

LNG industry drives up power prices for irrigators - Regional round-up

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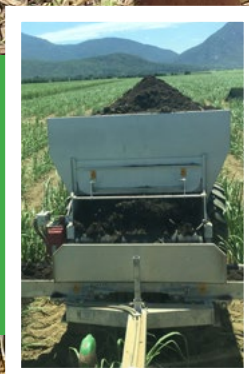
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Cover picture: CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri and his brother Joe have achieved Smartcane BMP accreditation for their Mackay district cane farms.

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The CANEGROWERS megaphone

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

“NFF has clout and gets the attention of national decision makers ... being heard is a direct benefit of your CANEGROWERS membership.”

While it is always a challenge for agriculture to grab the spotlight, at CANEGROWERS we have historically done a pretty good job of gaining the attention of the media and key political players.

Of course this is an important skill to have as a membership body, as we are all about amplifying the growers' voice.

At CANEGROWERS we are very proud of the fact that our structure allows for local growers to represent their industry at branch, district, state, national and international levels.

We do this through our unique and powerful district structures, combined with our state Policy Council.

But our affiliations and representation through the Queensland Farmers' Federation and National Farmers' Federation provide the megaphone capacity.

Profiling industry issues and getting them resolved by using our relationships at NFF has always been important to CANEGROWERS and something that no other cane industry membership body can offer - and it works.

Opinions always vary, but the fact is the NFF has clout and gets the attention of national decision makers.

This was evident recently when I attended the NFF National Congress.

In the farming community we often justifiably feel overlooked.

But the attendance and calibre of speakers at this event showed just how relevant agriculture is to Australia and what opportunities may be ahead of us.

The Congress is held every second year and the focus this year was on digital agricultural services.

The strength and reputation of the NFF brand was in evidence with keynote and panel presentations from a range of high profile politicians and business people.

These included the Deputy Prime Minister **Barnaby Joyce** and Opposition Agriculture spokesman **Joel Fitzgibbon**.

There were also panel debates from some of the nation's most outspoken public figures.

These included MPs **Derryn Hinch**, **Pauline Hanson**, **Bridgette McKenzie**, **Keith Pitt**, **Craig Laundy**, **Fiona Nash**, and **Bob Katter**.

Diverse opinions were in abundance and passion was certainly flowing. Equally, in a very practical sense, business leaders see the benefits of engaging at the NFF level.

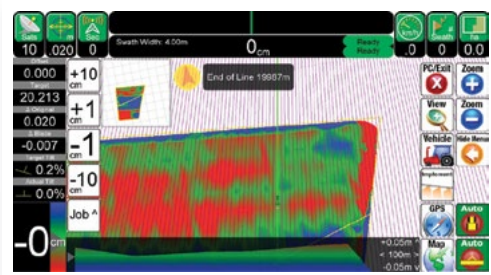
Twiggy Forrest, the head of Fortescue Metals and ASA 100, and **Anthony Pratt**, head of Visy Industries, provided keynote speeches that urged us in agriculture to be positive about our futures, invest in that future and tell the world about it.

While all of these messages risk being irrelevant when we look at the daily reality of trying to get a crop off, securing marketing opportunities and prices, as well as making a profit, the point is that as we strive to solve problems for farmers, CANEGROWERS is using these national contacts to raise the profile of these issues.

Turning this high-profile interest into tangible action is the difficult part and of course the most crucial step. But it can be guaranteed that being a member of CANEGROWERS does give voice to your issues and those issues are being heard is a direct benefit of your membership. ■



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Don't pile that bin too high!

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has recently received complaints about sugarcane transport vehicles spilling billets onto roads.

The most recent complaints to TMR have been in the Maryborough and Gympie/Curra areas while other complaints have been registered with local authorities in the Burdekin. Some motorists reported damage to their vehicles from falling billets.

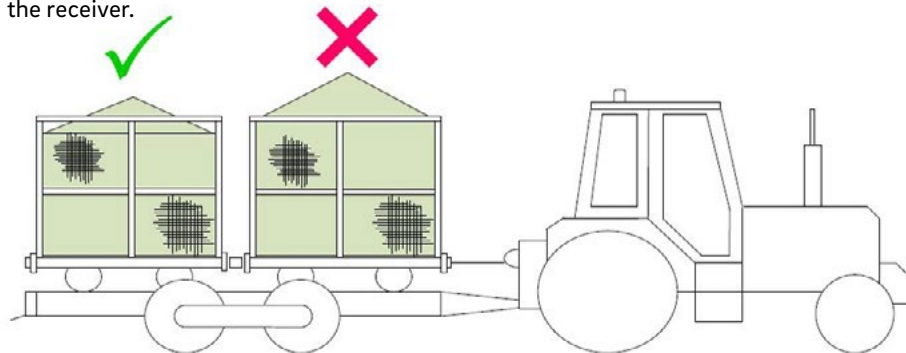
CANEGROWERS has published a 'Guidelines for Loading of Sugar Industry Cane Haulage Units for Travel on Public Roads 2013' document, which explains the required operating practices for the road transport of billets. It is available under the Permits & Approvals tab on the CANEGROWERS website.

A key point is that billets should not fall from vehicles and if spillage does occur, the billets must be cleaned up as soon as possible.

Cane bins should be loaded in such a way that the peak of the pile has room to settle into the bin during transport without any spillage occurring.

TMR says it is obliged to act on complaints from members of the public, particularly where road safety matters are concerned. It says that over the years, there have been reports of motorcyclists having near misses with cane billets and in the 1990s one person died after losing control of a motorbike which hit a billet on a road.

CANEGROWERS reminds all growers and transport operators that all parties in the haulage of the billets may be liable for any future incident under Chain of Responsibility legislation. This includes but is not limited to the loader, the driver, the employer and the receiver.



DIRECTORS BY-ELECTION

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Ltd

ACN 111 567 429

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region (Babinda Zone) Members

A bi-election has been called for the Babinda Zone members following the resignation of a local director, and a vacancy now exists on the Board.

If you are interested in nominating, or you know a grower who would make a great contribution to the CANEGROWERS organisation in that role, please contact

Company Secretary, Sarah Standen on, 0418 726 831 or call into the Babinda office to pick up the relevant paperwork.

Nominations opened on the 1 Nov 2016, and close at 5pm on the 22 Nov 2016.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR CANDIDATES:

A Candidate must be the Authorised Representative for the Member. Nomination forms and full particulars regarding appropriate qualifications of nominees can be obtained from the Manager of CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Company office or direct from the Returning Officer, on application to: Jodie_mittelheuser@canegrowers.com.au, or phone 1800 177 159.

A WIN FOR ON FARM SCIENCE AT REEF CONFERENCE

Scientists and policy makers have agreed to work together to fast-track a range of actions that will boost the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef and to include on farm studies in a key scientific document.

More than 100 scientists, policy and management delegates spent three days in Townsville recently discussing the latest science and options for improving the quality of water flowing to the reef with CANEGROWERS represented by Environment Manager **Matt Kealley**.

Minister for the Environment **Dr Steven Miles** said he was impressed by the desire from all organisations to work collaboratively at the first Great Barrier Reef Synthesis Workshop.

"Attendees were very clear that we need broader actions than just changing land management practice on farms. Everyone has a role to play in saving the Reef."

Matt Kealley made vital contributions to the development of an updated Scientific Consensus Statement on land use impacts on Great Barrier Reef water quality and ecosystem condition.

He asked for literature and studies done on farms that may not have been scientifically peer reviewed to be included to inform the chapters of the Consensus Statement.

This was supported and the work will be included where it can demonstrate scientific outcomes based on a robust scientific method.

The range of priority actions identified by the workshop included:

- trialling advances in forecasting technology to predict rainfall,
- investigating the long-term impact of sediment and nutrient discharge,
- confirming the causes of crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks,
- assessing the critical factors to help ecosystems recover,
- understanding social and economic drivers to encourage landholders to improve their agricultural practices,
- communication and engagement to support the release of the Scientific Consensus Statement, and
- targeting gully hotspots.

BMP tick for Schembri brothers as accreditations pass the 150 mark

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** and his brother **Joe** have achieved Smartcane BMP accreditation for their Mackay district cane farms.

"This certificate represents confirmation of sustainable practices – showing that our crop and land management is at or above industry best practice," Paul Schembri said.

"Smartcane BMP will ensure that our businesses will be sound contributors to the Queensland economy for many years to come satisfying our overseas sugar customers increasing call for guarantees of sustainability."

Paul and Joe (*pictured right*) said they fitted the accreditation process around their farming and CANEGROWERS responsibilities.

"When I first started, I thought this would be a difficult and onerous exercise and

while it did take some time to complete, the more we got involved the more we could see its benefits," Paul said.

"The key to Smartcane BMP is record keeping and if you start keeping records then it can all fall into place. You know more about your business and can make better decisions."

Paul said one of the myths circulating was that Smartcane BMP was only for growers who were computer or tech savvy.

"That is clearly not the case - we keep good records in notebooks and then transfer the information to maps to give us a picture of what we've done," he said.

"I urge all growers to get involved as soon as possible to demonstrate our industry's readiness to meet world market demands for sugar, to safeguard the future of the Great Barrier Reef and confirm that we are in control of our industry's affairs."

65% of the sugarcane farming area in Queensland is now involved in the program, either accredited or working towards it with the assistance of a network of 16 local facilitators.

For more information, visit the website at www.smartcane.com.au



LOOK UP FOR YOUR MATES

A large advertisement for electrical safety. It features a man in a yellow hard hat and a plaid shirt pointing his right index finger upwards. In the background, there is a blue tractor with a yellow tank and red mechanical arms, and overhead power lines. The scene is set in a rural area with a corrugated metal building.

Contact with overhead powerlines can kill.
So for your sake and your mate's, please look up and live.
For electrical safety information specific to your industry,
visit ergon.com.au/lookupandlive

The Ergon Energy logo, which consists of a stylized 'e' inside a circle, with the words 'ERGON ENERGY' below it.

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

By CANEGROWERS district offices

Mossman & Tableland

At Week 22 Mossman Mill had processed a total of 828,659 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 11.55 CCS. The mill had both process and mechanical challenges, which reduced the overall throughput for the week.

Coastal growers have supplied 614,323 tonnes of cane for an average of 10.88 CCS, while Mareeba growers have supplied 214,335 tonnes of cane for an average of 13.46 CCS.

Coastal CCS levels remain at an historical low and will be lucky to reach our deemed CCS of 11.00.

Mossman Mill is on track to finish harvest around 17 November and Tableland Mill expected to finish around 24 November.

Tableland CANEGROWERS AGM and End of Season BBQ will be held on Thursday 15 December at 6.30pm at the Mareeba Soccer Club. QSL will provide the guest speaker for the evening.

Innisfail

After achieving a record weekly throughput recently, South Johnstone Mill suffered two major shut downs totalling 34 hours.

One was due to a loss of power when a pole adjacent to the mill was hit by a truck. The second was due to a 100m split in the bagasse conveyor belt.

Continuing dry weather conditions have allowed harvesting to progress and at 6 November, South Johnstone Mill had reached 70% of the pre-season estimate of 1,770,000. The CCS is now starting to drop away.

The current indicative finish date has pushed out to 23 December, excluding any further lost time due to wet weather or mill down-time.

Cairns

The CANEGROWERS Variable Rate Mud Applicator is being utilised successfully across the region. Predictions for the end of the season remain concerning with some evening storms already being experienced.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region has been granted an extension to hold the company's AGM, which is now scheduled for 30 January in Gordonvale.

Project 25 continues to gather momentum with data being gathered from various monitoring sites within both the Mulgrave and Russell River catchments.

Herbert River

Weather conditions across the Herbert have remained generally favourable for harvesting over the past fortnight and, as of the week ending Saturday 12 November, more than 75% of the crop had been processed.

The official crop estimate has been upgraded to 4.68 million tonnes. CCS remains very much in the doldrums, but the continuing firm sugar prices provide optimism for cane value if we can harvest the crop, even at current CCS values.

Mill reliability is again under the spotlight after a 12-hour stoppage on Victoria Mill's B side while a bypass chute was installed in response to a failed mill drive.

While continuing fine weather augurs well for the harvest, the landscape is drying off and fire danger is ever increasing under the green cane harvesting regime.

Rats are causing increasing concern as a pest. Larger scale control measures are under investigation by HCPSL, with support from CANEGROWERS for regulatory permitting.

Tully

This week we reached a seasonal average CCS of 12 on the back of hot dry conditions. 2,280,000 of the 3 million tonne crop has now been processed and everyone will have one eye on the horizon looking at the building storm clouds as they work towards the finish.

It is probable that the season will extend into the new year for a second year in a row and growers are planning for a finish that again involves transport curfew restrictions.

Burdekin

Last week was a challenging week at Inkerman where two significant unplanned interruptions resulted in ongoing processing difficulties. Throughput was also down at Invicta, which had a scheduled B-side clean as well as two significant unscheduled stops.

Fortunately, the weekend's storms only delivered 5 to 20mm of rain to most parts of the Burdekin. Harvesting was most affected in the Clare area which received 20mm of rain on Saturday afternoon and more on Sunday night.

As at the completion of Week 23 on 12 November the Burdekin mills had crushed 6,750,000 tonnes which is about 77% of the forecast crop.

If budget throughputs are achieved, harvest of the forecast crop will conclude during the week before Christmas for the North Bank Mills (Invicta, Pioneer and Kalamia) and during last week of 2016 for Inkerman on the South Bank.

Weekly CCS levels are still above budget, with two of the mills recording above 15 for the past two weeks. 14.9 is the district average for Week 23 with a season to date at 13.85.

Mackay Sugar

The three Mackay mills crushed 226,372 tonnes of cane in the week ending November 13 bringing the season tally to 4,196,935 tonnes of the 5,950,000 tonne estimate.

Farleigh and Racecourse had short stoppages due to minor issues while Marian Mill lost time when a routine inspection picked up a split in the reclaimer chute on the bagasse bin. PRS for the week was 13.83 and season to date is 12.91.

Proserpine

At the conclusion of Week 19 on 6 November, Proserpine Mill had crushed 1,368,541 tonnes of cane at a season average CCS of 12.64. Last week's throughput of 108,192 tonnes was the highest for the season and the mill's best weekly performance since 2007.

Wilmar has revised the crop estimate from 1.8 million tonnes to 1.9 million tonnes. The extra tonnage has extended the crushing season by a further week, with an anticipated finish now likely to be the end of the third week in December.

Unfortunately, CCS remains lower than expected and has actually declined slightly over the past few weeks. There were promising signs early this week with several consecutive days where the CCS remained above 13.00 – it is hoped the drier weather conditions will continue this upward trend.

In view of the lower than expected CCS, the Operations Review Committee has agreed to reduce the interim payment CCS from 13.00 to 12.70 for the remainder of the crushing season. It is anticipated the reduction will alleviate any negative cane pays when the next QSL Advance Rate adjustment is applied in December.



Maryborough

As at 14 November, MSF had crushed 760,182 tonnes at CCS of 13.96. The mill should be finished crushing at the end of this week with a total tonnage of approximately 790,000 tonnes. CCS levels have remained high over the past week and it is possible that the mill average may reach 14 by the end of the crushing. Last week the mill crushed 40,675 tonnes at CCS of 15.32.

The district received some much needed rainfall over the past weekend but it was not enough to cause any significant disruption to harvesting.

Plane Creek

Plane Creek Mill throughput to the week ending November 12 was 68,550 tonnes bringing the season to date to 1,020,396 tonnes – around 73 per cent of the estimate. CCS for the week 13.10 units with season to date 12.95. Crush rates returned to normal early in this week, after the thorough re-commissioning of the induced draft fan on No. 3 boiler. The only major stop for the week was for a scheduled shredder tip change on the Friday.

Bundaberg

The Bundaberg Sugar mills crushed 86,984 tonnes of cane for the week ending 5 November, with a CCS average of 14.96 units. Millaquin's average was 14.84 units and Bingera's was 15.10 units.

Approximately 87% of this season's crop has been crushed so far, totalling 1,525,502 tonnes with an average CCS of 14.01 units.

The highest individual CCS for the week was 17.70 units from Q240A plant in the Bingera supply area. The variety with the highest average CCS of 15.94 units was Q183A.

Isis

Dry weather has provided excellent harvest conditions in the Isis District. However, when combined with gusty winds, the risk of fire increased considerably, resulting in general permits to burn being cancelled. While cane farmers were still allowed to use fire for harvesting, they were required to strictly adhere to burning times, take extreme care and notify Firecom prior to any planned burns.

With just 120,111 tonnes remaining in the season as of 11 November, Isis Mill has now processed 1,209,888 tonnes and, should conditions remain favourable, remains on target to terminate the season after bin allotments on Friday, 25 November.

CCS continues to climb with the weekly CCS reaching 15.16 units in Week 19 and 15.49 in Week 20. CANEGROWERS Isis will hold its Annual General Meeting on 25 November at 2.30pm in the CANEGROWERS Isis hall.

This AGM will include a special presentation to honour Joe Russo and Wayne Stanley's outstanding service to our growers and local industry. Wayne Stanley will give a speech on the changes through the 46 years of his service to CANEGROWERS. We urge our growers to attend for this special presentation. ■

Rocky Point

As at 13 November, total tonnes crushed for Rocky Point were 59,601 at a season average CCS of 13.54. CCS is still rising, with an average for the week of 13.78.

The weather is holding, and while the odd shower is welcome, growers are hoping that the usual storm rains for this period hold off for as long as possible.

The mill is running seven days a week and only stopping for cleanouts.

We would like to congratulate Matthew Keith on winning the 2016 Australian Farmer of the Year award.



Warren Males
CANEGROWERS
Head - Economics

“Critical Peak tariffs would provide an incentive for irrigators to switch off during the critical peak summer days.”

ELECTRICITY –

regulated network prices miss the mark

CANEGROWERS' key concern with the high electricity prices faced by irrigators is that those prices are at levels well above the cost of supply. The evidence proving this is piling up.

CANEGROWERS has long argued that the drivers of investment in the Ergon electricity network have been the needs of urban and industrial users, along with government policy decisions, not the needs of irrigators.

The last major irrigation scheme built in Queensland was Paradise Dam. It opened in 2005 making an additional 124,000ML of water available for irrigation and other medium priority uses. Of this, around 100,000ML remains unallocated. The state's irrigation task has not increased since.

Over this time, irrigation practices have improved, the efficiency of pumps has increased and, taking account of changes in annual demand due to seasonal conditions, there has been little change in the amount of electricity used in irrigation (see chart).

Despite irrigators placing no additional burden on Ergon's network, the electricity prices they face have more than doubled.

Earlier this year CANEGROWERS provided Ergon with a detailed Alternative Technology Association (ATA) report on irrigators' use patterns and made recommendations about network tariff structures that would meet the needs of irrigators.

At that time ATA wrote, "There is a lack of reliable and granular information of the incidence of costs across Ergon's network. Ergon Energy does not differentiate between customer types and voltage connection levels."

In more recent work, with the assistance of the Sapere Research Group (Sapere), CANEGROWERS has closely examined Ergon's Tariff Structure Statement (TSS) and the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER) draft decision to accept it.

Sapere uncovered significant gaps in the evidence Ergon used to support its TSS. This calls into question the AER's draft decision.

Based on the detailed work carried out by ATA and Sapere, CANEGROWERS is deeply concerned that the key propositions outlined in the AER's draft decision to accept Ergon's TSS are not evidence-based and the proposed tariffs are not cost reflective.

A fundamental issue is that the material presented by Ergon and its consultants, Energeia and Frontier Economics, to support Ergon's proposed ten hour (10am to 8pm) summer peak window for business is based on energy consumption patterns, not on the congestion faced in different parts of the network.

No evidence has been presented in the TSS that shows irrigators are either on a congested part of the Ergon network or are causing network congestion. Ergon's on-line network "heat map" also provides no support for the proposition that the demands of irrigators are driving Ergon's network investment decisions.

The "heat map" shows that Ergon's network is under pressure from the liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry. This is supported by the analysis presented in the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) National Electricity Forecasting Report (NEFR).

The data provided in Ergon's regulatory information notice to the AER shows that the maximum demand for its standard control services barely changed between 2010 (2,319.4 MW) and 2015 (2,354 MW).

It also shows that Ergon's nominal regulated asset base (RAB) increased by \$3.5 billion (53%) over this same period.

This strong growth in Ergon's RAB occurred even though some capital expenditure was avoided in response to reduced demand and some moderation of Queensland's reliability standards.

As a class of customers, irrigators are facing network tariffs set far above the costs they impose on Ergon's network and, along with other customers with a similar load profile, are cross subsidising the LNG industry.

Efficient network tariffs would support lower prices for irrigators and others that do not drive peak load demands that create network congestion and higher prices for those customers that are contributing to network congestion.

There is a clear case for Ergon to develop a range of network tariffs that recognise the nature of the load that irrigators place on its network. These could include:

- Critical Peak tariffs that would provide an incentive for irrigators to switch off load during the critical peak summer days, typically there are four to six such days a year.

Ergon would communicate with customers a day ahead (via a variety of means) announcing the following day or days may represent the network (or subsystem) critical demand day, on which the critical peak tariff will apply. This will give irrigators an opportunity to moderate demand.

- Peak tariffs that include a weekday peak period of no more than four to five hours (11am to 4pm).

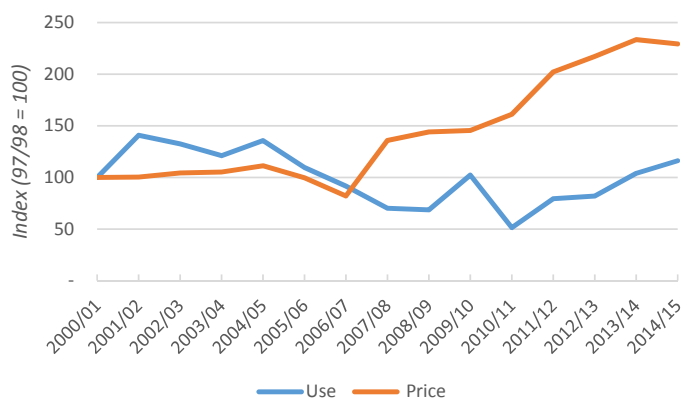
This reflects the fact that network congestion is not a major issue for feeders in irrigation districts. For those areas where residential demand has more peak effect, 4pm to 8pm may be more appropriate as the weekday peak period.

- Off-Peak tariffs would apply at all other times, including unrestricted weekend use.

These tariffs, not subject to any peak demand charges, would be low enough to encourage more energy use.

CANEGROWERS proposed network tariff structure for irrigated agriculture would enable the development of retail tariffs that deliver lower electricity prices to all users on the non-congested parts of the Ergon network. They would be cost reflective and would not require artificial cross subsidies from other electricity users. ■

Electricity prices for irrigation soar regardless of use



Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

WHAT DOES AN 18-YEAR-OLD NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SUPER?

Ok, you're 18 years old, we get it, and you're probably not worried about retiring. In fact, you probably figure that you're going to make a mint by the time you're 40 and live large. And if you do, that's fantastic! But you still need to know a few things now about your super and how to manage it regardless of your career and retirement plans.

The first thing is pretty basic, but it's important not to lose sight of it along the way. Super is your money, so you should know where it is at all times. This is a pretty easy thing to do. You simply take us with you when you change jobs. You can do this in one of two ways. You can either give your new employer your member number or fill out a standard choice form and provide it to your employer. Your AustSafe Super member number can be found through **MemberOnline**.

The second thing to know about your super is that nothing is set in stone – yes you can't access it yet, but you can still control what you're investing in. Some of the things to ask yourself are what kind of retirement you'd like to have, at what age you'd like to retire, what your appetite for risk is and what other things you plan to do during your working life. These aren't easy questions to answer but they're important in determining where you choose to invest your money within your super account.

AustSafe Super has a range of investment options which may deliver the outcomes to these important questions.

Another thing to know when you're 18 is not actually about super – but it's equally important. It's about your finances in general. Things like how to manage a credit card, how interest rates work, spending and saving and of course investing!

We've developed a tool to help with all of this – it's called MoneyTree and you can take a look at it by visiting our website.

And the last thing an 18-year-old needs to know about super is that they probably won't be particularly interested in any of this, so if you've got a child who's about this age, or a young co-worker or employee, then start the conversation with them or cut this article out and pin it to the notice board – they might not realise it now but they'll thank you later!

For more information, please visit austsafe.com.au



Rocky Point canegrower crowned Australian Farmer of the Year

Matthew Keith's commitment to sustainable practices in his Rocky Point mulching business and transformation of the grain, beef and sugarcane aspects of the business set him apart from the other finalists at this year's Kondinin Group-ABC Rural Australian Farmer of the Year awards.

The Keith Family has been growing cane in the Rocky Point area south of Brisbane since the 1940s. But Matthew has revamped his grandfather's humble sugarcane farm into an environmentally-friendly mulching and garden product business.

It is now the second-largest sugarcane grower in the region, producing 40,000 tonnes annually. In 2003, he initiated the formation of Rocky Point Mulching, which supplies mulch Australia-wide.

Rocky Point manufactures 1.5 million bags of sugarcane mulch and 2 million bags of other composts, potting mixes, soils and mulches per year.

"I have a long-term goal to position Rocky Point Mulching among the leaders in sustainable practices, in both the agriculture and manufacturing sectors."

To further diversify the business, Matthew managed the purchase of two cattle and grain properties near Dalby, which, together with a property purchased in 1985, now total 3200ha to support 1,200 head of cattle.

"I have a long-term goal to position Rocky Point Mulching among the leaders in sustainable practices, in both the agriculture and manufacturing sectors," Matthew said.

"Our agricultural business will grow through increased production of sugarcane, grain and cattle, while our manufacturing of sugarcane mulch will expand into new markets for stock feed and export."

The company is also trialling the use of manufactured compost as a substitute for synthetic fertilisers with an eye to the future of organic agriculture and is also trialling the use of green waste from the Gold Coast Council.

Last year's winner and 2016 judge, Matt Dunbabin, said one of the things which really sets Matthew apart is the impact that his farming practices and innovation are having on his community and dozens of other cane farmers.



"The mulching and recycling products he has developed are turning what was once waste into a valuable product in its own right, contributing significantly to the sustainability of his whole industry," Mr Dunbabin said.

Matthew admitted he always looked towards innovation and was not afraid of change.

"I have now started a new division within our company called Rocky Point Recycling. We are creating bulk garden mulch by diverting waste timber (pallets and any other timber offcuts) from landfill and grinding into a wood chip.

"The industry-leading grinding machinery was purchased from the USA and removes 100% of all nails from the waste timber pallets and colours the mulch red, black or brown.

"Under my guidance and direction, our companies are looking to invest further into sustainable practices such as food waste composting and possible biogas initiatives in the next 2-3 years." ■

YOU LEGEND - Tableland grower collects two gongs

Tableland member Dennis Howe was hailed a farming legend at the recent 2016 Australian Farmer of the Year Awards, picking up two awards for his outstanding sugarcane and mixed crop operation on Queensland's Atherton Tableland.



Dennis, who grows avocados, bananas, blueberries, coffee and cane, amongst other rotational crops, received the Prime Super Farming Legend of the Year Award and the 2016 Kondinin Group Award for Excellence in Technology.

Based at Walkamin, Dennis took over the family farm at the age of 23.

Under his guidance the business has diversified into a wide variety of crops and he currently employs more than 430 staff.

The majority of the produce is marketed by Mackay's Banana Marketing, and Dennis, recognising a business

opportunity, purchased a large share of the company in 2011.

Employee Kim Mastin, who submitted Dennis' nomination without his knowledge, said Dennis' risk-taking was the main catalyst to Howe Farming's incredible success.

"Dennis is very forward-thinking – even though he's an old fella he's right up to speed with technology and all the lingo for everything," she said.

"Reflecting on where we are now, it's because he has taken those risks and diversified when industries were discouraging it." ■

QUICK FACTS about Dennis Howe

- He employs between 400-500 people during harvest.
- Howe Farming provides interest free loans and transport for employees free of charge as many staff do not hold driver's licences or own cars.
- With no formal computer training Dennis created a computer program called Farmboy.

It manages the daily Howe Farming operations, including stock ordering and traceability, stock control, fleet management, production and payroll.

- Dennis invented the 'Howeser' banana bagging machine - a custom engineered piece of equipment for banana producers. Since 2008, 34 machines have been constructed.



Three generations of the Keith Family of Rocky Point Mulching (L-R): Michael Keith, Jennifer Keith, Teagen Dakers, Cherie Keith, Brieanna Keith, Josh Keith, Alexander Keith, Chris Keith, David Keith, Janette Keith and Matt Keith.

Market Update

Current as of 14 November 2016

Sugar

WHAT HAPPENED?

In a month dominated by macro-related news, the sugar market has given back most of the gains of September on the back of a reverse of the recent buying trend by the speculator community.

The specs have sold back around 25% of their record-high bought position now, but it is still at historically high levels.

The fall was halted at the 100-day moving average in the low US21c/lb levels, which held at these support levels on news of buying by China and some other destination markets.

We saw substantial volatility in the lead up to and aftermath of the US Presidential elections and the surprise outcome, with Donald Trump prevailing.

Along with other emerging market currencies, the Brazil Real has weakened further, now by around 15% over the last two months, contributing to some selling pressure in sugar.

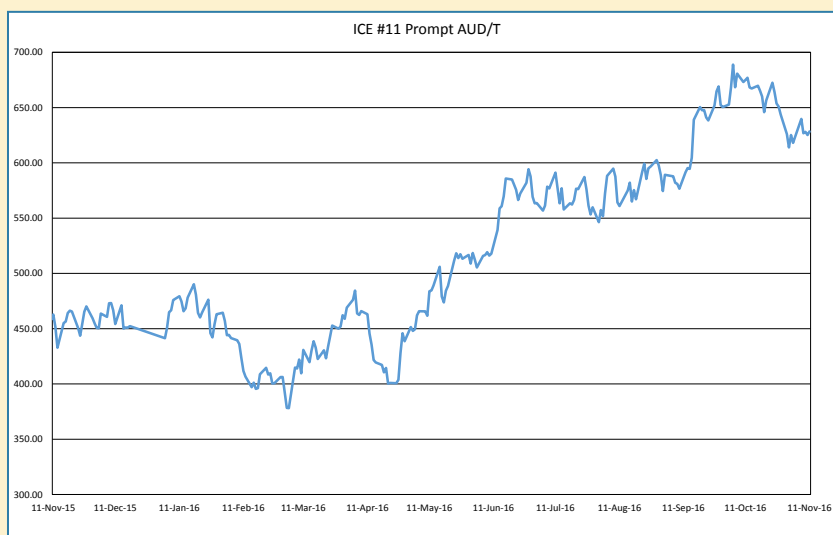
This will need to be watched closely while the dust continues to settle. On the fundamental side, further details of the good monsoon rains in Thailand and India have led to a number of analysts marking down their expectations for a slightly smaller deficit towards 10 million metric ton (mt) cumulative vs 14-15 million mt in the last few months, but stocks are still relatively low and the commercial buyers are still largely uncovered.

The 2017 and 2018 Seasons have not moved down as much as the 2016-Season positions.

GOING FORWARD

Despite the slide down in the last month, the positive fundamentals will likely prevail in the medium term and we should see support for a recovery of prices in the lead up to Q1 2017 delivery period.

Contract	Latest Settlement	Monthly Change	High	Low
Mar-2017	21.70	-1.45	23.68	21.09
May-2017	21.07	-1.36	22.83	20.70
Jul-2017	20.28	-1.47	21.93	20.08
Oct-2017	19.70	-1.51	21.27	19.47
Mar-2018	19.38	-1.47	20.89	19.12
May-2018	18.69	-1.38	20.09	18.32
BRL/USD	3.4023	6.08%	3.4890	3.1033
Ethanol Parity	17.94			



Source: Bloomberg (Current as at 14 November 2016)

However, in the short-term, it will be all about the macro drivers. The global financial market is still digesting the US Presidential election result, and all asset classes are likely to remain volatile.

For some participants some of the lower prices may represent great opportunities. An example of this is the weakening of the Brazil Real, which has now led to an advancing of 2017-Season pricing by those larger Brazilian millers who can cover.

The knock-on effect of this is that, similar to the July and Oct 2016 positions, there may be limited selling by producers available to provide a cap to the market if and when it does start to move up again.

Thais are also very well priced for their deliveries in 2017. The AUD/mt returns will be exposed to any weakness in the Brazilian Real impacting the ICE#11 sugar market, and any further sell off by the speculators which may be fuelled by this or other macro drivers.

So far, some of the other commodities, such as oil and metals, have largely reacted strongly since the US election.

Ethanol parity levels have now closed in versus sugar, and this should provide a floor to selling levels.

Whilst the fundamental outlook for sugar remains positive in the medium-term while we remain in deficit, we are now receiving more evidence of a



positive supply response from the second half of 2017 onwards – particularly from Europe, Thailand, India and Brazil.

Some preliminary estimates are now calling for a return to a global surplus in 2017/18. We expect to see any short-term weakness below US21 c/lb well supported by commercial buying and the outlook to be around US20-23c/lb for the month.

WHAT COULD CHANGE?

There's lots of moving parts to keep an eye on this month! The macro issues of the speculator position and Brazil Real will lead the field, however there are a couple of fundamental items to watch too. We are now getting very close to the end of Brazil's 16/17 harvest. There is a potential risk for a fast finish which could lead to a sharp response from the market.

QSL Market Cost Drivers

MARKET COST DRIVERS	PROMPT (Mar17) A\$/mt	2017 Season A\$/mt
Current Market - 14/11/16	\$631.71	\$568.08
Sugar Fundamentals - Global exc. Brazil	●	●
Sugar Fundamentals - Brazil	●	●
Macro Issues/Specs	●	●
AUD/USD	●	●

- Trend is more favourable to positive \$A/mt returns.
- Trend is neutral to \$A/mt returns.
- Trend is less favourable to \$A/mt returns.

Currency

WHAT HAPPENED?

The AUD continued to remain more range-bound than some of the other currencies, remaining between 0.7600 and 0.7800 despite the volatility surrounding the US election. The RBA again kept rates on hold, continuing to provide a neutral statement and little forward guidance. In the aftermath of the US election, emerging market currencies in Asia and Latin America have felt some pressure while the relative safe haven of AUD/USD has remained more supported on account of positive commodity movements in iron ore and coal, as well as the ongoing interest rate differential.

GOING FORWARD

Any ongoing weakness in emerging market Asian currency values will likely start to have a knock on impact to the AUD. The upside risk towards 0.80 now seems a little more limited and we can expect USA/Australia interest rate differences to continue to drive a more rational move down for the AUD/USD. Either way, we expect it will be well supported below 0.75. Our outlook is for an AUD in the 0.74-0.77 range.

WHAT COULD CHANGE?

The global financial markets still remain a little on edge post US election. Any risk-off approach could weaken the market earlier than expected. On the upside, the continued positive yield and positive commodity outlook may also lead to further appetite for buying AUD/USD. Support for these reasons will likely continue to keep the AUD sticky in any declines and conversely may lead to an increase due to the relative stability.

	Settlement	Range	High	Low
AUD/USD	0.7533	263 pts	0.7777	0.7514

Source: Bloomberg (Current as of 14 November 2016)

DISCLAIMER:

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SPREADING CHANGE

By Wayne Griffin

CANEGROWERS
Cairns Region
invests in future
of the Great
Barrier Reef

Tucked away in the heart of Queensland's World Heritage Wet Tropics, Cairns region cane growers are on the frontline of industry efforts to improve the quality of water flowing into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. It's a responsibility they take seriously, which is why they've teamed up with Terrain NRM and the Australian Government Reef Programme to design, build and trial a unique variable rate applicator that will help growers reduce their inorganic nitrogen inputs.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Chairman **Stephen Calcagno** is one of the driving forces behind the project. An accredited Smartcane BMP grower and leading advocate for improving soil health, Stephen believes the prototype spreader has the potential, once perfected, to dramatically reduce inorganic nitrogen use, while boosting soil health and increasing productivity.

"This is all about reducing our inorganic nitrogen input," Stephen said, when *Australian Canegrower* visited his Bellenden Ker farm recently.



Pictured: Tony Rossi, one of the first growers to trial the new variable rate applicator, loads the bin with a mixture of composted human waste solids, fine graded mulch and mill by-products.

"Obviously one of our main goals is to improve the quality of water flowing into the Reef by reducing dissolved inorganic nitrogen levels, that's why the government is behind the project, but that is only one part of what we want to achieve.

"This project is also about improving soil health. Soil is a living organism. By building up organic matter and getting all those microbes working you can get healthy soil and increase that organic carbon, then you won't need as much nitrogen to grow the crop.

"That in turn reduces the costs for growers because they're using less expensive, more sustainable inputs.

"We're hopeful trials will show that it's possible to help the Reef, improve the soil and maintain or increase productivity while also reducing inorganic nitrogen inputs," Stephen said.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region and the Federal Government Reef Programme each put up \$30,000 towards developing the modified spreader, which was designed and built by Innisfail's Daradgee Welding Works.

While from the back the unit looks much like other fertiliser bins, it's at the front that the innovation becomes apparent.

A centre outlet drops fertiliser directly onto the row below, while two variable speed conveyor belts throw fertiliser out onto the rows either side.

"We can cover three rows in one pass, which speeds up the application process," Stephen said.

"The conveyor belt speed can be varied to match the row spacings, making the unit suitable for use on 1.65m up to 1.8m centres.



"It goes directly onto the stool, so it's targeted on the growing zone, it's not just a broad-acre approach."

When it comes to what fertiliser growers can apply using the new spreader, there is only one rule, it must be organic.

"Some people are using ash, compost, mulch - as long as it's not commercial nitrogen fertiliser then that's fine," Stephen said.

"They also have to keep records of what they've applied and where they have reduced their nitrogen use. That's all part of the agreement for the government funding."

One grower who has already signed up to trial the new variable rate applicator is Babinda grower **Lindsay Travers**.

Until now Lindsay, who has been growing cane in the region for over 40 years, has used only mill ash and commercial nitrogen fertiliser on his 140ha cane farm.

"I've applied ash over the years, just by dumping and spreading it, but I want to be more targeted in my application, which is what this applicator will allow me to do," Lindsay said.

"Also, I lease a farm from a company that produces compost and I want to start applying it in my planting. I want to do trials to establish if I should put it on after planting or incorporate it into the soil before planting."

While Lindsay believes nitrogen reduction targets in the government's reef plan might be a little too ambitious, he is confident massive reductions are achievable. *continues page 16...*



Pictured: (top) Babinda grower Lindsay Travers will use the new variable rate applicator to trial the use of compost before and after planting.

"They want to reduce nitrogen by 80%, which I think is a little bit high. But even if we can cut it down to 50%, that would be a massive achievement and it's possible through projects like this," he said.

"So that's my goal at the minute, just to reduce my commercial nitrogen inputs. By putting more organic carbon into the soil I can alleviate the input of nitrogen. Compost will naturally boost the carbon levels in the soil and that's what I'm aiming for."

As one of the few growers to actually put the spreader through its paces in the field, **Tony Rossi** agrees it has massive potential.

"We'll definitely use it again or maybe even build our own, we were very happy with it," Tony said.

"It's a prototype, so there are one or two little glitches that we'll iron out, but we're quite sold on the concept to be honest."

Tony and his brothers have been getting into composting recently and it's their own special mix that they are trialling with the spreader.

"We're accessing bio-solids from the Cairns City Council, which is basically the dried effluent from the sewage plant, and then we're mixing that with fine graded mulch and anything else we have around, like mill mud or ash or bagasse, then composting that for three or four months before putting this compost into our plant cane drills," he said.

"It will be a year before we can really get a good idea of how successful these trials have been, but we're very hopeful.

"Farmers are great innovators. If you can show us that there's a problem with the system, then we'll do our best to fix it. That's what projects like this are all about." ■



Pictured: A centre outlet drops fertiliser directly onto the row below, while two variable speed conveyor belts throw fertiliser out onto the rows either side.

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HOW EFFECTIVE

is your fallow?

A successful crop cycle starts with a well-managed fallow. In this article, SRA Adoption Officer **Gavin Rodman**, Tully, looks at the key factors that will help make your next fallow an effective one.

The fallow period provides an opportunity to do those jobs that aren't possible during the crop cycle, such as realigning blocks and drainage works. The fallow period is also an opportunity to break the sugarcane monoculture.

While many growers believe they already make optimal use of the fallow period, in reality many current fallows are of very limited value – too short, too weedy, or too many volunteers.

How long should my fallow be?

Your fallow should be long enough to complete any planned earthworks, to assist in your weed management and timing of operations, and also to kill the previous crop.

The length of the fallow, or having a fallow to begin with, will mean fewer restrictions on when you may be able to plant the next crop.

The length of your fallow should also be based on a carefully considered range of planting dates, as soil temperature and soil 'wetness' are important factors in plant germination and the good establishment of a plant crop. Autumn planting is desirable in some areas, while late winter or spring planting is best suited to others.

If you are planning to grow a legume cover crop, your fallow should be long enough to allow planting any time after late October and a minimum of three months growth of the legume. This period of three months over the summer will allow for adequate vegetative bulk and nitrogen accumulation.

Fallowing with a legume cover crop is an excellent and sustainable method of enhancing soil health and structure, adding nitrogen and managing weeds.



Fallow crops such as peanuts or other legumes have been proven to deliver significant benefits to the subsequent sugarcane crop cycle.

Is my fallow too weedy?

So what are the issues associated with allowing weeds to grow in your fallow? Letting weeds take over your fallow might not cost you today, but it will cost you extra in the long run as the seed bank for these weeds builds up in the soil to germinate and grow throughout the crop cycle.

“One year’s seeding, many years weeding”.

Allowing weeds to grow and seed in your fallow will lead to years of intensive management, as the old saying goes: “One year’s seeding, many years weeding”.

Weeds can also serve as a host for some sugarcane pests, allowing them to survive between crops. Nematodes are a major pest of sugarcane, with yield losses believed to be as high as 10% in plant and 7% in ratoons across all sugarcane soils in Australia. Management of nematodes

involves including a legume rotation and ensuring that the fallow is kept free of weeds, particularly volunteer cane from the previous cycle.

What are the impacts of volunteer cane?

A good or effective fallow does not involve the presence of volunteer cane. Volunteer cane is cane that has ratooned after being sprayed out or tilled. Ensuring that your fallow is free from volunteers is the only way to break the issues associated with a monoculture.

Lifecycles of pests can be broken by well-managed fallows and, in turn, reducing pest numbers. Cane volunteers can attract egg-laying cane beetles and maintain soldier fly numbers, as these volunteers are an attractive food source for their young.

Volunteer cane can also provide a food source for soil-borne diseases such as pineapple disease, fusarium sett rot and even serve as a host for ratoon stunting disease. Ensuring your fallow is free of volunteers will give your plants the best chance for a healthy and disease free establishment. ■

New technology improves earthmover efficiency and effectiveness for growers

Supplied by FarmscanAg



Upgrading guidance technology has improved efficiency for Ayr earthmoving contractor **Mark Delle Baite**, giving him the ability to offer a more cost-effective service to growers.

Mark's business, Delle Baite Earthmoving, has been a successful means of diversification from the family's farm at Ayr, south of Townsville.

The family has been cane farming for four generations and the property produces a harvest of 16,500 tonnes of cane annually.

Through the earthmoving business, Mark assists growers in the Burdekin shire area with land levelling services, including final trim, dam formation and preparation of grass bays.

He's also prepared many recycle pits, with growers having successfully accessed grants under the Australian Government Reef Programme.

In 2012, Mark upgraded his levelling system from laser levelling to GPS in an effort to keep up with the latest technology.

After much research, he opted for the GPS-controlled LevelGuide software program, which he purchased through Steve Hanlon, Landform Survey and Design.

FarmscanAG's LevelGuide is integrated within the wider AgGuide mapping and guidance program that also offers auto-steer, implement guidance, variable rate control and spray control, including boom section switching.

These days Mark is utilising the system, along with auto-steer, on his 2013 Steiger tractor, with a 4-metre (14ft) Harwood Bagshaw laser bucket.

"It makes my job as an owner/operator a lot easier, as it means I can get jobs done a lot faster, which gives me more time to go

and see farmers about other jobs," Mark said.

"By increasing my efficiency, it allows me to keep the levelling costs down for farmers."

Mark said he had found the system extremely simple to use, with the Ezigrade software providing a comprehensive but easy-to-follow process.

The service from FarmscanAg had also been impressive, he said, with the software designed to communicate directly with the support team if needed, using internet connection via a mobile phone.

He now also has access to extra support locally, through Peter Viero, Farm Survey and Design.

"The system is very simple to use and it works terrifically," he said.

"Especially the smoothing design program. So we have that option as opposed to a planing effect - it follows the contours and shifts minimal dirt.

"I believe it works as well as a laser, but the added benefits you've got with LevelGuide in comparison with a laser puts it well ahead."

Steve Hanlon said with GPS-controlled machines there was more emphasis on design.

"We can now do 'smoothing design' rather than a 'planing design', if that is what the situation requires. With the LevelGuide system, it is simple to apply either to the paddock," Steve said.

"The Ezigrade design software that we use also allows the designer to incorporate channels, drains, roads, pads, dams or features into the design and the operator can see them on the screen in front of them in the cab."

Steve, who is an agricultural engineer and has been involved with land levelling, irrigation and dam design since the 1980s, said previously with lasers, flat planes were made usually with multiple planes to a paddock.

"A paddock was set up in a series of tiles with planes sloping in different directions," he said.

"These days, if we want water to go down a furrow or bay in a paddock, we can have different grades all the way down. Instead of making large flat planes, we now smooth it so the slope is constantly downhill. You set the design up so that it has maximum and minimum slopes to minimise the cut and fill."

Steve said when using lasers to control levelling, it was often very time consuming to create planes to work with while levelling.

He said set-up times were a significant part of the job and compromises had to be made between set-up time and the volumes of soil moved in the operation.

"This generally lead to designs and levelling jobs that moved large amounts of soil, causing farmers who grow crops on rainfall to consider land levelling to be too costly."

Today, design software like Ezigrade, from Foresoft Pty Ltd, allows for designs that can set parameters to simply "get the water off a paddock in any direction", reducing the calculated volumes of cut and fill significantly.

Coupling this with the LevelGuide, GPS-controlled equipment, set-up times are now a small part of jobs and volumes of soil moved are greatly reduced.

"This generally results in very low cost solutions to costly drainage issues," Steve said.

Mark said much of his work was derived from growers looking to manage their time, land and water more effectively.

Since upgrading to the LevelGuide system, Mark's experienced an increase in the level of demand for his services, as it was now a more economically-viable option for growers.

The set-up time alone is a lot faster, allowing him to arrive in the paddock and get to work with minimal fuss.

"A lot of farmers are especially trying to save on water costs, which is why I do a lot of final trim jobs," he said.

"With rising costs on electricity, everyone is trying to improve their efficiency in order to keep irrigation costs down and productivity up.

"So it may cost 'x' amount to level a paddock, but it won't take long to recoup those costs and then they continue to reap the benefits.

"Once people realise how reasonably priced it is, they end up doing more jobs, so I've found I'm getting a lot more work on the same properties.

"With the amount of work I'm averaging each year, should the system be less than fulfilled, I would not be getting through my jobs in a timely manner." ■

Photo: Ayr earthmoving contractor Mark Delle Baite, Delle Baite Earthmoving, and Peter Viero, Farm Survey and Design. Mark's 2013 Case Steiger tractor, with a 4-metre (14ft) Horwood Bagshaw laser bucket, is fitted with GPS-controlled LevelGuide software from FarmscanAG.



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PARAQUAT RESISTANCE – RISKS AND CONSEQUENCES

by Amy Claireton

Chances are that most cane growers will use paraquat products (such as Gramoxone®) as one of their 'knockdowns of choice' in plant cane blocks and on headlands this season.

Since the widespread adoption of green cane harvesting and zero tillage, paraquat has been a mainstay herbicide on most farms, providing effective control of many grass and broadleaf weeds – but this useful herbicide could be lost to the industry if steps are not taken to minimise the impact of herbicide resistance.

Paraquat is a widely-used herbicide, being an active ingredient in over 100 herbicide products registered for use in sugarcane.

It is a group L herbicide and as such is considered a 'moderate risk' for herbicide resistance.

Having a moderate risk rating means that resistance generally takes longer to occur, not that it won't occur.

The characteristics of paraquat that make it so useful in cane farming highlight the importance of protecting this chemistry.

1. Paraquat is a non-selective herbicide and the main alternative to glyphosate (e.g. Roundup®) for managing a broad range of weed species.
2. It is non-systemic within the cane plant – cane plants recover quickly from any spray contacting the foliage.
3. It can control glyphosate resistant weeds – used in rotation with glyphosate or as the second knock in a double knock strategy.
4. Paraquat binds tightly to soil particles and is inert in the soil. It does not run off into waterways and so is safe to use in crops adjacent to sensitive areas.
5. It is rain-fast within minutes of application, so is well suited to use in coastal districts.

Speaking at a recent Grain Research and Development Corporation Grower Solutions Group meeting in Childers, Mark Congreve said there are currently 10 weed



species with confirmed resistance to paraquat in Australia.

"Paraquat resistance typically takes over 15 years of consistent use before resistant weeds are noticeable in the field," said Mr Congreve, a senior consultant with Independent Consultants Australia Network.

"It is essential that farmers do everything in their power to preserve the effectiveness of the herbicide groups currently available."

"This critical period has now elapsed on many farms where paraquat is used in cane, rotational crops and for general weed control around the farm."

Very high level resistance to paraquat was confirmed in three weed species (crowsfoot grass, blackberry nightshade and cudweed) taken from sugarcane and tomato blocks around Bundaberg in 2015. One of these weeds, crowsfoot grass, has been shown to evolve resistance to all three of the non-selective herbicides used world-wide – glufosinate, glyphosate and paraquat.

Researchers from the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI) confirmed for the first time that a single population of crowsfoot grass (*Eleusine indica*) from Malaysia had resistance to these three herbicides as well as ACCase herbicides (e.g. haloxyfop, fluazifop, butoxydim), which are currently used in soybean, peanut and some tree and vegetable crops.

This suggests that multiple resistance is likely to occur even within the same plant. Crowsfoot grass is widely naturalised in Queensland and is considered both an agricultural and environmental weed.

In the event of widespread resistance to paraquat, Mark is concerned that there are no new modes of action likely to be

Continues page 22...



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commercialised within the next 10 years or more, so we need to protect what we have.

"It is essential that farmers do everything in their power to preserve the effectiveness of the herbicide groups currently available," he said.

"The key is to take a diverse approach to weed management and to remove weeds that survive herbicide applications. This is the best way to keep weed numbers low and when numbers are low, resistant weeds are easier to control. It's a numbers game!"

Mark suggests that growers check the results of every spray application, looking for individual plants 'surviving' the spray application when adjacent weeds have been killed. This may be a sign that the surviving plants carry the genetic mutation that 'protects' them from the herbicide's mode of action.

"If this is observed, the first step is to remove those individual plants before they shed seed," he said. "It is recommended to have the plants, or their seed, tested to confirm resistance and determine what herbicides those individuals are still susceptible to."

A second warning sign is when a higher rate of a herbicide is needed to have the same effect as achieved on the target weed in previous years.

Mark called this 'rate, or dose, creep' and said that it is the most common sign of resistance to herbicides like paraquat.

"Paraquat resistance occurs when a plant has the ability to redirect the herbicide molecules away from the chloroplasts in the cell and into the cell vacuole, where the herbicide has no effect," he said.

"If you are finding that you now need to use a higher rate of a herbicide such as paraquat, it is time to change how you are using that herbicide."

Headlands are often treated with paraquat annually.

This can be a high risk practice unless survivors are removed after every spray application as there is no crop competition to restrict weed growth, resulting in production of large volumes of seed.

Keeping headlands and waterways grassed and slashed may be an alternate management strategy for these areas to minimise erosion and slow the pace of herbicide resistance.

Experience in the Australian grains industry shows that herbicide resistance frequently occurs first along fence lines, roadways and irrigation channels, where herbicide use tends to be the same year in year out and less attention is paid to survivor weeds or poor herbicide efficacy.

The Weedsmart website provides many practical tools for farmers wanting to make their weed control program more diverse and robust to delay herbicide resistance on their farms. ■

More information:

- Weedsmart - www.weedsmart.org.au
- Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative - www.ahri.uwa.edu.au
- Aus Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group
www.glyphosateresistance.org.au



Mark Congreve, ICAN senior consultant spoke to the GRDC Grower Solutions Group in Childers recently about how growers can recognise herbicide resistance in the field.

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Book online anytime of the day or night at www.canegrowers.com.au or email us at ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au

Next deadline is **28 November 2016**.

*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.

**For a cost of around \$25 per acre
Can you afford not to give it a go?**

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

**GREAT BARRIER
REEF FRIENDLY**

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To receive your free electronic copy, email us on:

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TAPER SPLINE LOCK

This is a patented device for eliminating free play in a splined cauliflower of a harvester chopper box.

The lock consists of a cauliflower hub with a large, tapered internal spline. Three splined segments lock into the tapered internal spline and also lock onto the splined, chopper shaft.

- ✓ Locks the spline, simulating an interference press fit
- ✓ No waiting time is needed before use - tighten the lock and GO!
- ✓ Detailed fitting instructions provided
- ✓ 11th year of proven service in the field

*For further information contact the manufacturer

Glenella Engineering

16 Blue Gum Drive, MACKAY, QLD 4740
07 4942 4081 || admin@gleneng.com.au

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**GT TRACK INFIELD TRANSPORTER
14 TONNE FRONT UNLOADING
ELEV to 4.2 metre delivery.**

CAT 325HP Engine. 9 roller track frames, two speed track drive motors, New 50-1 ratio track drive hubs. SAI piston elevator drive motors, 24" curved grouser plates. Full moving floor. S.A.L.T chains. **PROVEN DESIGN ENQUIRE NOW!!**

2011 MASSEY FERGUSON 5465
4 WD Tractor 120 HP. 1,967 Hrs. Front suspension, Linkage & D/Bar fitted.
Priced to Sell!

NEW! BILLET PLANTER 2500
Immediate Delivery. In Mackay NOW.

NEW! 4 SLAT OPEN BUTT ROLLERS
Suit JD 3510/20 and CASE.
Helps Drop Dirt. Enquire NOW!

WRECKING CAMECO 1996 Track Harvester. No engine, walking gear or toppler available. Other parts available L&S track hubs, 8 Blade, Diff chopper drums, base cutter box, various hydraulic valves & Hydraulic motors.

NEW! Chopper Drums to suit JD 570
available. Enquire NOW!

IN STOCK NOW 12, 10, 8 & 6 BLADE DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS
Suit '05 to current 3520 CAMECO/JD. Tungsten Hard Faced on Wear Areas. New seal plates, Clamping Bars & Dowels with kit.

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Classifieds

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New Hydraulic Heavy Duty OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,
All bath bearings
\$11,000 plus GST (\$12,100 incl GST)
Other size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m,
2.5m, 3m & 3.4metres.
3 point linkage offsets available also



New Heavy Duty SLASHERS

2.1 metres width \$3,300 incl GST
Other sizes available are 1.2m, 1.5m & 1.8m

Johnny Farming Company

Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 535 887 (John)
or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)
133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740



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Mossman – Tully

Toft Track Harvester. Cummins Motor. Rotary chop. Knife Saver. Base Cutter legs. Sealing Fan. Suit to cut your own cane or Billet Planting. Ph. 0427 163 519

7 tyne Lely ripper & roller drawbar. Ph. 0427 327 977

John Deere 2140, 2WD, R.O.P.S, good tyres, excellent condition. \$15,000 + GST. Ph. 0407597179

JD 3520, 2012 model, adjustable powerfeed roller, elevator extension, GPS, well maintained, selling at end of 2016 crush. Ph. 0427 667 694

Harvester contractor with spare capacity seeking farmers for 2017 cane season. Contact Ian 0418 183 584.

Herbert River – Burdekin

Farm machinery for sale, rippers, offsets, rotary hoes, 100 in Howard, 120 in Howard as new, 6 ft ehd Howard slasher as new, 160-90 fiat vgc, 12 ft E and I laser scoop, 11 ft Peggo industrial pro scoop as new, 12 ft Peggo industrial pro scoop, excel cond, Toyota 8 tonne tipper gc. Call 0407 635 018

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	
	07.11.16	14.11.16		
Mossman	0	9	1682	2022
Mareeba AP	4	16	436	806
Cairns	0	4	1183	1821
Mt Sophia	0	10	2172	3069
Babinda	0	8	2852	3933
Innisfail	1	6	2872	3290
Tully	0	4	3025	3814
Cardwell	2	1	1873	1922
Lucinda	6	0	1850	1925
Ingham	0.6	3	1730	1835
Abergowrie	0	4	1147	1632
Townsville	7	3	965	992
Ayr DPI	2	16	577	825
Proserpine	4	5	1323	1211
Mirani	4	18	1309	1333
Mackay	61	1	1517	1382
Sarina (Plane Ck)	36	1	1698	1531
Bundaberg	0	42	830	885
Childers South	6	28	811	769
Maryborough	1	23	773	1026
Tewantin	5	31	1032	1542
Eumundi	2	41	964	1504
Nambour	5	6	942	1516
Woongoolba	4	35	498	1202
Murwillumbah	0	84	1353	1413
Ballina	0	52	1175	1632
Woodburn	0.3	19	748	1250



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.

WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS
AND PHOTOS?



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2500 Cameco Full Track Harvester, C12 Cat engine, all piston and vane pumps, 4 blade chopper, two speed track drives, can cut two rows at a time up to 1.7m row spacing, plus extras. POA. Ph. 0417 710 544

Brand new never used LS Heavy Duty 4 pin final drive hub to suite Cameco harvesters. \$10k Ph. 0417 710 544

Back Blade \$500, Bag Lifter \$2,500, MIG 200 AMP Welder \$300, Single Row Billy Roller on 3 point linkage \$250. Ph. 0458 776 187

Howard Rotary Hoe 90" Heavy Duty with steel wheels. GC. \$6,500 Inc GST Negotiable. Ph. 0458 776 187

3000L Fire Fighting Cart. Galvanised tank Davey fire fighter Pump 6.5 HP Honda on an old single bin trailer with dual wheels. Good wheels. GC. \$6,000 inc GST Negotiable Ph. 0458 776 187

New Holland M100 1996 model 4007 hours. Tyres 60% Front 50% Rear. GC. \$24,000 inc GST Negotiable. Ph. 0458 776 187

Fiat 880. GC. 5000 plus hours. Motor just rebuilt \$10,000 inc GST Negotiable. Ph. 0458 776 187

Howard 6 Foot Slasher. Reasonable Condition. \$2,000 inc GST Negotiable. Ph. 0458 776 187

24 Plate John Shearer Offset. Reasonable Condition. Front dishes 90% back dishes 50%. \$3,000 inc GST Negotiable. Ph. 0458 776 187

200L Silvan Spray Tank with electric pump 14ltr/min on trailer or standalone \$300. Ph. 0458 776 187

Mackay – Proserpine

1997 Cameco 2500 harvester, full track, Cat 3306 engine completely overhauled at start of 2016 season, hydraulic pumps in good condition, 15'choppers with Westhill adjuster. Machine is in VGC. POA. PH. (07)49588264 after 7PM

New style of base cutter blades; extra hard; made in Australia. Enquire about the new style of base cutter pockets. Easy to adjust. Ph. 0438 592 165

Fiat 411R with 600lt tank on front, 700lt tank on back. Height 82cm. Back wheels 23 x126, front 20 x 1000. Sprays included. Good working cond. \$7000 inc GST. Ph. 0409 195 381

Fertiliser Bin: 2 tonne trailerable side-dresser in very good condition, suitable for 1.6m, 1.7m and 1.8m rows. \$9900 incl GST ono. Ph. 0409 221 601

Silvan Airblast Sprayer 500L, 3PL, had very little use, near new condition. \$4500 + GST ono. Ph. 0409 221 601

FOR HIRE: Drop-deck with ramps to move harvesters and tractors; 20 & 40ft container pins. Ph. Shane 0428 007 955 or Mick 0438 167 545

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. Ph. 0438 606 578

Bundaberg – Rocky Point

2x C670 Chamberlains. One with linkage, remotes and cabin. One with winch. \$4,500 + GST ONO. Ph 0428 416 040.

5 ton Bulk Bonel fertilizer applicator, very good condition, ideal for dropping fertilizer on top of thrash, not a contract machine!! POA. Ph. 0448 845 296

Drop-deck, tautliner and flat top extendable for hire. Ph. (07) 4159 8174 or 0417 004 717.

Wanted

60" Rotary Hoe (preferably Howard) working condition. Ph. 0438714978

Tractor with loader, prefer 4wd and rops, approx. 70 to 100 hp. Ph 0427 286 151

Tractor tyres of all sizes. Ph. 0418 775 698 all hours.

Positions Vacant

BUNDABERG: Wanted field worker for full time position in the Bucca Area. Tasks include irrigating, ground preparation, planting, spraying, relief hauling out. Machinery maintenance/knowledge would be an advantage. Ph 0427 578 148.

OAKENDEN: Contractor wanted to harvest small cane farm. Flat farm, close cart. Ph. (07) 4958 5224 or 0428 575 787.

MACKAY: Looking for a permanent employee to assist with daily operations on our cane farm near Mt Ossa. Person must be obliging and well attended, capable of maintaining farm machinery and possess basic knowledge on electrical and mechanical issues. Experience elevator tipper Toft 6000 wheelie for planting purposes would be an advantage, however applicant should have prior learning with regard to paddock preparation and spraying etc. Person can expect a friendly working environment along with a wage package to enjoy. Ph. 4958 8044

Property

MACKAY-PROSERPINE: Cane farm 160 acres, part under cane — the rest suitable for cattle. 10 mins from Sarina, 30 mins from Mackay. Full machinery & two houses. Ph. 0437 331 093

OAKENDEN: Cane farm for sale. Irrigated, flat, no rocks, good soil, close siding for carting, close to town. Call (07) 4958 5224 or 0428 575 787.





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