 / 49503048.

Cane Harvester - 2007 John Deere 3510, GC, only cut plants in last 3 year, \$200,000 + GST. Ph: Greg 0427 590326 or Paul 0429 835400

New Holland Tractor - T7030 4WD CAB Auto command 40K Super Steer axle 2011 model, 175HP, Trimble GPS, air conditioned, very GC.

\$85,000 + GST. Ph: Paul 0429 835400
FORD 5000 + Newton 4 tonne side tipper \$12000 + gst. Ph 0437 184 822

1 Agrisem 3mt ECO Plough, 1 Set Johnny Farming 28 plate Offsets 26" Discs. Both Units used approx. 20 hours. 1 3mt Landplane. Ph: 0447561984

Bundaberg – Rocky Point

DROP-DECK, tautliner and flat top extendable for hire. 07 4159 8174 or 0417 004 717.

K LINE SPEEDTILLERS for hire, efficient tillage implement, Ph: AgQuip hire. 1300 859 869

John Deere 9940 cotton picker, rear wheel assist, stripped down ready for conversion to sprayer \$10 000+GST. 0427 769 086

Cane Harvester – Modified 4000 Corradini – rotating extractor hoods, primary and secondary. The latest 6000 epi-cycles, Austoft shredder topper, front end 7000, GC. For sale or parts. Ph: 0427 598 333

Self-propelled sprayer Nitro N2XP, 2xquick-hitch booms (broadacre 27m wide boom and interrow boom for sugarcane) plus one set GC interrow spray shields. 4,200 litre tank with two compartments, 3,500 engine hours. \$88,000 incl.GST Ph 0428 212 792

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FORD TW15 or 25 tractor engine block Ph 0418180650 anytime

TRACTOR TYRES of all sizes. 0418 775 698 all hours.

Lime spreader. prefer belt type, but will consider others. some repairs ok. 0427 120 499

Positions Vacant

CARMILA AREA - Haulout Operators required 2016 season. Ph: 0407 701 298 or 07 4950 2279

Work Wanted

TULLY/ INNISFAIL AREA - Harvester contractor available for 2016 cane season - Tully/ Innisfail/ surrounding district. Looking for farmers interested in smaller Group (80,000 tonne max). 0418 183 584
BURDEKIN AREA - Seeking full-time farmhand work or haulout job for 2016. Have industry experience, HR license, forklift license, white card and chemical accreditation. Ph: 0417 682 797 or email jgreco127@yahoo.com.au

Seeking harvest job for the 2016 season. Experience driving tractors /trucks and some plant equipment. Currently driving interstate truck, HC licence. Boiler maker by trade, mechanically minded, willing to give anything a go. Ph: Sam - 0467 234 963

AREAS NORTH OF MACKAY - Seeking haul out position for 2016 season. Have completed various harvests, possess HR licence and extensive experience on trucks, dozers, loaders, tractors and plant equipment. Very mechanically minded, mature and committed. Please call Peter on 0481 752369.

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MACKAY: 1750 Acres, seven lots, Coastal flat freehold property. South of Mackay supplying Mackay Sugar. High rainfall area and endless potential for diversification. House and garage, equipped irrigation system, shed, machinery and equipment. Ph: 0407 157 792

MACKAY: 422 hectares, cattle and cane. Huge supply of water, absolutely drought-proof property, 120 mega-litre water license, right on the coast. Ph: 0407 157 792

HERBERT RIVER: Cane farm 60.73ha with machinery and 4 bedroom dwelling at 194 Lannercost Ext Rd, Ingham Ph: 40454321

INGHAM: Cane Farm for sale, Hawkins Creek. Total Area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6ha. Shed, electricity and water. Genuine enquiries Ph: 0407635175.

WALKERSTON AREA: Cane farm for sale, fully irrigated, 42.5ha cane 3.6ha grazing Ph: 0418 185 663



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