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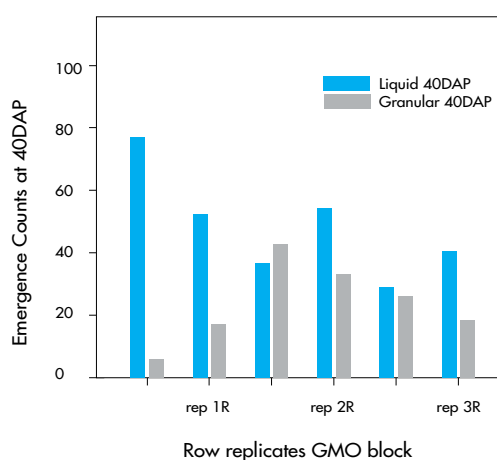
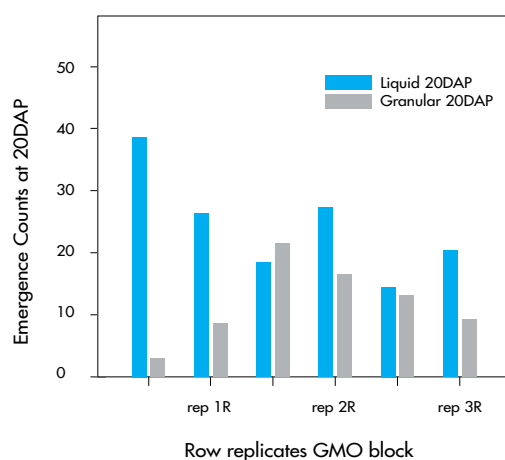


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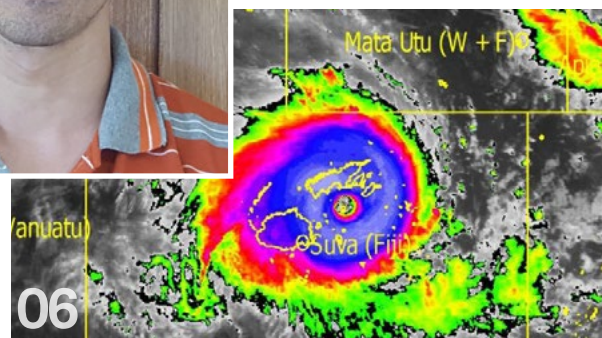
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Good policy is at the heart of good advocacy

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

This edition of *Australian Canegrower*, with its feature on crop protection, could not be focused on a more timely issue. With crops in the ground and wide spread rain over the last couple of weeks, I am sure farmers across the state are focused on locking in strategies to protect the health and vigour in the field.

While not wishing to stretch the analogy too far, the CANEGROWERS federation is also on the verge of welcoming a new and re-invigorated leadership group.

While the results of the CANEGROWERS election are still being finalised, it is our role at CANEGROWERS to move towards establishing a sound framework for what our new incoming Policy Council will contribute to policy setting for the organisation.

We have conveyed many times in this magazine that the strength of this industry body is our ability to attract leadership from grass roots growers and farming families via our district company structures.

More than likely, when over the next couple of weeks these district boards meet to decide who from within their group should represent their district at the statewide policy council, the list of names will result in many familiar faces and a number of new ones.

Either way, the opportunity for the organisation to reflect and plan for the new incoming council, which will begin its term in May, is important.

This is a time to reflect on the structure, on our ability to engage and have conversations with farmers and most importantly, to review and improve our ability to allow the Policy Council to review and set policy.

Policy making is a topic that can be for some as dry a topic as you could ever want to encounter. But for an industry organisation, it is crucial.

Policy must be relevant, sustainable, clear and evidence-based.

Without these things, our advocacy or our ability to argue the case for

effective policy outcomes for farmers is hamstrung from the beginning.

The CANEGROWERS Policy Council is a relatively new structure for us.

Having formed only two years ago, it has only met five times and to that extent, the processes we use to assist growers who are involved to establish and review policy are still being refined.

Having a new Council will provide impetus to review our current industry policies, provide time to reflect on them and update them.

Effective policy formation will take time if it is to be truly reflective of where the industry wants to go, what it wants be and how it wants to get there.

By its very nature it should be forward looking, not set in the past.

This time will be used to craft policy but, more importantly, it is time that is needed to allow growers across the length of the state to contribute their ideas and priorities, which we hope will deliver a more prosperous industry for all. ■

“Effective policy formation will take time if it is to be truly reflective of where the industry wants to go.”



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NEWS IN BRIEF

FARM TRIALS WITH WATER QUALITY FOCUS

CANEGROWERS members were among the 78 farmers hailed as innovators at a recent Project Catalyst Forum in Cairns.

Many growers presented updates on the research projects they're conducting which aim to improve water quality in catchments flowing to the Great Barrier Reef while also maintaining or improving farm productivity.

Project Catalyst is a partnership between the farmers, Reef Catchments, Terrain NRM, NQ Dry Tropics, the Australian Government, WWF and The Coca-Cola Foundation.

Terrain NRM CEO **Carole Sweatman** said it assisted growers with developing, testing and validating new farming practices.

"These farmers are driving the adoption of cutting edge practices that will yield improved environmental outcomes," she said.

"The forum was a fantastic opportunity to bring this network of farmers together to share knowledge and learn."

Reef Catchments Manager **Katrina Dent** said the forum was held at a significant time, as the sugar industry sought to find ways to help meet ambitious targets to reduce sediment and chemical runoff from farms into river catchments that connect to the Reef.



A number of growers reported on trials of using bio-fertilisers to build soil health.

The aim is to gauge if the application of a substance they've fermented on farm containing nutrients and

microorganisms will allow them to reduce conventional fertiliser use.

One of the growers is **Mario Raccanello** who is featured on page 14.

Other projects involve break crops, variable rate nutrient application, irrigation automation and mill by-product application.

Coca-Cola South Pacific President **Roberto Mercadé** said the company was extremely proud of Project Catalyst, its achievements and the relationships developed between growers and program partners.

"By providing financial support, we can further develop and progress sustainable farming practices that will continue to improve the quality of water flowing into the Reef," he said.

"Water replenishment is a key focus for The Coca-Cola Company, with the achievements of Project Catalyst to date directly resulting in the Coca-Cola Company accomplishing its 2020 water replenishment goal five years early." ■

CANE WELCOMES NEW AG COMMISSIONER

The sugarcane industry has welcomed well-known agricultural figure, **Mick Keogh**, to his new role as Agricultural Commissioner to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

The position was outlined in the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper released last July.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources **Barnaby Joyce**

said the position was created in response to farmers' concerns about supply chain transparency.

"It will go a long way to reducing farmers' vulnerability to the market power that can be wielded by large processors or retail chains," the Minister said.

CANEGROWERS says that sugarcane growers will be amongst the many farmers across Australia who will take heart that there is now an individual devoted to investigating their interests in receiving fair treatment.

"It will be reassuring for growers that Mr Keogh brings three decades of experience across the Australian agricultural sector to the role," said CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan**.

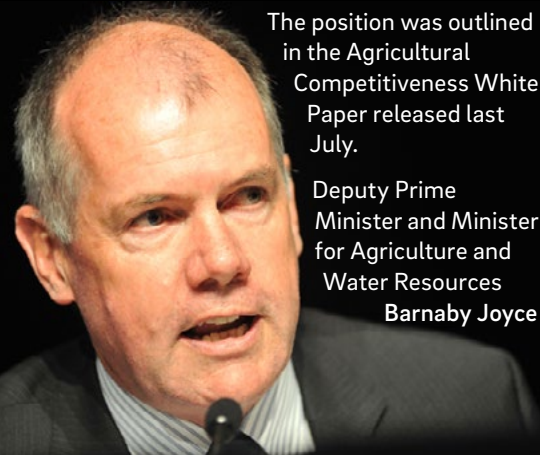
"During this time he's worked in many capacities over many parts of the sector, gaining a deep understanding of supply chain transparency and the mechanisms

to build strong agricultural commodities.

"It is certainly important to us that such a critical role is filled by someone who really understands the complex relationships and processes which go on behind the scenes to build a strong agricultural sector for Australia - from the paddock to the consumer."

CANEGROWERS has also welcomed the ACCC's newly established Agriculture Enforcement and Engagement Unit, with which Mr Keogh and the other commissioners will work closely.

"Having a team schooled up on the complexities of the Australian agriculture sector and with broad-ranging investigatory powers is an important plank if we are to continue to innovate and hold Australia up as world class in the competitive world market," Mr Galligan said.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

DROUGHT IMPACT – SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's sugarcane harvest is expected to be the country's smallest since 1995 because of drought.

The harvest for the 2015-16 season is forecast to be down 22% to 1.63 million tonnes according to the South African Sugar Association.

The industry employs around 79,000 people and is also struggling with low prices and a flood of cheap imports from Brazil.

EXPORT SUBSIDY – PAKISTAN

Pakistan's government has approved the export of 500,000 tonnes of sugar that will attract a subsidy to millers equivalent to AU\$85 million.

Only mills which have settled payments to cane growers for last season and have started full scale crushing are allowed to export.

The Pakistan Sugar Mills Association is quoted in local media as saying sugar stocks stand at 1.1 million tonnes with another 5.13 million tonnes being produced in the current season. Domestic consumption is 4.8 million tonnes.

SUGAR SMUGGLING - CHINA

China's sugar industry is urging the government to take action against smugglers. It's estimated 1.5 million tonnes of white sugar was trucked in last year.

Reuters reports that India and Thailand are the major sources of the sugar which is moved through Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia into China.

The illegal trade has been driven by a combination of factors including a drop in China's own sugar production, a clampdown on raw sugar import licences and high import margins.

CHILD LABOUR - INDIA

Education authorities are concerned about the number of children missing school to help with the sugarcane harvest in northern India from November to April.

While it's estimated the number of children working on farms and in jaggery-making operations (unrefined and non-distilled sugar) has dropped by 20% this season, average school attendance in Uttar Pradesh has fallen to 45%.

The *International Sugar Journal* reports that close to 70% of the region's population earns its living from agriculture with cane harvested by hand and processed in around 800 jaggery-making units.

QUAD BIKE SAFETY PLAN LAUNCHED

The State Government has launched a Plan for Improving Quad Bike Safety in Queensland which will focus on community education and awareness about the risks, improving operator skill and leadership in promoting safety.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) has welcomed the move to address the levels of quad bike death and injury related incidents.

QFF President **Stuart Armitage** thanked the government for its holistic workplace health and safety approach that has worked closely and consultatively with industry.

"The plan has been able to bring together a number of departments and industry

representatives to ensure any changes to quad bike regulation and interactions are consistent with community and industry expectations," he said.

"QFF and its industry member organisations acknowledge that the statistics around quad bike accidents in Queensland, over 1,500 hospitalisations between 2009 and 2013 and 69 deaths in the past 15 years, simply don't lie and something needed to be done."

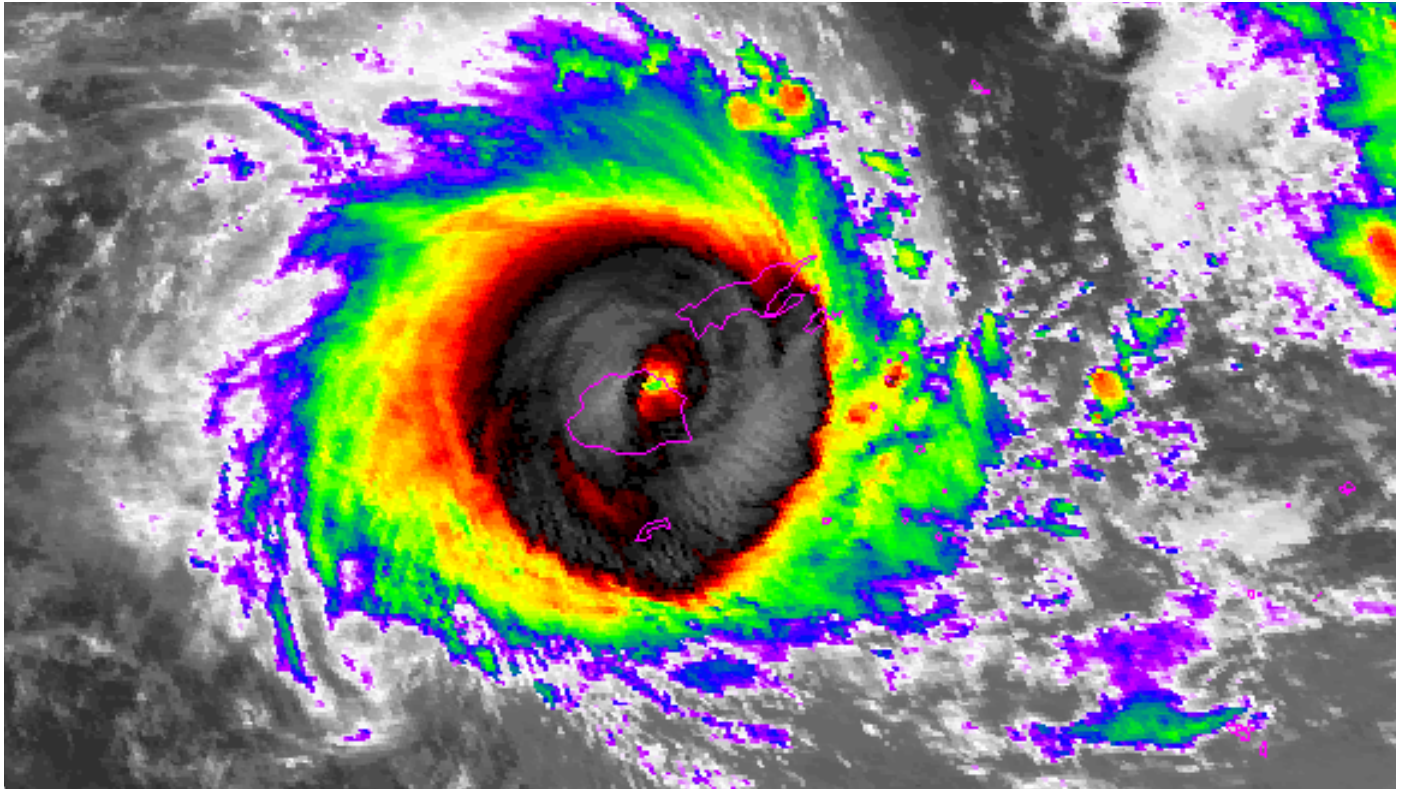
He said QFF would work

with government to implement a plan to engage agriculture, regional and rural communities to ensure an end to unnecessary quad bike incidents in Queensland.

"Quad bike safety is an issue that affects communities across the state and requires urgent action to improve safety outcomes," he said.

"We commend the government for its consultative efforts to address certain entrenched unsafe practices and attitudes in the community."





Winston leaves sugar in Fiji reeling

Fiji's sugar industry is tallying up the huge cost of Tropical Cyclone Winston which caused severe damage and killed more than 40 people in the Pacific nation.

Fiji's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) says sugar is one of the country's biggest industries.

"We're learning that there is about \$83 million worth of loss there," FCCI president **Peter Mazey** told the ABC.

"The hardest thing with that is that it affects over 200,000 people who work in that industry."

The president of the Lautoka Cane Producers Association has told Radio New Zealand they have lost up to 80% of this year's crop.

Parbindra Singh expects this figure will rise because many areas have yet to be assessed.

He says in some parts of west Viti Levu farmers have lost their entire crop.

"Basically there will be no crop in Penang and Ra association, that is the

Raki Raki association, but as far as the Lautoka mill is concerned we might have 30% of cane, maximum."

Mr Mazey said tourism was another big contributor to Fiji's economy.

"Some of our tourist areas have been affected but we still have plenty that are operating and we really need to get back into business," he said.

The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said Tropical Cyclone Winston was one of the strongest storms ever recorded in the southern hemisphere.

Australia was among the first countries to send aid to Fiji including shelter kits, safe water and hygiene items to affected communities.

Teams of medical professionals and Defence Force personnel including engineers, carpenters, electricians and

plumbers have been deployed to work with the government of Fiji on critical infrastructure.

The cyclone weakened and continued to move towards Australia.

As it hovered as an ex-tropical cyclone over the Coral Sea it was responsible for heavy rainfall along the coast from Mackay to Cairns.

Sugarcane districts recorded falls of up to 300 mm over a 24 hour period.

For a full summary of recent rain total, turn to the Rainfall Report on page 24.



Australian Red Cross has launched an appeal to help victims of Tropical Cyclone Winston.

To donate, freecall 1800 811 700 or visit www.redcross.org.au

Drought continues despite summer rains

Agriculture Minister **Leanne Donaldson** has told the Queensland Parliament that despite recent good rains in parts of the state, widespread drought revocations are unlikely.

"It is pleasing to note that some producers have received rain since Christmas," the Minister said.

"But as we approach the end of the wet season, the overall rainfall outlook for much of the state can be best described as 'touch and go'. Overall much more rain is needed."

She said the next six weeks would be critical for summer active pastures and for planting rains.

"Local Drought Committees will meet in mid-April to make recommendations on the status of drought declarations and revocations. At this stage widespread revocations are not expected."

Existing drought relief arrangements have been confirmed until 2018 and the Queensland Government says it is working with

industry on a suite of measures to assist primary producers improve their climate risk management and long-term drought preparedness.

"We increased the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) cap from \$30,000 to \$40,000 for producers in their third and subsequent year of drought, streamlined the freight subsidy process for charities and made donations to a number of drought charities," Ms Donaldson said.

"And we have provided \$2.9 million specifically for mental health support in droughted communities.

"In the current financial year \$32.9 million has been allocated to the DRAS and assistance from other Queensland Government agencies in 2015-16 includes \$4 million on social and community support, \$1.5 million on primary mental health support, \$2.5 million on fixed electricity charge relief for irrigators and \$4.113 million on waivers of annual water licences and rebate on land rent.

"We are providing producers with practical assistance to maintain their businesses when they need it most," she said. ■

FOR SALE

"Torokina" Jewel In The Crown

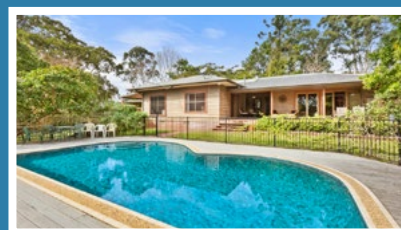
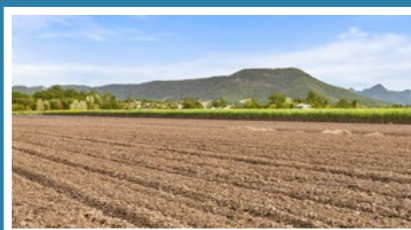
Offered for the first time in five generations is "Torokina", arguably the best and most complete lifestyle and sugarcane producing property on the Far North Coast of NSW.

Located in the scenic Tweed Valley, situated on over 480 fertile acres, the property is positioned 5 minutes from the commercial hub of Murwillumbah, 30 minutes from Gold Coast International Airport and 45 minutes from Surfers Paradise and Byron Bay. The features and assets of the property have been fastidiously planned and meticulously maintained to maximise agricultural returns and excellence for living.

The property consists of 5 titles, the first of which presents a beautiful country style 4 bedroom main residence, privately set on 4 acres of established gardens.

The second title consists of the original 1904 Queenslander which has been tastefully renovated.

Set on 228 acres, predominantly planted with sugarcane, this parcel also houses the site of the property's machinery sheds. The remaining titles consist of 250 acres planted sugarcane. All paddocks on the farm are laser levelled



with drainage infrastructure being state of the art.

Information on yields and returns are available to qualified purchasers. The opportunity to obtain a property of this calibre is rare.

The current owners have, over many years, been able to consolidate several titles to create a viable, highly productive, one-family farming operation combined with a quality lifestyle.

The 480 acre cane holding is available separately for \$2,250,000 while the main residence on 4 acres is offered at \$1,100,000.

The entire farm including both residences is packaged at \$3,300,000

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BIG DATA: BIG OPPORTUNITIES FOR AG

Delegates at the 2016 ABARES Outlook conference in Canberra have heard about the opportunities for the agriculture sector presented by 'big data' and digital technologies.

Speaking on the potential of big data to transform agribusiness, **Philip Evans** of the Boston Consulting Group said it was up to businesses to take advantage of the technology available to them.

"The world is becoming its own map: that is to say, we are acquiring the ability to map all the relevant data with extraordinary granularity, interpret it, and deliver that knowledge back into the world at precisely the point where it is of greatest use," Mr Evans said.

"The technology is already here; what we need is institutions and management practices able to take advantage of it."

"Every metre of land, every animal, every plant, becomes the object of customised and intelligent management.

"The technology is already here; what we need is institutions and management practices able to take advantage of it."

Mick Keogh of the Australian Farm Institute, said big data had the potential to revolutionise decision-making in Australian agricultural businesses, through the adoption of digital agriculture.

"The transition of agriculture from a skills-based industry to an information-based industry is well underway, with some segments—such as the broiler industry—already well down the track in developing information-based management systems," Mr Keogh said.

"Other segments are heading in the same direction, and it is likely that over the next decade we will see widespread adoption of a range of different

digital technologies and platforms in Australian agriculture."

Dr Sue Barrell of the Bureau of Meteorology said the growth in data volumes and diversity, in parallel with improvements in supercomputing capability and scientific know-how, have facilitated more detailed, timely, and accurate climate analysis and forecasting.

"Meteorology has occupied the 'big data' space since long before it became a buzz word, integrating and assimilating complex data, from multiple and diverse sensors, platforms, time scales, resolutions, dimensions and domains, and projecting future environmental states and trends," Dr Barrell said.

"We have the potential for greater 'environment intelligence' than ever. However, as sensors and data become increasingly abundant and accessible, we must consider how big is too big, and look at ways to extract the greatest value for farmers from data at the lowest cost." ■



Burn Ashburner

CANEGROWERS Manager - Industry

Big farms and small farms

WHERE IS THE MONEY?

There's always a lot of speculation about the pros and cons of farm size and whether smaller farms need to get bigger. So let's take a look at the relationship between farm size and net operating profit.

This was mentioned in my *Australian Canegrower* 15 February edition Spotlight article, but the graph showing this was not published. It makes interesting reading whatever size farm you have.

The table adjacent is the data from the ABARES report, *Australian sugarcane farm businesses: financial performance 2013/14* showing the average operating profit per ha (the green line) from lowest to highest with the average farm size (the blue bars) as per the survey breakdown.

This clearly shows the trend that smaller farms have lower operating profits.

Farm operating profit does not include depreciation, family labour or interest. Thus it is a measure of the farm's ability to generate a profit not the total business.

What is missing from this graph? Firstly, off-farm income for the bottom 25% identified by return on investment (ROI) is \$1,355 per ha, and for the top 25% ROI is \$165 per ha.

Secondly, farms with less than 50ha have a capital value of \$44,000 per ha and farms over 250 ha are valued at just over \$17,000 per ha.

Family farms a strong business model

Large family farms have generated, on average, higher returns than their corporate counterparts and family farms have provided most of the capital that underpins the Australian farm sector.

ABARES Executive Director Karen Schneider presented this analysis at the ABARES Outlook 2016 conference recently.

"We know improving productivity will be critical to the success of Australian agriculture on world markets. That's going to require investment across the board – in land, in technology and in our people," Ms Schneider said. "Every year, more than \$2 billion is added to the productive assets of the farm sector.

"Around 60–70% of investment is provided directly by the owners of family farms, while investment by the corporate sector is less than 20%."

Ms Schneider said that one reason for the difference between family and corporate farms may be the difference in investment returns.

"If you're looking at broadacre and dairy, except for beef, family farm structures have outperformed the corporate sector in terms of operating returns, especially in cropping," Ms Schneider said.

But she said corporate investment had a great deal to offer the sector by creating jobs for young workers keen to get into farming, providing an exit strategy for farmers looking to retire and developing skills and technology.

Ms Schneider is not expecting corporate investment to challenge family farms in the near future.

"The differences between family farms and corporates are also seen in Canada and the US," Ms Schneider said.

"We don't expect to see corporate agriculture transform the family farm model in Australia any time soon." ■

Australia's farm production forecast to top \$60 billion

The gross value of Australia's farm production is forecast to pass \$60 billion for the first time next financial year, according to the latest ABARES figures.

ABARES Executive Director, Karen Schneider, said the expected modest rise in value was bolstered by improved prospects for livestock and cropping industries.

"Total farm production is forecast to rise by 3% to reach \$60.3 billion in 2016–17, following a forecast increase of 9% to \$58.7 billion in 2015–16," Ms Schneider said.

"The gross value of livestock production is expected to be \$30.8 billion in 2016–17, up from \$30.3 billion in 2015–16. This is off the back of continued strong international demand for Australia's livestock products.

"The gross value of crop production is forecast to rise by 4% to \$29.5 billion in 2016–17 assuming a return to favourable seasonal conditions in most cropping regions."

Ms Schneider said farm exports were forecast to remain strong in 2016–17.

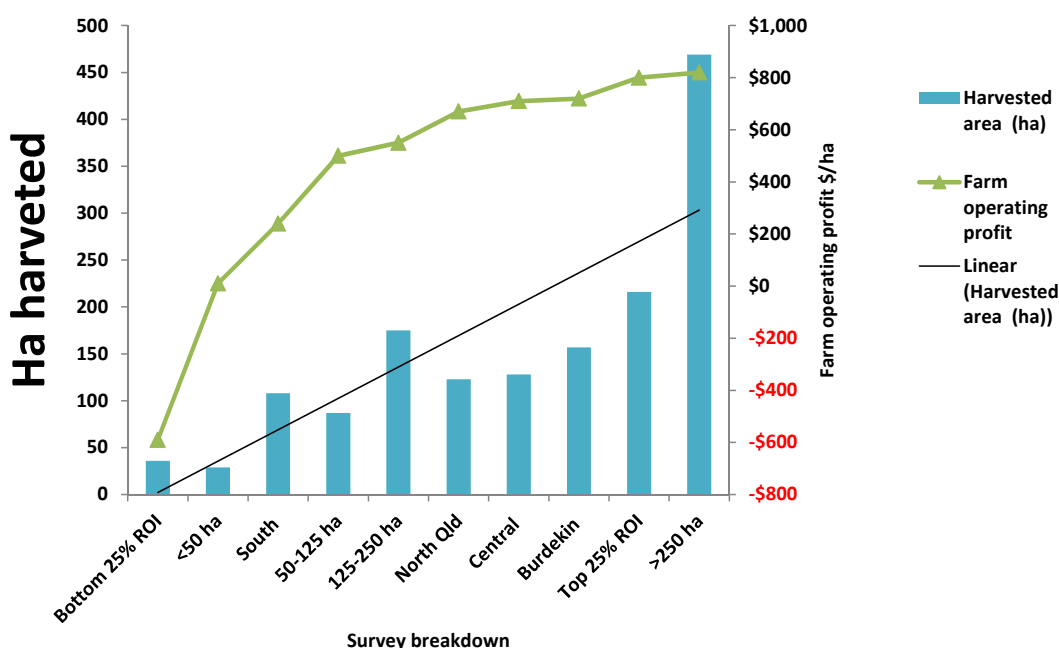
"Earnings from farm exports are forecast to remain at around \$45 billion in 2016–17, following a forecast rise of 3% in 2015–16," Ms Schneider said.

The agricultural commodities for which export earnings are forecast to rise in 2016–17 are wool (up 7%), dairy products (4%), sugar (7%), live feeder/slaughter cattle (9%), cotton (22%) and canola (13%). ■

Thirdly, smaller farm businesses have less debt at \$1,400/ha to \$4,300/ha (+/-90% equity ratio) compared to larger farms with \$5,400/ha to \$6,400/ha (+/-80% equity ratio).

Small scale growers may well wish to hold onto their land because they believe the value will increase (not necessarily related to sugarcane) and/or they value the lifestyle. The question is how the operating profit can be increased through syndicating machinery, forming larger management units or leasing. ■

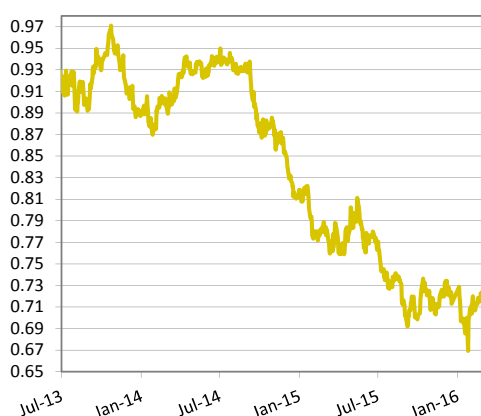
Table 2. ABARES Survey 2013/14 farm operating profit and farm size.



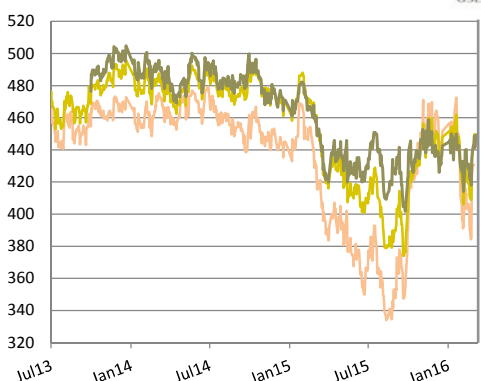
ICE No.11 Prompt Futures Contract



Australian Dollar (AUD v USD)



QSL Forward Fixed Price Contract (A\$/mt)



Data source: QSL Daily Market Report (Futures and Currency) & QSL Daily Indicative Prices

Market Update

By Matthew Page, QSL Treasury Analyst

Current as of 7 March 2016

Sugar

Raw sugar futures have enjoyed a very positive fortnight which has seen the March position roll off strongly and May assume the prompt position firmly on the front foot. The action began on 24 February with the flat price lifting an astonishing 139 points, one of the largest single-session gains in years. Since then the market has settled down and apart from a couple of pauses trading has been largely one direction – up. The new prompt May 16 currently sits at 14.83c/lb, 206 points higher than the March16 prompt a fortnight ago.

Following a volatile period ahead of expiry where March/May swung either side of inverse and carry, spreads have now settled down. May/July is currently trading a 13-point inverse, however with a recent steepening of the back of the curve we may start to see this flow up the board and switch nearby spreads back to a carry.

The March expiry was generally strong with the close price at 14.56c/lb and 600,000 tonnes delivered to the tape. Wilmar was the sole receiver, with mainly centrals and some Brazilian and Argentinian origin also in the mix. General market perception saw the delivery as a positive with the removal of 'less desirable quality' raws from the supply picture deemed to be constructive for prices.

Given the significant rally, the latest Commitment of Traders report contained few surprises, with non-index funds increasing their net long position to 52,000 lots. Given the continued strength over the balance of last week, that figure is more likely to be around 70,000 now.

Macro concerns have abated recently and this has seen risk appetite return. The Real has been a major benefactor of this, rallying 25 points last week to close around 3.75. El Nino continues to pose a threat to supply with India and Thailand still grappling with drought conditions for the current crop and the start to the Brazil crush under threat from wet weather. The ethanol/sugar mix will be a key metric to keep an eye on early, with demand still strong and the tendency for cash-strapped mills to favour ethanol production, particularly when CCS is diluted by rain.

Currency

As mentioned above the macro environment has completely turned on its head from what we saw over the first month-and-a-half of 2016. Crude oil and iron ore have both dusted themselves off to lift back to late-2015 levels, while global equities have also begun to recover their losses.

This backdrop has allowed the Australian dollar to become the long of choice for traders looking for swift returns and that demand has pushed the local unit rapidly through key resistance levels back up above 74 cents. The rally has been ably assisted by positive local GDP data and a rather dovish RBA meeting last week that did little to dampen the rampant Aussie.

Overall the rally in ICE11 has been significant enough to outweigh the rally in the currency and has lifted AUD/mt values for Australian sugar back above the A\$400 level and further towards levels not seen since early 2015 season. This has provided a positive pricing environment for the new season crop and with the RBA unlikely to allow the Aussie free reign we should hopefully see this continue in the medium term.

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.



Letters of Credit – how they work

By Patricia Doobay, QSL Marketing and Operations Manager

A Letter of Credit is, from an international trade perspective, the safest way for QSL to ensure payment for raw sugar sales. In its most basic form, a Letter of Credit (LC) is a letter from one bank to another promising to pay if certain conditions have been met.

There are many rules and regulations that surround LCs and they are one of the most favoured methods of international payment between two parties.

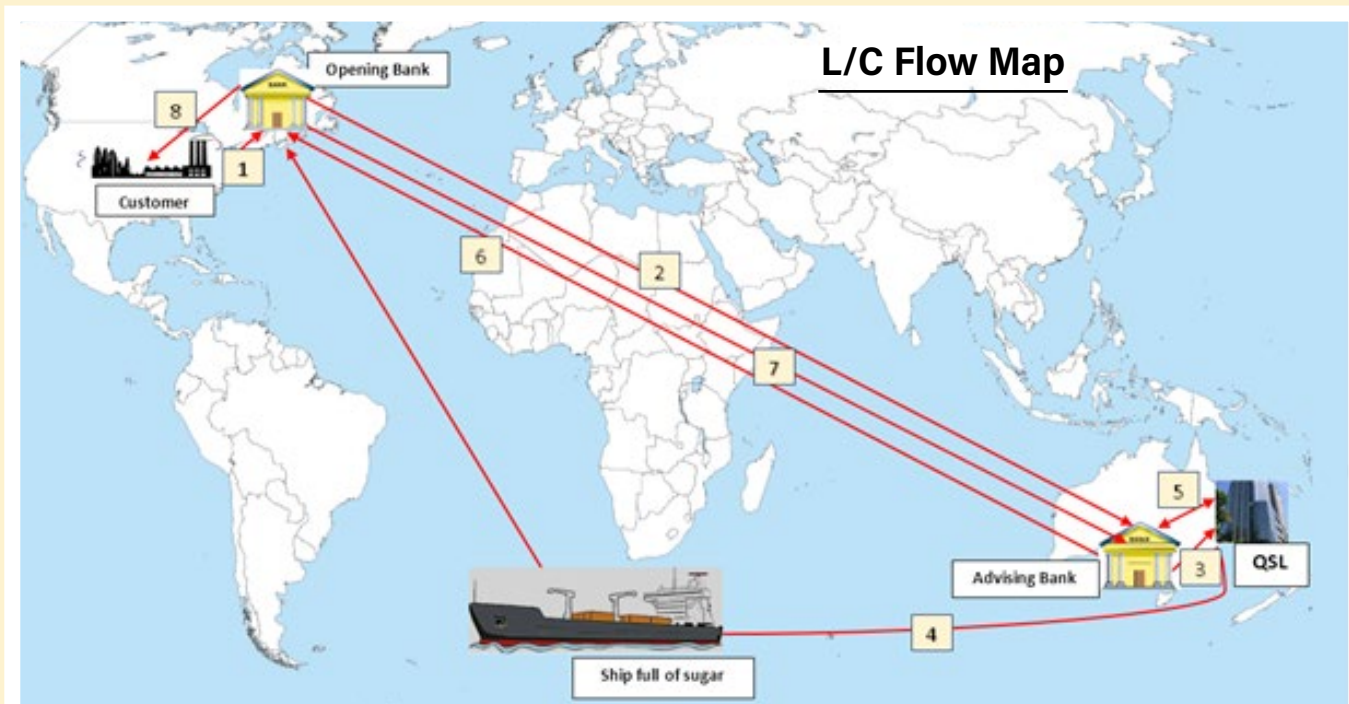
Let's take a look at the processes involved with a typical shipment and payment flow under a contract against a Letter of Credit.

The Letter of Credit Timeline

1. The customer requests that their bank (known as the opening bank) issues a Letter of Credit in favour of QSL, as per their sales contract.
2. The Letter of Credit is opened and sent ('advised') to the bank nominated by QSL.
3. The LC is 'advised' to QSL. QSL requests that the bank also adds their 'confirmation' to it, which secures payment as long as the documents presented by QSL conform to the LC requirements. A confirmation given by an advising bank secures payment if these documents are clean and error free. QSL requests our advising banks to confirm all our inward Letters of Credit.
4. The loaded vessel sails within the Letter of Credit shipping time.
5. Within 24-72 hours of sailing, QSL presents documents to the advising bank under the LC. If all is in order then payment is remitted by the bank.
6. Clean documents are sent to either the opening bank or as per the opening bank's instructions.
7. On receipt of documents by the opening bank, the advising bank (QSL's bank) is reimbursed.
8. Documents are sent to the customer in time for the vessel's arrival. QSL usually manages to present for negotiation within 24 hours if the vessel sails during a business day, or within 72 hours if the vessel sails over the weekend.

From an operational perspective, it is imperative that QSL loads, ships and is paid within the contracted dates and so export documentation must be executed as quickly as possible for our customers.

In essence, we operate a "well-oiled machine", constantly liaising with our mills for quality, our ship brokers for chartering and our banks for cargo payments and all within time. ■



DR BERT COLLARD

to lead SRA plant breeding program

By Neil Fisher, CEO, SRA

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has announced the appointment of Dr **Bert Collard** to lead the sugarcane industry's plant breeding program.

The SRA breeding program is the single biggest area of research investment that SRA makes on behalf of SRA investors, delivering new and improved varieties that are suited to local regions and that meet the requirements of growers and millers.

Dr Collard joins SRA with a PhD in plant breeding, pathology and genetics, and he completed his Bachelor of Science majoring in Biotechnology and Botany at the University of Melbourne.

Prior to taking on this role with SRA, he was a Senior Scientist in the Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology (PBGB) area at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Los Banos, in the Philippines.

He led the breeding and applied rice research there since 2012, focusing on irrigated rice systems in Southeast Asia.

He formerly held the position of durum wheat breeder/program leader in the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

While there, he led the Australian durum wheat improvement program, the national durum wheat breeding program funded by GRDC.

Dr Collard's diverse experience from outside the sugarcane industry offers enormous potential for innovation for the breeding program.

His enthusiasm and experience in other crops such as rice and wheat as well as a background in molecular breeding offer a fantastic opportunity for the SRA plant breeding program and the Australian sugarcane industry.

This appointment is also a response to our investors' feedback that they are seeking innovation and new ideas within the breeding program.

Dr Collard will play a vital role in working with our very experienced and



highly-skilled plant breeding team in driving valued solutions for a growing sugarcane industry.

He is based at Meringa outside Cairns, one of the key locations for the SRA breeding program.

New SRA Adoption Officers ready to work with sugarcane growers and millers

SRA has also announced the appointment of two new Adoption Officers to work with growers, millers, and a range of industry organisations and representatives to help sugarcane growers and millers improve productivity and profitability outcomes.

SRA has appointed new Adoption Officers Mr **Matthew Reynolds** in Mackay, and Mr **Andres Jaramillo** in the Burdekin.

Both Mr Reynolds and Mr Jaramillo will work closely with SRA investors and stakeholders in their respective regions, and across the industry.

They fill existing roles in the SRA Adoption Group, and in their positions they will work with local industry to see the adoption of SRA research, as well as providing feedback to SRA to ensure its research is targeted and relevant.

Both Mr Reynolds and Mr Jaramillo will be involved at a number of regional activities and events over the coming months where you will have an opportunity to meet them, and they are looking forward to working with local growers and millers in these important production regions of Mackay and the Burdekin.

SRA Board visits the Burdekin

The SRA Board in February met with investors, industry stakeholders, and SRA staff in the Burdekin, as part of a regular commitment for the Board to meet regionally with the industry. ■

These regional visits are an important opportunity for the Board to hear directly from growers and millers about their priorities and needs for SRA.

The visits also present a valuable opportunity for the Board to get a first-hand update on important research activities. SRA thanks all those who attended the events.

*Pictured: SRA Board member Dr Helen Garnett and SRA Chairman Dr Ron Swindells hear from SRA Researcher Dr Jaya Basnayake about water stress trials occurring in the Burdekin.
Inset: Dr Bert Collard*



Suzi Moore

CANEGROWERS Manager -
Communications

“Working through the process can help you find solutions to solve on-farm challenges”

Why growers are flocking to BMP and why you should **GET INVOLVED**

The primary motivation for growers starting the Smartcane BMP process has changed and it's driving more and more growers into the program. Over half of Australia's area is now under BMP and that number is growing.

What has caused the sudden jump in the number of growers actively starting and working through Smartcane BMP?

In the early days of the program, many growers said they signed up just because they wanted to see how their farm compared with the latest recommended practices.

Knowing that didn't require them to have all their records in place yet, there was an initial flurry of growers contacting their local facilitator who was able to help them complete the benchmarking process pretty quickly.

Benchmarking involves completing the process up to the self-assessment stage in the three key modules, which only takes a couple of hours.

But once growers started working through BMP, the drivers they gave changed dramatically.

Strangely enough, the reason appears to be something very simple...that those using it say it's useful in all sorts of ways.

We regularly hear that growers have signed up after hearing about the benefits other growers have talked about after going through the BMP process.

I'm going to list some of the benefits most commonly given by growers. It's not what you would necessarily expect.

- *I was able to benchmark my farm to best practice in a matter of hours.*
- *My local facilitator helped me whenever I needed help throughout the process, which made it easier than I expected.*

- *Now government is actively enforcing regulations, I can choose an industry-led system which works for my farm rather than one that's politically motivated (accredited growers do not have to demonstrate compliance and the demand on growers working towards their accreditation will be much less).*
- *It was a great way of making sure you know about the latest technology and practices aimed at achieving more with less.*
- *It's about improving our bottom line.*
- *Working through the process can help you find solutions to solve on-farm challenges.*
- *It is another way of our farm staying up to date with the latest information, technology and research.*
- *Having to prove our sugar is sustainably produced to consumers is just around the corner, this would be a great way of doing that in the course of just running my farm.*

Perhaps the number of people signing up to benchmark their farms has jumped because the reasons for doing it – the 'what's in it for me' – has taken on a real farm and a global view.

Whatever the reason for the accelerated numbers of growers benchmarking or going on to be accredited, the trend is a great thing for the Australian sugarcane industry. The fact is that BMP is a worldwide phenomenon – it's not going away. The faster the buy in, the better it is for the industry.



Bio-fertiliser trial shows promise

Faced with depleted soils, escalating fertiliser costs and increasing pressure to reduce nitrogen runoff for the Great Barrier Reef, cane farmer **Mario Raccanello** has begun trialling bio-fertiliser on his 370 ha farm near Tully.



So far Mario reports the results of his bio-fertiliser trial have been promising. The first crop was harvested in November 2015 and showed no loss in production despite a 50% reduction in the application of commercial fertiliser.

Mario said the huge cost of fertilisers for his farm was becoming unsustainable.

"Many years ago my father used to grow bananas on straight cow effluent and a bit of urea, which produced massive trees and big bunches," he said.

"In those days the soil was almost edible but now I can see that our soils are depleted after years of using artificial fertilisers."

He began searching for other options and became interested in the potential of bio-fertilisers.

A conversation with **Gavin Kay** from Terrain NRM, convinced him that it was possible to restore the soil health on his farm by making bio-fertiliser.

However, his challenge was how to achieve it on a large scale and maintain production.

Mario was determined to conduct a trial so he could test how much he could reduce his fertiliser and secured assistance from Terrain's Innovation Funding under the Australian Government Reef Programme, which enabled him to purchase equipment and employ RegenAG's **Kym Kruse** to teach bio-fertiliser principles to himself and a group of other growers.

"I knew I had to find a solution to rising fertiliser costs but I couldn't do it on my own," he said.

"I needed help with the costs of trialling plus expert help from other people who had been through it before and understood the



(Above); Growers at a field day look at the bio-fertiliser fermentation tanks. (Top); Mario with a sample of his bio-fertiliser. (Opposite page); The spray rig used to apply the bio-fertiliser.



complexities of making bio-fertiliser recipes from scratch.

"Gavin and Kym really helped me nut out a lot of the early difficulties."

Mario said that the changes he is testing on his farm require a lot of trial and error and that it is an ongoing process to ensure they are workable long term solutions.

In particular, he had to find a way of making large quantities of bio-fertiliser without it taking up too much of his time.

Obtaining larger tanks and mixing equipment and working out ways to filter and apply large quantities onto the paddocks has made the process quicker and easier.

"So far it's showing promising results with no loss of sugar production per hectare and a build-up of biology in the soil."

There are many recipes for brewing bio-fertiliser but Mario says he has found it easiest to obtain cow rumen or use manure to which a number of ingredients are mixed.

It is then fermented in sealed tanks for a minimum of 30 days.

Mario has up to a dozen 1,000 litre shuttles (plastic pods in steel cages) going at any one time.

"There have been a lot of sleepless nights trying to work out how to use bio-fertiliser simply and cost effectively," he said.

"It is an ongoing learning process as we keep looking for ways to improve the way we're doing things but there's a great satisfaction in knowing we are rejuvenating our soils for the future."

When it's ready, the bio-fertiliser is stored in 26,000 litre rainwater tanks.

"Because it's stable and doesn't deteriorate, we could store it for 100 years," Mario said.

"It's a learning process but we've been applying it to the blocks straight after harvest and then up to two more times until the cane gets too high.

"There are people with irrigation looking at putting it through their systems – flood irrigation and centre pivot."

Mario is planning to continue with his trial for at least three years.

"We are hoping over a period of time to rejuvenate our soils, using a minimum of chemically-made fertilisers whilst achieving the same production results," he said.

"Our goal is still to be a viable farming operation so if the trial doesn't perform to our standards we will have to re-evaluate but so far it's showing promising results with no loss of sugar production per hectare and a build-up of biology in the soil.

"The knock-on effect will also be a reduction of any fertiliser runoff into the waterways."

Mario was one of more than 70 farmers who recently attending the Project Catalyst Forum in Cairns.

He said being a part of a network of farmers who are involved in innovation and conducting many different trials was invaluable.

For further information about Project Catalyst in the Wet Tropics go to www.terrain.org.au ■



Australian Government

This on farm story has been brought to you by the Australian Government Reef Program



By Mick Quirk, Smartcane BMP
Project Manager

“Cane grub control decisions are based on monitoring plant damage, or on risk assessment based on soil texture, proximity to known adult feeding sites and topography.”



Managing weeds, pests and diseases

A CORE BMP MODULE

They're the threats that are always lurking. Weeds, pests and diseases have the potential to wipe out crops at worst or inflict pain through greatly reduced sugarcane yields.

Thankfully, our industry has evolved a robust set of diverse control options that, together, minimise the impacts of weeds, pests and diseases.

It is these practices that are the subject of the Weed, Pest and Disease Management module of Smartcane BMP, the industry's best management practice program.

Using herbicides and pesticides is an important component of crop management so it is in the interests of both growers and the environment that such chemicals are used efficiently, carefully, and in accordance with label requirements and any other regulatory obligations.

The selection, storage and use of chemicals on the farm is therefore a significant theme in the module.

The topics covered in the module include:

- **Canegrub control,**
- **Management of rats and other pests,**
- **Approach to weed control,**
- **Options used to reduce disease risk, and**
- **Chemical use:**
 - » Product selection,
 - » Storage,
 - » User accreditation,
 - » Application, and
 - » Record keeping.

As with all of the BMP modules, the first step is to benchmark, through self-assessment, your own practices against those considered to be best practice.

There are only eight issues and corresponding sets of practices in this module.

For example, the best practice standard for cane grub control is:

“Cane grub control decisions are based on monitoring plant damage, or on risk assessment based on soil texture, proximity to known adult feeding sites and topography. Grub species have been identified.”

You simply indicate if you meet the best practice standard and, if not, what actions you need to take to meet the standard.

Once the self-assessment or benchmarking exercise is completed for this module and for the other two core modules (Soil health and Nutrients; Irrigation and drainage), you can seek BMP accreditation.

This requires evidence for each topic in a module to be available for independent assessment.

For the example of cane grub control, the evidence required is:

“Farm observation of grower knowledge of grub species and prevalence; and farm map showing affected areas; and where applicable, pesticide application records.” ▶





In this case, the evidence is a declaration by your local BMP facilitator that you have demonstrated knowledge of the grub species (part of the farm observations) as well as a farm map and a record of chemical application.

Much of the evidence required in each of the BMP modules is provided via the recorded farm observations of the local facilitator.

If you have not yet participated in the BMP program, your local facilitator will help you register and take you through benchmarking. They can even enter the information onto the BMP database if you would like.

If you have completed self-assessment in the three core modules, your local facilitator will help you identify any gaps in the required records and other documentation.

He or she will also provide assistance with gathering items like maps and will provide easy-to-use templates for any additional records you need to keep over the coming season.

Once you have gathered the evidence, the local facilitator does a check that all necessary evidence is in place (a pre-audit) and the BMP office then organises an independent audit of this evidence.

This is currently done remotely by desktop analysis but the plan is to move to on-farm auditing during 2016 as this is more efficient and is the standard practice for on-farm accreditation programs.

At present 56 farm businesses have been accredited in all three core modules covering 14,062 hectares of cane. An area of 215,433 hectares has been benchmarked. ■



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Benefits of clean seed cane

Supplied by Burdekin Productivity Services

Clean seed cane is a critical step in maximising productivity and minimising the risk of disease spread.

The widespread distribution of approved seed cane is a core part of the service provided to growers by productivity services as it provides them with the best available plant source in a cost effective manner.

Tissue culture is another option as a source of clean planting material, however it is more expensive to purchase and takes longer to propagate into the quantities of material that growers are used to having available from the approved seed plots in their region.

Treated cane is planting material that has been either long hot water treated or cold soak - long hot water treated.

Long hot water treatment involves submersing the cane for three hours in water at 50C (\pm 0.20C).

Cold soak – long hot water treatment involves soaking the cane in cold water for 40-48 hours, followed by submersing the cane for three hours in water at 50C (\pm 0.20C).

The main reason for treating the cane is to minimise the risk of ratoon stunting disease (RSD) and other diseases such as smut, chlorotic streak disease and leaf scald.

RSD is a bacteria spread by planting material or contaminated equipment and can cause yield losses of up to 60%.

Last year during routine sampling there were several positive samples found throughout the Burdekin district but RSD is easily controlled through the use of clean seed cane and practicing good farm hygiene.

Farm hygiene involves good sterilisation and clean down of machinery including planters, plant cutters, harvesters, stool splitters or any other machine that can spread plant material or soil.

Also ensure that clean seed cane is planted into fallow blocks (no volunteers) and if in doubt call on your local productivity service for a plant source inspection prior to planting.■



Feral deer in the Burdekin

Feral chital deer numbers in the Rita Island area of the Burdekin district are causing significant losses and damage to crops, lands and water facilities.

Feral chital deer are declared by Queensland Government authorities as a Class 2 pest animal under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*. This declaration imposes a legal obligation on landholders to take reasonable steps to control these pests on their lands.

The nature of the animal is such that a coordinated district response involving all landholders, local council, Biosecurity Queensland and other relevant agencies is also required.

The Burdekin Shire Council has held a public meeting and organised a report into the best way to tackle the problem.

Landholders are permitted to shoot feral deer on their lands provided they hold firearms licences and comply with relevant animal welfare rules.

Landholders giving permission to shooters to come onto their land should consider the terms under which access is provided, the qualifications and experience of the shooters, and public liability insurance issues.

The public has no right to come onto private land to shoot or shoot feral deer on private land from an adjoining road.

Contact CANEGROWERS Burdekin or Chris Cooper, CANEGROWERS Legal Adviser, on free call number 1800 177159 for more information.

ARE YOU BAITING FOR RATS?

records must be kept and provided to your Productivity Board

Rats can cause damage to sugarcane and the overall productivity of a crop.

Growers are allowed to bait rats, however there are conditions that must be followed for baiting to occur.

The two species of native rat, the ground rat (*Rattus sordidus*) and the climbing rat (*Melomys burtoni*) are native grassland animals and are protected under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and their control is subject to the Queensland Government issuing a Damage Mitigation Permit.

An industry-wide permit is currently issued and reviewed every three years. This avoids the necessity of individual growers applying for individual permits.

Growers baiting for these rats must keep a record and provide this information to their local Cane Productivity Board.

The process that must be followed is outlined in the box below.

If this process is not followed, there is a risk that the Industry-wide Damage Mitigation Permit currently held by CANEGROWERS will not be renewed

and growers will need to get individual Damage Mitigation Permits to do any baiting for rats.

Record keeping forms and resources are available through Smartcane BMP and your local Cane Productivity Board.

Check out the CANEGROWERS *Smartcane BMP Farm Chemical Record Book* and the *Smartcane Block Record Keeping Booklet* which you can download from the Smartcane BMP website <https://www.smartcane.com.au> or use the Smartcane BMP record keeping phone app available on iTunes or Google Play.

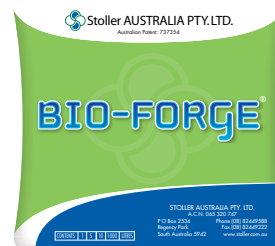
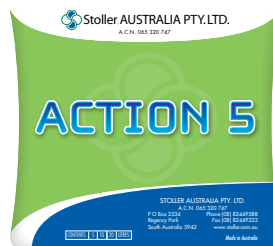
1. **Only registered baits may be used. There are two registered for use in sugarcane. These are:**
 - Rattoff
 - Racumen
2. **Baiting can only occur between 1 October and 30 June.**
3. **A record must be when before baiting commences. Information required:**
 - Date commenced and date completed
 - Area baited
 - Product used – Rattoff or Racumen
 - Species being targeted – ground rat or climbing rat or both
 - Name and farm number
4. **Provide this record to your local Cane Productivity Service board. In person, by phone, fax or email**

Pictured left: A native Australian climbing rat and the damage to cane caused by rats infestations.

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Reporting on glyphosate ‘misleading and irresponsible’

Australia’s peak industry organisation representing the agricultural chemical and biotechnology (plant science) sector has lodged a complaint with national public broadcaster ABC about an article on glyphosate.

CropLife Australia says the ABC online article reporting on local councils’ use of the herbicide glyphosate contained serious factual inaccuracies and was misleading in regard to the context of the International Agency for Research on Cancer’s (IARC) Report.

In a statement, CropLife Australia’s CEO **Matthew Cossey** said the article omitted the fact that all glyphosate products have been extensively and independently assessed by regulators in the USA, Canada, Australia and Europe and found to be safe.

“More recent findings have concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to pose even a carcinogenic hazard let alone an actual risk,” he said.

“More recent findings have concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to pose even a carcinogenic hazard let alone an actual risk,”

“Such inaccuracies could have been avoided if the original article was properly fact checked or at least a credible alternative view sought.”

CropLife Australia said the article by **Josie Taylor** of the ABC’s National Reporting Team had regurgitated false activist propaganda against overwhelming independent global scientific analysis, was irresponsible and effectively mislead consumers.

CropLife Australia pointed out that the IARC is one of four programs within the World Health Organization (WHO) that has reviewed the safety of glyphosate.

Two of the four WHO programs – the Core Assessment Group and the International Programme on Chemical Safety – both concluded glyphosate was not carcinogenic.

The WHO Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality program concluded glyphosate does not represent a hazard to human health.

“The IARC report very narrowly determined the potential for a specific compound to cause cancer under some circumstances, even if those circumstances are unlikely to occur,” Mr Cossey said.

“For example, working the night shift or being a hairdresser are classified as

probably cancer-causing, the same as glyphosate, because one job disrupts the body’s circadian rhythms and the other involves exposure to dyes.

“Coffee and aloe vera are ‘possible’ carcinogens according to the IARC list.”

Mr Cossey said the IARC acknowledges that its work can be easily misunderstood by those without scientific qualifications and tried to correct the record following the classification of glyphosate.

“All agricultural chemical products undertake a chemical risk assessment that assesses in detail the likely exposure of humans, users and members of the public, and environmental organisms and takes into account how the chemical product is to be used, the type and formulation of the product, and the crops or animals to be treated,” he said.

“Any new research findings may also trigger a review by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, as it should in an independent, scientific and evidence-based regulatory system.

“It’s crucial that news reporting on technical, scientific information is accurate, factual and not driven by activists’ misplaced political agendas.” ■



SILVAN'S CANE BOOM LINKAGE SPRAYER

MEETS GROWER NEEDS FOR PRECISION APPLICATION PRACTICES

Supplied by Silvan Australia

Since Silvan released its Silvan Cane Boom sprayer in 2013, it has been adopted by cane growers from northern NSW to far north Queensland.

Silvan Australia's Queensland Product Specialist **David Carr** says that "Silvan recognised that with our extensive experience, resources and equipment choices, Silvan could design and produce a linkage mounted sprayer and boom that was specific to the needs of farmers.

First and foremost the Cane Boom is a linkage spray unit which incorporates shielded spray heads and air induced nozzles to minimise spray drift.

It uses a fully galvanized four or six row boom with a standard hydraulic twin folding boom mechanism and adjustable tracking arms.

The Cane Boom offers a choice of 600, 800 or 1100 litre capacity UV stabilised Polytuff spray tank.

The tank itself features a range of options including a 15 litre fresh water hand clean tank with an integrated, four litre capacity, sealed tool box and a 70 litre capacity optional flush tank for filter, spray line and nozzle flushing which fits snugly under the main spray tank.

The pump choices are Silvan oil-backed high pressure diaphragm pumps with the promise of a long life against chemical corrosion.

The pump option has choice of two capacities, 71 litres per minute at 1500kPa or 121 litres a minute at 2000 kPa.

Accurate spray application is provided by an optional Bravo 180 Spray Rate Controller that automatically adjusts

the application rate by measuring the flow rate and ground speed.

The Bravo is matched to electric valves which are all able to be controlled from the tractor cabin.

But it is the boom design that is a special feature, with the vertical channel of the spray tank assembly allowing a manual boom height adjustment or an optional hydraulic boom lift.

Attached to the boom are the 500 to 1300 mm wide spray head and nozzle assemblies, with 800mm wide spray heads generally the standard choice.

Each spray head also has a brush skirt to contain the area of application.

The heads are attached to the boom by a unique parallelogram tracking system with heavy duty hinges that withstand boom drag.

Standard nozzle choices within the

spray head are two twin nozzle bodies per head with air induction nozzles fitted.

Silvan's David Carr says that the boom assembly can also be supplied with an optional wet boom assembly so that the Cane Boom sprayer can also be used for broadacre spraying in addition to row crop applications.

Another optional choice is an Economy Hose Reel with twenty metres of 10 mm hose and a Triam 49 spray gun which enables spot spraying as well.

"I am confident that we have taken into account in our design all of the row crop industry practices employed by cane growers to deliver a Cane Boom unit that meets grower's needs," he says.

For more information contact David Carr, Queensland Product Manager for Silvan Australia, phone 0425 748 944 or email dcarr@silvanaust.com ■



Silvan Australia developed the Silvan Cane Boom specifically for Australian cane farmers.

FROM THE EDITOR

with Neroli Roocke

Do people in Canberra care about the bush?

I recently travelled to Canberra for a meeting of the Australian Council of Agricultural Journalists (ACAJ) as it's my privilege to represent Queensland's Rural Press Club on this national body.

Part of our task while there was to gauge the interest in our nation's capital for press club events with a particularly rural and regional flavour.

I know it's a commonly held view that those in cities don't care about the bush but this trip showed that this view is unfair.

We held a drinks function in the National Press Club, the place which hosts the televised speeches by government ministers, visiting international dignitaries and the nation's leading policy drivers.

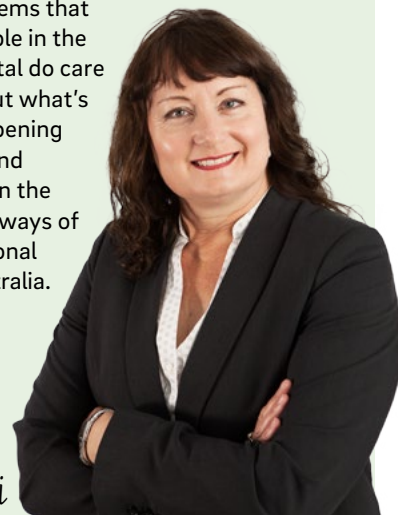
The ACAJ committee was overwhelmed by the attendance and the interest in a rural press organisation being established to strengthen the links between media, business and government groups who interact with rural issues.

From Parliament House press gallery journalists, to political staffers and workers in the offices of peak agricultural organisations, all thought that a platform for the stories, issues and ideas of rural Australia was long overdue.

Dozens of people registered their interest to be involved in getting this idea off the ground.

So while it is 40 years since the Queensland Rural Press Club was formed and 50 years since the Farm Writers' Association of New South Wales was established, Canberra is catching up.

It seems that people in the capital do care about what's happening up and down the highways of regional Australia.



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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.

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TOFT 6000, Series 4 Harvester rubberised.
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Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am 29.02.16	Year to date 07.03.16	Jan - Mar
Mossman	47	159	533
Mareeba AP	17	48	189
Cairns	117	92	373
Mt Sophia	156	128	558
Babinda	148	173	345
Innisfail	33	262	600
Tully	36	320	672
Cardwell	22	250	480
Lucinda	6	396	560
Ingham	8	328	605
Abergowrie	20	257	421
Townsville	8	227	454
Ayr DPI	4	113	263
Proserpine	27	246	714
Mirani	29	413	782
Mackay	46	368	900
Sarina (Plane Ck)	59	408	1046
Bundaberg	0.6	8	425
Childers South	2	29	398
Maryborough	0.8	8	379
Tewantin	4	42	370
Eumundi	4	55	294
Nambour	3	86	254
Woongoolba	4	32	76
Murwillumbah	9	173	340
Ballina	13	100	315
Woodburn	0	33	81

AustSafe Super



The industry super
fund for rural and
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.

BLADE Trail's chopper drums. Ph: 0418 738 641

MASSEY FERG 185 multi power just restored rops new gauges serviced tyres 75% ex cond \$12000 neg 0487170053 Forklift mast off Toyota as new cond lifts to 6mtrs \$1200 Canopy to suit trayback ute Lockable alum sides weather proof curtains \$800. Ph: 0428 394 004

7HC G & G Bronze Turbine Pump. 50ft 6" columns with stainless steel shaft. \$4500. Ph 0414 582 340

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, Good Condition, \$60,000. Ph: 0458 525 310

MASSEY FERG 168 8-speed, tyres 50%, rops good order \$6500+GST ONO Ph 0417 615 250

IRRIGATION Murphy high/low pressure watchdog. Has been reconditioned. \$450 + GST. Ph: 0407 595 218

SELF-PROPELLED 6x6 infielder tipper. Bin approx 8 ton. Perkins 1000 series motor, 3 speed forward/reverse power shift hi/low combo. Air bag suspension. Needs TLC. \$12 000+ GST. ONO. contact for pictures. Ph: 0414 322 729

FIAT 600 good clean tractor \$8000 inc gst. 8 meter manually fold up flat boom ready to go, adjustable nozzles and droppers \$800.00 Shed gantry 4400x3800x9mm \$800.00 Tyre 420/70 R24 near new \$900.00 PH 0407 773 929

2.5T TIPPER bins x 3, \$7000+GST. Ph: 0447 240 415

TOFT 6000 Cat Engine good condition suitable for plant cutter \$11000.00 incl. gst. Ph 07 4958 8932 or 0427 376 313

986 INTERNATIONAL 2WD tractor 140HP aircon cab low hrs excellent condition \$8000 + GST ONO. Toft 4000 twin spirals 4 foot extractor Cummings engine good condition \$15,000 +GST. 0427 355 391

HBM 1 row billet planter. Good running gear. Heavy duty rear wheels with adjustment for row width. New paint. Tidy machine. \$13500+gst. 07 49453300

MOLLER Billet planter, 600kg stainless fert box, 600L water, 100L lorsban tank, twin feed chains, single wide row and

dual row shutes. Vgc \$35,000 inc. Ph 0409595321

TOFT 4000 harvester swing knife, 4ft extractor cg \$15000.00+gst Ph 0427 588 037

JOHN DEERE cotton picker has spray bar 1200litre tank, mister, controls, needs pump, \$12000.00 + gst PH 0427 588 037

PARTS from 7710 wrecked John Deere available, POA. Vane billet planter – single or dual row, \$15000 + GST. 10ft. Blade to suit 120 grader, \$2200. Ford 5000 6Y Series with 18-4-30 tyres, \$8800. 1996 Cameco full-track harvester with Cat 3306 motor, 8 blade Westhill chop with adjuster (used for billet planting last 6 years), \$65000 + GST. Toft 4000-6000 base-cutter box, \$400. High speed track motor to suit 1996 full-track Cameco harvester (fully reconditioned), \$3000 +GST. 2 of 12-4-11 tyres 50% rubber, \$250 each. Ph: 0428 565 654

INTERNATIONAL 766 tractor in good condition and FIAT 615 in fair condition. Ph: 4959 8433

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, phone AgQuip hire. 1300 859 869

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BONEL billet planter with Suscon Blue box. Any reasonable offer considered. Phone 0428 598 307.

JOHN DEERE 7710, 7300hrs, 40km/hr powershift, VGC. \$35,000 + GST ONO 0438 554 624

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FORD TW15 or 25 tractor engine block Ph 0418180650 anytime

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Positions Vacant

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Harvester driver. Experience preferred. Ph: Charlie on 0413 698 922.

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 haul out or farm hand work in the Burdekin. Have many years experience, MC license, reliable and punctual. Phone Brian 0400 559 258 or email holdonman@msn.com

TULLY-MOSSMAN (incl TABLELAND) Avail. for immediate start for farm work & 2016 crushing season. Raised on cane farm and experienced in ground prep, planting, harvesting and maintenance. Qualified mechanical fitter with HC licence able to use backhoe, skid steer, loader and forklift. Have own transport & caravan accom. Ph 0456 095 868 or sandzee60@gmail.com

ANY AREA NORTH OF MACKAY, Seeking haul out position for 2016, experienced in harvest (grape and wheat but new to cane); have HR licence; many years experience on heavy machinery (tractor, dozer, loader, trucks); good mechanical and welding skills; have own accommodation and transport; mature age, reliable and prefer working long hours. Peter 0481752369 or email peterpettitt@yahoo.com.au

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