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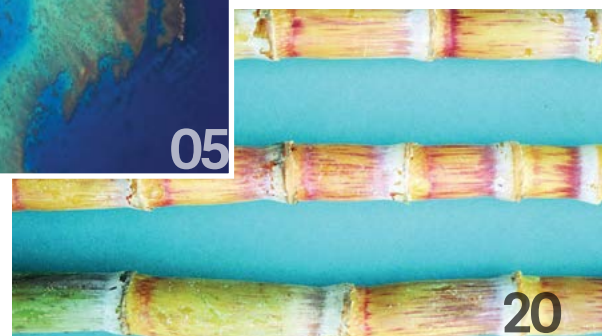
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CONTENTS

17 July 2017



Features

- 4 Smartcane BMP incentive payments
- 4 LNP to re-establish Agriculture Energy and Water Council
- 5 Counting costs three months on from TC Debbie
- 5 UNESCO says Reef not "in danger"
- 14 A new vision for crop insurance
- 16 Invisible army: Biocontrol agents help win battle against pests
- 20 SRA working to understand sugarcane streak mosaic virus

Also inside:

- 2 CEO's comment
- 4 News in brief
- 6 Regional round-up
- 10 QSL report
- 27 Classifieds
- 28 Rainfall report

COVER IMAGE: Harvesting underway on the Kattenberg Family farm, near Atherton. Photo by Fiona Lake.

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Responsibility, regulation and reality

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

Regulation is a reality in the Australian cane industry. And don't we know it! The Queensland cane grower has had to deal with a regulatory framework that dives deeper into their operations than any other farmer in the state.

This is a trend that seems hard to reverse. In fact, recent discussion papers released by the Queensland Government point to an expansion of the existing reef regulations.

The proposal is to extend the provisions to all agricultural industries and all relevant catchments. But it also includes options to build-in higher performance standards for new agricultural developments and new fine scale nutrient management planning requirements.

A lot has changed in this debate since it first occurred almost a decade ago.

For a start, Smartcane BMP has been widely adopted by the industry, with over 68% of Queensland's cane production area currently benchmarked. This includes more than 200 farms, 14% of caneland, that are accredited in the core modules of the program.

Farmers should be justifiably proud of this achievement.

With government indicating that the adoption of Smartcane BMP shields a producer from regulatory compliance action, we can see that growers across the State are setting the record straight and taking control of their future.

There is, however, no long-term future for regulatory control of our farming practices. The system in which farmers operate is too variable and complex for such a rigid approach.

Across the world, producers in Europe and the United States are under similar clouds.

The political irony in Queensland, where the government has railed against marketing legislation that increases competition and choice, yet marched headlong into expanding the regulation of farming practices, is quite profound.

The approach and response of CANEGROWERS to both issues has been consistent.

On the marketing issue we fought for the rights of growers to choose and be empowered to manage the financial risks in their businesses. Grower solidarity and state legislation helped to achieve this.

With environmental management, ownership of the critical role farmers play in managing environmental risk within a productive farming business is the first plank. Understanding that the community needs to have confidence in this is the second.

Smartcane BMP is, and can continue to be, the shield with which growers protect their futures and take control of their destinies.

The management of the Great Barrier Reef will inevitably be a political touchstone in this election year.

But the role of the Queensland cane grower and the power with which your industry organisation can make your arguments heard, is vastly different to that of a decade ago.

This is only possible thanks to the leadership and commitment shown by our members, who

have taken up the task of engaging with and adopting BMP. ■



"Smartcane BMP is, and can continue to be, the shield with which growers protect their futures and take control of their destinies."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Smartcane BMP incentive payments

Growers supplying Wilmar mills in the Burdekin, Proserpine and Plane Creek districts have one more reason to undertake Smartcane BMP accreditation in 2017, with incentive payments of up to 15 cents per tonne on offer as part of new Cane Supply Agreements negotiated by grower representatives.

In the Burdekin and Plane Creek districts, CANEGROWERS members who complete the program's three core modules - *Soil Health and Nutrition, Irrigation and Drainage, and Weed, Pest and Disease management* - will receive an additional 15 cents per tonne (up to a cap of 25,000 tonnes) at the conclusion of the crushing season.

In Proserpine, growers must complete any two modules to pick up an extra 10c per tonne in their cane pay.

"These payments are a fantastic way to give growers that extra incentive to go a little bit further and become fully accredited."

Some mills are also offering further incentive payments for the completion of additional modules, especially Module 8 - *Workplace health and safety* - which is linked to Bonsucro alignment.

CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** welcomed the inclusion of incentive payments in CSAs, saying it would help boost Smartcane BMP accreditations.

"The industry has really got behind Smartcane BMP over the past two years, with almost 70% of Queensland's cane production area now benchmarked in the program," Mr Galligan said.

"However, converting those benchmarked growers into fully accredited growers has been a little trickier, as the record keeping aspect of the accreditation process can be more time-consuming for farmers.

"These CSA payments are a fantastic way to give growers that extra incentive to go a little bit further and become fully accredited."

Mr Galligan congratulated grower bargaining representatives and mills for their proactive approach to securing the industry's future.

"Demonstrating that our industry is meeting best management practices is the simplest way to ensure community support for the future of our industry and I congratulate grower reps and mills for playing their part in achieving this goal," Mr Galligan said.

LNP ENERGY COUNCIL

Queensland's Liberal National Party has announced plans to re-establish its Agriculture Energy and Water Council to address spiralling electricity and water costs in Queensland.

The original council, which was set up by the Newman Government in late 2014, was short-lived, with Labor scraping it when it came to power in 2015.

CANEGROWERS has been invited to join new council alongside the Queensland Farmers' Federation and and broadacre representative group AgForce.

Welcoming the announcement, CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said it was encouraging to see the LNP's renewed commitment to tackling skyrocketing energy and water costs.



However, in order to implement real change for farmers, the new council would need to do more than talk, Mr Galligan said.

"Since the electricity pricing system changed nine years ago, our cane farming members have seen their power costs go up 130%," Mr Galligan said.

"No matter how efficient you are, how much you invest in new irrigation technology and equipment, no business can remain viable while wearing this sort of ongoing impost.

"We have a body of research and investigation to contribute to the Council along with the very real experiences of our members struggling to remain profitable as their electricity costs rise.

"We don't need assistance - we need the electricity pricing system to be overhauled to make it truly cost-reflective. All of Queensland will benefit from this.

"To be effective, this re-established Council will have to do more than discuss and deliberate, it must come up with solid recommendations which can be turned into action by an LNP government, should Queensland have one after the next election," he said. ■



THREE MONTHS ON FROM DEBBIE

Three months after Tropical Cyclone Debbie crossed the Queensland coast, cutting a swath of destruction through the central growing region, cane farmers continue to count the cost.

With harvest finally underway across the state, many growers affected by TC Debbie are dealing with large quantities of debris strewn throughout their cane paddocks.

This has resulted in a need for more burning and the use of drones and satellite imagery to identify potentially hazardous items and obstacles.

From flood-affected Rocky Point in the south, to wind-ravaged Proserpine in the north, districts that normally cut green are having to burn cane so harvest crews can operate safely.

For others, like Oakenden growers John Muscat and Mark Micallef, burning will make little difference to paddocks so littered with rocks that they look like riverbeds.

"I have a block at my place I won't harvest," Mark told Mackay's *Daily Mercury* recently, saying the rocks would cause too much damage to harvesters.

"We need somebody to come in and get some dollars to fix it," John added.

Growers bordering Oaky Creek, 31km south west of Mackay, are frustrated that a program to maintain waterways in the Pioneer River catchment was abolished in 2014, believing ongoing management of creek could have reduced flooding.

CANEGROWERS Mackay CEO Kerry Latter has called for the reinstatement of the Pioneer River Improvement Trust, or a similar project, saying the program was needed for the "ongoing prevention of flood effects".

REEF NOT 'IN DANGER'

Queensland's Great Barrier Reef has avoided a spot on UNESCO's 'in danger' list, with the World Heritage Committee opting to omit the national treasure from a catalog of 55 international world heritage sites considered to be at serious risk.

At a meeting in Poland earlier this month, the committee said it had serious concerns about coral bleaching caused by climate change and asked for an overall report on the state of the Reef by December 2019, however, it stopped short of listing the Reef as in danger.

"The announcement ... is a big win for Australia," Federal Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg said.

"We've received a strong endorsement that our Reef 2050 plan, which is a coordinated, integrated plan with the Queensland Government, is working," he said.

The announcement is also a win for Queensland farmers who have been working hard to implement practice change resulting in a reduction of nutrients flowing into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.



WOMEN IN SUGAR 2018

Australia's Women in Sugar will head to Bundaberg in May 2018, with around 100 delegates expected to attend a conference.

The local WIS committee is making preparations for the annual event, which regularly includes high profile keynote speakers, such as ANZ's head of Qld and NT regional business banking, James MacPherson, who addressed this year's conference in the Burdekin.



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CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Mossman

Boiler repairs, a scheduled maintenance day and wet weather late in the week all impacted throughput in Week 4, with 36,826 tonnes of cane being processed for a mill average of 12.00CCS. The average crushing rate was 327t/hr.

8,218 tonnes of Mossman cane supply was toll crushed by MSF in Week 4.

Planting is underway in parts of the district and at the time of writing we are finally experiencing favourable weather conditions.

Mossman's Next Gen Group is again organising the cane display at the Annual Show on 23 and 24 July. We encourage all of our growers to get involved to showcase our industry to our local community and visitors to the area.



Cairns region

Wet weather across the area has caused disruption to harvesting and milling operations.

The Cairns Region Board has committed to the CaneChanger project and the organisation is looking forward to rolling this project out to the grower group.

Growers are reminded to continue with their record keeping through these busy times.

Smartcane BMP across the Babinda and Mulgrave area continues to gain momentum and growers are encouraged to contact either office if they require any assistances.

Tully

Up to 150mm of rain fell across much of the district during the last week of June and the first week of July, disrupting harvesting and planting.

It has been a good start to the season with over 500,000 tonnes through the rollers and sugar content looking positive for a good result for the year.

Estimates are continuing to decline, however it would seem that the long term average yield for the district will be reached.

The project proposal for the Major Integrated Project to reduce N loads in the Tully and Johnston Catchments has been lodged and is being assessed.

The project proposal is a result of consultation with the community and experts and is a mix of innovative methods to improve water quality entering the Reef waters.

The Tully Productivity Services seed plots are preparing for distribution, now that the seed source inspections have been completed.

The take up of approved seed cane, adoption of Tissue Culture and farm hygiene have assisted with a reduction in the incidence of Ratoon Stunting Disease and an improvement in on farm productivity.



Innisfail

Harvesting operations in the South Johnstone Mill supply area were severely interrupted by the widespread heavy showers experienced across the region in recent weeks, resulting in more than six days lost time.

Growers' frustration was further compounded when a series of mill operational issues occurred at the re-commencement of crushing.

It is already clear that the CCS level will not be as high as hoped. Perhaps the district has lost the 'sweet soils' it used to have?

Finalisation of the Major Integrated Project design is almost completed. The project will incorporate a wide range of on-farm strategies to reduce Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) levels in farm run-off and sediment loss in both the South Johnstone River and Tully River catchments.

The project is funded by the Queensland Government as a result of a recommendation from the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Task Force, with MIP's to be delivered in the Wet Tropics and in the Burdekin Dry Tropics.

Burdekin

The Burdekin mills passed the first million tonnes crushed milestone on Saturday 8 July, with a total throughput of 366,650 tonnes for the week.

Inkerman Mill had an extended stop to repair a broken gearbox shaft on the bagasse bin reclaimer, while Pioneer had an extended stop to repair a failed intermediate carrier chain.

Best performing varieties were Q183 – CCS 13.45 (22%), Q232 – CCS 12.9 (4%), Q240 – CCS 12.77 (26%) and KQ228 – CCS 12.76 (32%).

Week 4	Crushed	CCS
Invicta	147,186	12.96
Pioneer	66,587	13.00
Kalamia	80,890	12.80
Inkerman	71,988	12.47
Burdekin	366,651	12.84

Herbert River

It has been a tale of two climate zones for the Herbert over recent weeks. The valley to the west of Stone River and Hawkins Creek has been fairly wet since 1 July, with cumulative falls of over 100mm in some areas.

Meanwhile, the drier areas in the Upper Stone and to the south have enjoyed generally favourable weather that has allowed the wheels of industry to keep turning, albeit on reduced daily throughputs for some days.

Planting has continued in the drier parts, while the wet belt has had to wait for better ground conditions.

The rate of CCS improvement was also dampened by the wet weather.

By the end of Week 4, Saturday 8 July, 659,863 tonnes had been crushed out of a pre-season estimate of 4.7 million tonnes.

An ongoing concern is Wilmar's Harvest Management System, which

continues to struggle to produce reliable data for re-estimating purposes, from which daily harvest quotas are normally adjusted on a weekly basis.

Teething issues with the new QSL system being used for making payments directly to growers for their GEI sugar are also being experienced and ironed out.

The annual Ingham Show held over 6-7 July attracted a large number of cane exhibits, continuing the trend of recent years where many families have become involved in supporting younger members with presenting show cane exhibits.

In closing the prize presentations, Chief Cane Steward Don Murray complimented the many exhibitors on their enthusiasm and reminded them that the idea of show cane is to dress up the exhibits on show to present them at their impressive best.

Bundaberg

Bundaberg sugar mills processed a total of 78,043 tonnes of cane during Week 3, bringing the total crushed for the season to date to 194,104 tonnes.

The average CCS for Bingera was 12.82 units, with Millaquin recording an average CCS of 12.60. Once again, dominating supply was KQ228A, accounting for 45% of the tonnes supplied, for a CCS average of 12.82 units.

Q240A at 22% of supply yielded both the highest average and individual CCS, with a weekly average CCS of 13.12 and the highest individual CCS of 15.30 units from the Bingera area.

Q208A (15%) recorded an average CCS of 12.24 units.

Plane Creek

Plane Creek Mill crushed a total of 60,524 tonnes for in Week 3, ending 3 July. Budget throughput for the week was achieved comfortably with a CCS increase of half a unit to 12.16.

Season to date throughput is 135,433 tonnes, with a CCS average to date of 11.94 units. Average bin weight for the week was 3.71 tonnes, for a season average to date of 3.68 tonnes. Highest CCS sample for the week was 14.95 units from a rake of second ratoon Q183 in the Dawlish Productivity District.

Mackay

The three Mackay Sugar mills crushed a total of 199,319 tonnes, recording a PRS of 11.12 for week ending 9 July 2017.

An external Ergon fault caused downtime at Farleigh Mill and significant downtime was caused by failures of a molasses pump at Marian Mill.

Racecourse Mill executed a scheduled maintenance day which was delayed further due to repairs required on the evaporators.

For the year to date, the three Mackay mills have crushed a total of 784,324 tonnes with a PRS of 10.91.

Crush stats for each mill for the week are:

- Farleigh 67,131 tonnes
- Marian 71,508 tonnes
- Racecourse 60,680 tonnes.

Proserpine

Proserpine mill commenced crushing on 4 July as planned, although a few commissioning problems impacted throughput in the first week.

Only 30,000 tonnes of cane were crushed against a budget of 42,000 tonnes. Average CCS for the week was 11.64 which was pleasingly higher than expected.

Bin weights have been very inconsistent and this is causing some processing issues.

Contractors are reporting significant debris in blocks as a consequence of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. As a result, an increase in burning is expected as the crush continues.

Aside from the cyclone debris, harvesting conditions have been relatively ideal.



Continues page 8 ►

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Isis

Isis Central Sugar Mill commenced crushing on Monday 26 June, with just over 30,000 tonnes of cane passing through the rollers to the end of Week 1 (to 7am 30 June).

The average CCS of 12.07 units was slightly down on the 2016 season results of 12.86 units.

This can be attributed to the late growth of the crop following Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the very mild weather experienced up to the present time, which has slowed the ripening of the crop.

The early maturing variety KQ228 made up 55% of the cane supplied in Week 1. The highest individual CCS

for the variety KQ228/2R was supplied by a Goodwood Rd grower who recorded 14.33 units of CCS.

Near perfect harvesting conditions during Week 2 equated to 69,995 tonnes of cane being crushed for the week - a pleasing number to see so early in the season.

Again KQ228 made up the majority of the weekly supply (34.45%) with a CCS of 12.47 units recorded.

No doubt the rain received on 10 and 11 July will impact the number of tonnes crushed for Week 3. Unfortunately the amount of rain received was not sufficient to be beneficial at this time.



Maryborough

The Maryborough District is now locked in to begin crushing on 24 July.

The crop estimate currently stands at 600,000 tonnes, although some more favourable growing conditions would be welcome.

Plenty of preparation meetings are occurring around the district, with an induction for cane haulers and harvester operators coming up on 18 July at Canegrowers Hall, Maryborough.

Rocky Point

Rocky Point Mill has had a good start to the season, with minimal down time and 17,719 tonnes crushed during Week 1 at an average 12.03 CCS.

Week 2 was interrupted by rain on Friday 7 July, but crushing resumed the following day after scheduled maintenance.

Despite the rain, the weather has been very mild for this time of the year and the one-year-old cane is continuing to grow. ■

Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

NEW FINANCIAL YEAR? 5 NEW FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS, PART 2

Following on from the last issue of *Money Matters*, we discuss three more financial resolutions you may want to consider.

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Market Update

Current as of 10 July 2017



By QSL General Manager Trading and Risk, Dougall Lodge

SUGAR OVERVIEW

ICE 11 Contract	Latest Settlement (US c/lb)	Monthly Change (US c/lb)	High (US c/lb)	Low (US c/lb)
Jul-2017	13.68	-0.06	14.34	12.55
Oct-2017	14.15	0.11	14.53	12.76
Mar-2018	14.83	0.09	15.18	13.51
May-2018	14.86	0.18	15.11	13.56
Jul-2018	14.93	0.27	15.09	13.68
Oct-2018	15.14	0.33	15.28	13.95
BRL/USD	3.2811	-1.09%	3.3427	3.2457
Ethanol Parity	12.53			

Source: Bloomberg. Current as of 10.7.17

What happened?

The July 17 ICE 11 contract expiry failed to flush out any sizeable pent up demand and during the month there were some further gasoline price reductions in Brazil which meant that sugar production continued to be maximized for this period.

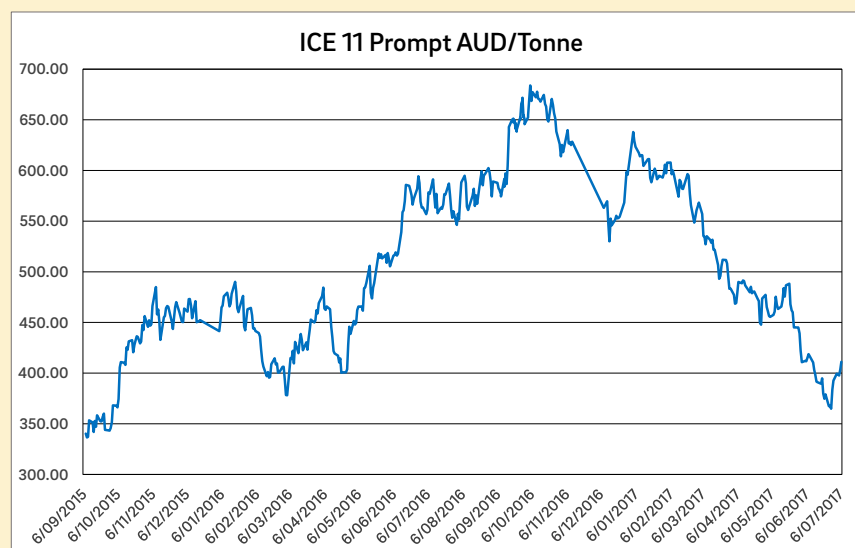
Brazil ethanol parity has dropped further on the back of the gasoline cuts and is now at around 12 c/lb. The Brazilian Real weakened a little during the month, also contributing to further pressure on sugar.

The speculators have continued to build their sold position by a further 2.5 million tonnes of selling in the last month. This means that their overall net position is now at 5 million tonnes sold and is approaching the record sold level for sugar by speculators.

There has been limited fresh news in other production countries, apart from good weather news for Indian and Thai producers. The dams are full and all regions are on track for a good harvest starting later this year.

As expected in our last monthly report, the only positive news was seen in the last couple of days of trading for the July 17 contract where the price moved back up towards A\$400/metric tonne on the back of speculators and the trade buying back sold positions and the AUD/USD remaining stable.

This recovery was relatively mild compared to the overall move down and only occurred after most market participants had closed out their July 17 positions. The October 17 contract has continued to have a further modest consolidation above these levels.



Source: Bloomberg. Current as of 10.7.17



Going forward

With such a large speculator-sold position in play, we are very much back in their hands again. If there are any signals that prompt them to close out and buy back their sold positions, this will potentially have a positive impact on the sugar price.

However, if they foresee that the pending global sugar supply surplus and stagnant import demand from India and China will be the main headline, we could see even more pressure on prices to move down.

The Brazil sugar production mix is likely to continue at a high level, so we could wind up on the higher range of production estimates if there are no significant weather or logistics events.

Apart from any major negative macro or geopolitical news, it would look like we can expect a 12-15 c/lb range for the short term until a clearer picture emerges.

What could change?

There is a saying that the best thing for low prices is low prices. The current low market prices are below the cost of production for almost all sugar producers.

It would not be too surprising for large consumers to start to load up at these relatively low levels. Such buying activity could prompt some follow-through buying by speculators and other participants.

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QSL MARKET COST DRIVERS

Please note that we have updated the following table to focus on the new prompt futures contract (Oct 18) and the 2018 Season average price.

Market Cost Drivers	Prompt (Oct17) A\$/mt as at 10.7.17	2018 Season A\$/mt as at 10.7.17
Current Market	\$406.14	\$440.40
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

	Settlement	Range	High	Low
AUD/USD	0.7601	315 pts	0.7689	0.7374

Current as of 10.7.17

What happened?

After starting the month at around 0.7370, the AUD/USD continued to strengthen. A recovery in commodity prices helped support buying demand, with the AUD/USD being a commodity proxy for many investors.

The US Federal Reserve increased rates by 0.25% as expected and has indicated there is likely to be one more hike this calendar year and three more in 2018. This increase was largely priced in by the market so there was limited impact. Economic data from the US was less impressive, with payroll data and CPI both contributing to some weakness of the USD and the corresponding strength of the AUD/USD. The Reserve Bank of Australia agreed to hold rates in early June and also again in early July.

Going forward

With interest rates largely priced in by the market for the USA and Australia and in the absence of any surprises here, the AUD/USD will be driven by these differentials and we continue to maintain our expectation for a longer-term strengthening of the USD.

In the shorter term, there is some risk for the AUD/USD to remain well supported on the back of relatively strong commodity prices and economic data in Australia.

What could change?

Any macro or geo-political events could lead to a stronger USD environment. ■

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HarvestMonitor collects actionable information on the go.



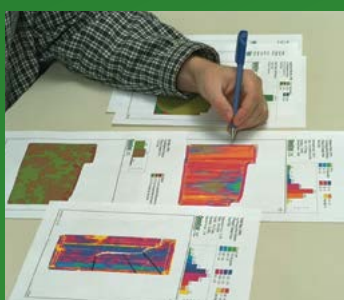
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JOHN DEERE

A NEW VISION FOR CROP INSURANCE

It has long been the Holy Grail of crop insurance - a multi-peril product that is not only affordable, but actually covers farmers for the many risks they face in any given year - but is it achievable? Ag insurance specialist Julian Roberts believes there may be a better way.



Agriculture is an inherently a risky business. Farmers outlay tens of thousands of dollars each year in the knowledge that some unexpected disease, pest infestation or random weather event could wipe out their crop and their income.

Those threats are compounded when farming in a region like northern Australia, where tropical cyclones regularly ravage the coast and droughts are cyclical in some areas while others are prone to fires or flooding.

With so many potential threats, insurers have opted to either not offer crop insurance products at all or, if they do, premiums are so high that the cover is too expensive for most farmers, at least without some form of government subsidy which is currently unavailable.

But London-based ag insurance specialist **Julian Roberts** (pictured) believes there is another way to offer a product that is both affordable and workable for agriculture.

INDEX-BASED INSURANCE

The Managing Director for Agribusiness and Weather at multinational risk and insurance adviser Willis Towers Watson, Mr Roberts has been working with the Queensland Farmers' Federation, the University of Southern Queensland and the Queensland Government to explore how a workable crop insurance scheme could be developed.



Speaking at the Rural Press Club this month, Mr Roberts outlined an innovative system based on the use of indexes rather than traditional and reactionary on-farm assessments.

Under an index system, key factors such as wind, rainfall, temperature, hail etc could be monitored within a specified region. Once one of those factors reaches an agreed target, insurance payments would be automatically triggered, with no on-farm assessment required.

The number of insurable events, the point at which payments are triggered and level of those payments could be adjusted to suit the grower's risk appetite, with premiums rising or falling accordingly, Mr Roberts explained.

The simplicity of the system, coupled with the "ability to customise price to meet the farmer's price point," are the main benefits of the index format.

"The way that it works, it avoids some of the complexity that traditional insurance products have, mainly because the index itself, which may be, for example, a measurement of rainfall, is the only measurement required to settle the contract," Mr Roberts said. ■

Visit www.qff.org.au/advocacy/risk-management/

Liquid EZY 3

Complete Nutrient Management Strategy

'This system is definitely an easier way to plant cane. All in all I am extremely happy with Liqueforce Plantstarter.'

Johnathon and Nigel Biasi, Hawkins Creek

LIDDLES.COM.AU



Step 1 – Plant Starter



The unique mix of nitrogen, phosphorous and zinc and growth hormones, synthetic and organic, are the keys to the success of PlantStarter. It is these nutrients at this critical early stage of germination that provide just the right conditions for growth, delivering much stronger root development, potentially 98% faster strike and 58% greater shoot length compared to granular fertilisers.

Liquid Ezy3 provides crucial support through colder months

Supplied by LiquaForce

As the cooler weather begins to settle in throughout the east coast, now is the time to offer ultimate nutrient management to plant and ratooning cane.

LiquaForce's Liquid Ezy3 products – PlantStarter and BigShot – are the ideal liquid fertiliser options to support cane strike in winter.

LiquaForce managing director Cameron Liddle said research by the University of Queensland's National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture had found the Liquid Ezy3 product, Planstarter, achieved 52% greater strike rate when compared to cane fertilised through traditional methods.

"The research statistics around Liquid Ezy3 are incredibly exciting," Mr Liddle said.

"As well as the 52% greater strike rate with PlantStarter, the researchers also found 98% faster emergence when compared to plants on granules."

Mr Liddle said demand for the Liquid Ezy3 range is growing strongly.

"More and more cane growers along the coastline, from Sarina in the south, to Mossman and the Atherton Tablelands



in the north, are making the change from granular to liquid," he said.

"So much so, we've recently upgraded our Ingham manufacturing plant and installed more storage tanks to meet the increased demand."

Mr Liddle said the LiquaForce team had travelled extensively in recent months presenting to growers along the east coast.

"We have witnessed a lot of 'a-ha!' moments as growers realised just how much easier the Liquid Ezy3 complete nutrient management system is than applying traditional methods," he said.

LiquaForce pioneered the three-step, easy application liquid fertiliser program for the sugarcane industry more than a decade ago in an effort to improve production and profitability for local growers.

Mr Liddle said plans by government to make the agricultural sector even more accountable for their actions when farming alongside the Great Barrier Reef was something growers are also keen to discuss.

"We're really proud to be able to have a highly-researched product that is scientifically-proven to reduce nitrogen leaching, that also offers greater strike rates and shoot length on plants," he said.

"Adopting the Liquid Ezy 3 system also ensures profitability, efficiency and most importantly, safety on farm with the elimination of the need for granular fertiliser bags.

"We are confident that our product not only guarantees BMP compliance, but actually cuts the 'Six Easy Steps' down to just three!

"All of the feedback we're getting from growers who have already made the change is that their day to day operations are running with greater ease, accuracy and peace of mind."

For more information visit www.liddles.com.au/liquid-ezy3

Pictured: Giano Celotto, Wayne Leonard, Cameron Liddle and Maurice Shephard.

Liquid Ezy 3

Complete Nutrient Management Strategy

'No Shed full of bagged fert, no dealing with empty bags, no tarps and 2 less pieces of machinery in the paddock.'

Albert Spano, Queensland

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Step 2 – Big Shot



Big Shot is a single application of high analysis N.P.K.S fertiliser incorporating 9% organic carbon base. This aids the microbial slow release of nitrogen fertiliser, which has not only been proven to stabilise the release of nitrogen, but also increase the efficiency of plant available nutrients. LiquaForce BigShot also gives growers the ability to add trace elements more consistently in their fertiliser program.

INVISIBLE ARMY

BIOCONTROL AGENTS CAN HELP WIN THE BATTLE AGAINST QUEENSLAND SUGARCANE'S \$80 MILLION PEST

By Dr Graham Stirling, Biological Crop Protection

Plant-parasitic nematodes multiply to high levels in sugarcane soils because their natural enemies are no longer keeping them under control. This article explains the steps that can be taken to remedy the situation.

PLANT-PARASITIC NEMATODES: important pests but difficult to control

Most cane growers would be surprised to hear that sugarcane has more nematode pests than any other agricultural crop in Australia.

Root-lesion, root-knot, stubby root, stunt, dagger and ring nematodes are the most damaging pests and most cane fields are infested with at least four of them.

This community of nematodes causes extensive damage to sugarcane root systems, with root-lesion and root-knot nematodes generally considered the most important pests.

Yield losses from plant-parasitic nematodes average 15% in plant crops and 12% in ratoons and this means that nematodes are costing the sugar industry more than \$80 million per year in lost production.



In the past, research on nematode control has largely focused on nematicides and rotation crops, but attempts are now being made to develop nematode-resistant varieties.

However, these traditional approaches to nematode control have their limitations.

Rotation crops such as soybean and peanut usually only have an impact in the plant crop, because nematode populations are reduced for relatively short periods.

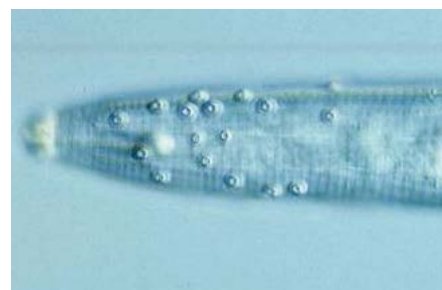
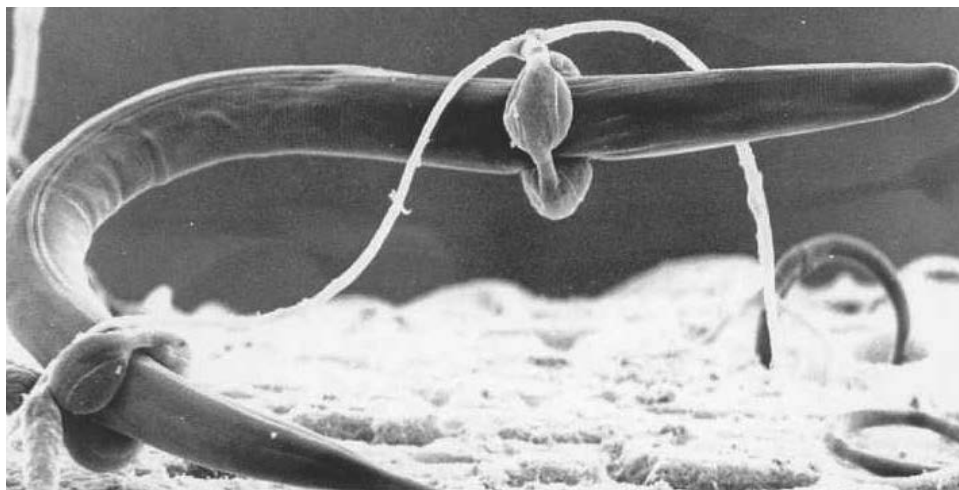
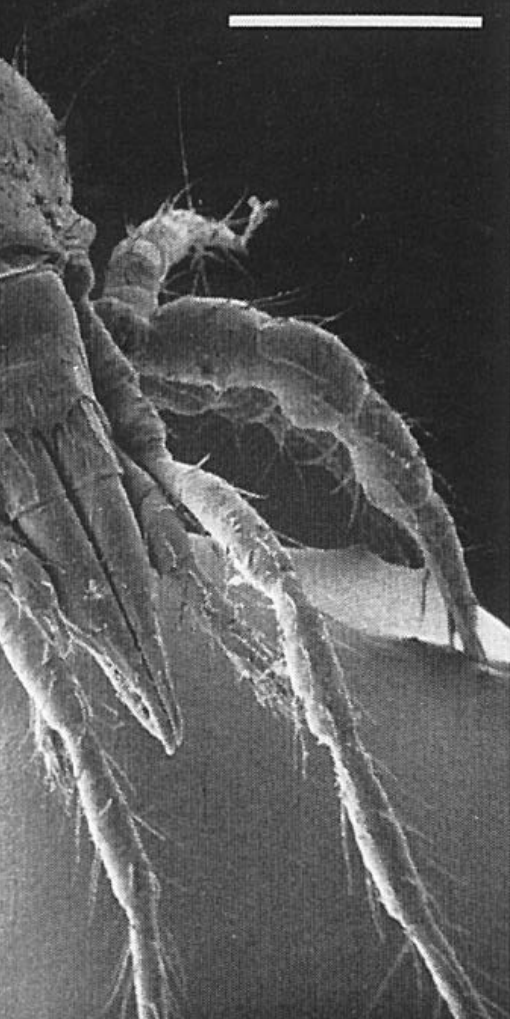
Varieties with resistance to one or two nematode species are unlikely to perform in fields infested with multiple species.

Meanwhile, nematicides only provide temporary control and are limited by cost and concerns about their environmental impact.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL IS THE BEST LONG-TERM OPTION

The most sustainable way of reducing losses from nematodes is to look after the natural enemies that should be keeping these pests under control.

This means that steps must be taken to nurture the following organisms.



Nematode trapping fungi: Fungi that trap nematodes can be isolated from most sugarcane soils but they are most commonly found in high-carbon environments. Because nitrogen may be in short supply when carbon levels are high, these fungi produce a range of trapping devices to capture nematodes. In the process, they obtain the nitrogen they require for growth.

Predatory nematodes: These relatively large nematodes have an open mouth cavity that contains a tooth. This is used to kill and consume other nematodes

Microarthropods: Many of the mites and other small arthropods that live in soil are able to consume nematodes. Most of these animals use microbes and decaying organic matter as a food source but if they encounter nematodes, they may also eat them. Other specialist species will feed only on nematodes

Pasteuria: Bacteria in the genus *Pasteuria* are specialised parasites of nematodes. Spores of the bacterium attach to the nematode as it moves through soil. After the spores germinate, the parasite proliferates through the body of the nematode and prevents it from reproducing

NEMATODE-TRAPPING FUNGI

Research undertaken several years ago showed that many different species of nematode-trapping fungi can be found in the soil just under the trash blanket.

These fungi use carbon from the trash blanket as a food source and trap nematodes to obtain their nitrogen.

Their presence is one of the reasons that roots are always healthy and populations of plant-parasitic nematodes relatively low in the soil immediately beneath the trash blanket.

Since soil carbon levels are much lower further down the profile, populations of nematode-trapping fungi decline with depth and this means that the soil 5-30 cm below the surface is not as suppressive to nematodes.

PREDATORY NEMATODES

In a healthy soil, beneficial nematodes that feed on bacteria, fungi and other soil organisms will reach high population densities.

However, perhaps the most important group of beneficial nematodes are those that prey on other nematodes. They can be found in most sugarcane soils but their numbers are usually relatively low.

Nevertheless, relatively high populations (> 150 nematodes/200 g soil) are sometimes seen, particularly in the Tully and Innisfail mill districts.

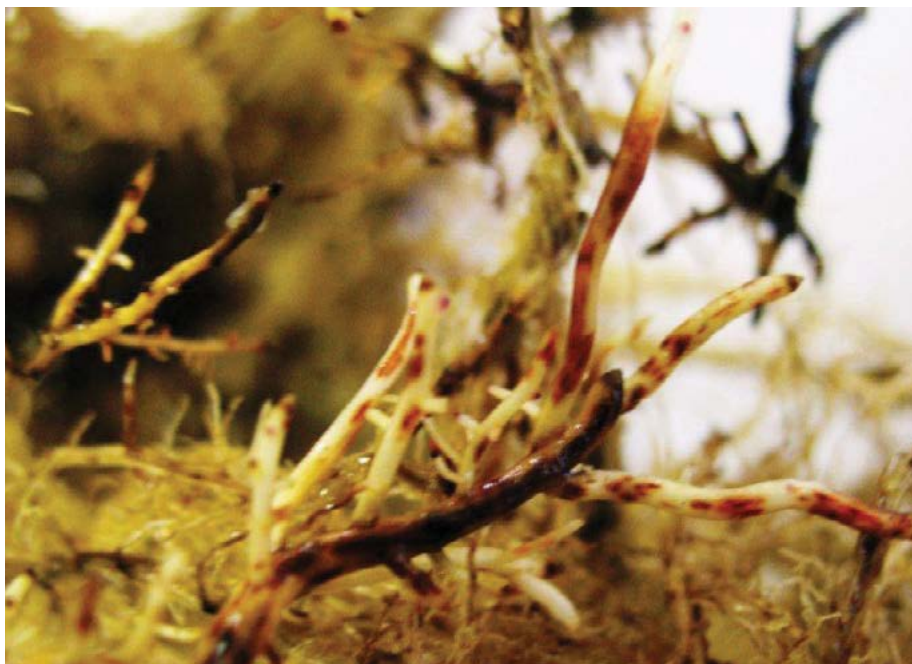
The reasons why predatory nematodes are prevalent in the wettest cane-growing regions are not known, but at these population densities they will probably be providing some control of nematode pests.

Continues page 18 ►



Pictured: (above - clockwise from left) A single soil mite can consume up to 50 nematodes per day; Electron micrograph of a nematode being trapped by fungal rings; Pasteuria spores attached to a juvenile root-knot nematode; A predatory nematode kills and consumes its crop-destroying cousin; Springtails are another species of nematode-consuming microarthropods.

Page 16: Root-knot nematode galling.



SOIL MICROARTHROPODS

Soil microarthropods (primarily springtails and mites) are important components of the soil biological community.

These tiny animals are usually less than 0.5 mm long and many are beneficial, as they increase the availability of nutrients to plants and feed on root pathogens such as fungi and nematodes.



In a recently completed research project, 60 cane fields were surveyed and the predominant microarthropod groups were identified.

The dominant members of the microarthropod community (in terms of population density and numbers of species) were springtails and a group of mites that feed primarily on fungi and organic matter.

The total number of microarthropods extracted from samples was highly variable, ranging from 4 to 539 animals/600 mL soil.

Microarthropods were almost twice as abundant when a trash layer was present than when it was absent and farms in the Burdekin generally had the lowest numbers of microarthropods.

About 30 species of predatory mites were found in cane soils, including many that are known to feed on nematodes.

One of the predatory species was obtained from a sugarcane field and cultured on bacterial-feeding nematodes. Studies in the laboratory then showed that one mite and its progeny could consume enormous numbers of nematodes (between 26 and 50 nematodes per mite, per day).

When sugarcane was grown in the greenhouse for eight weeks, stunt nematode was almost eliminated from pots that were inoculated with the mite and numbers of root-lesion nematode were reduced by about 70%.

These results show that predatory mites can multiply rapidly when nematodes are available as a food source. If they are nurtured, these mites have the capacity to play a role in suppressing nematode populations.

PASTEURIA IN SUGARCANE SOILS

The bacterial genus *Pasteuria* contains hundreds of nematode-attacking strains that are relatively specific to particular hosts.

The bacterium infects all important nematode pests and because it prevents its host from reproducing and its endospores are resistant to environmental stresses such as heat and dryness, it is one of the most useful biological control agents of plant-parasitic nematodes.

Learn more about the effects of Pasteuria in the next edition of Australian Canegrower.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO RESTORE SUPPRESSIVE SERVICES IN SUGARCANE SOILS

Nematodes and other soil borne pathogens cause little or no damage in natural grasslands and forests because they are suppressed by a diverse group of naturally occurring biocontrol agents.

Unfortunately, these suppressive services have been lost from sugarcane soils.

They can be restored, however, provided all of the following practices are incorporated into the farming system.

Tactics that build soil carbon

Cane-growing soils have been exploited for many years and even under best-practice management, soil carbon levels will be 50-80% lower than attainable levels.

Since soil carbon is the energy source that fuels the soil food web, the only way to maintain the beneficial bacteria, fungi, nematodes and microarthropods that compete with or prey on nematodes and other pathogens is to increase soil carbon levels.

Tactics that will help raise soil carbon levels include:

- minimum or zero tillage;
- intercropping;
- inclusion of biomass-producing, deep-rooted or multi-species rotation crops;
- and the use of organic wastes as soil amendments.



Minimum tillage

Conventional tillage has disastrous effects on all the natural enemies of nematodes.

Many predatory mites and nematodes are killed when the soil is mechanically disturbed.

The fungal strands and traps of the nematode-trapping fungi are destroyed and the spores of *Pasteuria* are displaced and can no longer interact with their nematode hosts.

Consequently, if the natural enemies of nematodes are to be retained, tillage must be minimised.

Trash blanketing

There are several reasons why retention of crop residues on the soil surface benefits the natural enemies of nematodes.

First, the residues gradually decompose and in the process they help to build carbon levels in the surface soil.

Second, the carbon in the trash blanket is a food source for nematode-trapping fungi.

Third, the bacteria and fungi that break down the trash blanket are consumed by bacterial- and fungal-feeding nematodes, and their presence means that higher level predators such as predatory mites and nematodes can use them as a food source and multiply.

Fourth, mulching provides a more amenable environment for soil organisms by reducing soil temperature fluctuations and minimising moisture losses.

Fifth, antagonists such as predatory mites multiply on nematodes that live in the trash blanket and then move out to colonise the soil below it.

Traffic control

The harvester/haulout system used in the sugar industry means that soil is trafficked by heavy loads multiple times a year, often under wet conditions.

Thus, most of the soil in a field is compacted and this is detrimental to most soil organisms.

Mites that prey on nematodes are particularly vulnerable to compaction because the pore spaces in which they live are destroyed.

Predatory nematodes are also affected because they are relatively large and no longer have space to move.

The only way to prevent this from happening is to move to wider row spacings and control the traffic with GPS guidance.

Over the past 15 years, some cane growers have incorporated all of the above practices into their farming system.

Thus, they have begun the long, slow process of restoring the biological health of their soils.

The benefits will not be seen immediately, but in the medium to long-term, the evidence currently available suggests that a diverse range of natural enemies will re-colonise the soil and eventually reduce nematode pest populations to acceptable levels. ■

Pictured: (above) Trash blanketing is one of the easiest and most effective ways to boost the number nematode-reducing biocontrol agents in your soil.

Page 18: Signs of attack by Root-lesion nematode (also pictured).

More information on SOIL BIOLOGY

If you would like to learn more about biocontrol agents and the vital role they play in maintaining the health of our agricultural soils, the book cited below may be of interest. It can be purchased via the CSIRO Publishing website.

***Soil Health, Soil Biology, Soilborne Diseases and Sustainable Agriculture. A Guide.* Graham Stirling, Helen Hayden, Tony Pattison, Marcelle Stirling (2016).**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The research discussed in this article was done over the past 15 years and was supported by the Sugar Yield Decline Joint Venture; the Sugar Research and Development Corporation; and Sugar Research Australia. Many colleagues have helped during that period and I thank them for their contribution.

Australia and Indonesia working to understand **SUGARCANE STREAK MOSAIC VIRUS**

By Matt Reynolds, Adoption Officer, Biosecurity



Estimated to be costing the Indonesian sugarcane industry in the region of \$50 to \$100 million annually, sugarcane streak mosaic virus (SCSMV) presents a real threat to the Australian industry.

Recent surveys have reported regions of Indonesia with greater than 85% of crops exhibiting visible mosaic symptoms.

The Indonesian sugarcane industry covers 380-400,000ha with the profitability of the cash crop being important for alleviating poverty amongst the Indonesian cane community.

SRA's collaborative work with CIRAD, University of Bogor, Indonesian Fibre Crop and Sweetener Research Institute and the Indonesian Sugar Research Institute aims to gain valuable information to prepare and protect the Australian industry.

"The project aims to prepare our industry for a potential incursion of sugarcane streak mosaic virus," Project leader, Dr Rob Magarey, said.

"Not enough is currently known about the disease and the work we are doing with the Indonesian intuitions is shedding valuable light on the disease."

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is funding the project, which is in its early stages.

It is already delivering insight into the impact of the disease, with the virus shown to be capable of reducing yields by more than 20%.

In May 2017, the project team met in Indonesia to discuss and plan future work

in line with the discoveries already made as part of the project.

The meeting offered valuable insight and discussion into the current work, and it also highlighted the value and expertise that SRA brings to the collaborative arrangement.

THE ACIAR FUNDED PROJECT AIMS TO:

1. Develop a rapid diagnostic test

A number of diagnostic tests will be developed as part of the project, with those tests already developed showing real promise with their application in Australia. "We are developing a range of diagnostic tests from ELISA to LAMP and qRT-PCR. These methods will be tested to determine their most appropriate application in Australian and Indonesia," SRA Senior Researcher, Dr Nicole Thompson, said.

2. Understand the transmission of the virus, associated yield loss, varietal resistance and the distribution of the disease within Indonesia

"The project aims to prepare our industry for a potential incursion of sugarcane streak mosaic virus."

Continues page 22 ►



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◀... continued from page 20.

A number of critical pieces of information are not currently understood around SCSMV. Understanding how the virus is transmitted and varietal resistance level among Australian sugarcane varieties is critical to protect the Australian industry should an incursion occur.

3. Extension program aimed at improving management of the disease

Extension is a key part of the project and aims to reduce the level of SCSMV within Indonesia. A recent survey in Java of 931 crops found greater than 85% of crops displayed visible mosaic symptoms. Reducing the presence of SCSMV within the Indonesian industry has the potential to reduce the likelihood of an incursion into Australia.

Australia is currently home to two forms of mosaic viruses and striate mosaic virus.

SCSMV is caused by a different virus to the two Australian forms and is regarded as being more severe.

Streak mosaic exhibits symptoms similar to those seen within sugarcane mosaic virus in Australia with mosaic leaf patterns and stripes on the young stalks and leaves.

Dr George Piperidis, SRA Leader of crossing and selection and the Central Region's plant breeder was invited to participate in the ACIAR project meeting and took the opportunity to discuss the potential for variety exchange with Indonesia, and the assessment of important Australian varieties for SCSMV resistance.

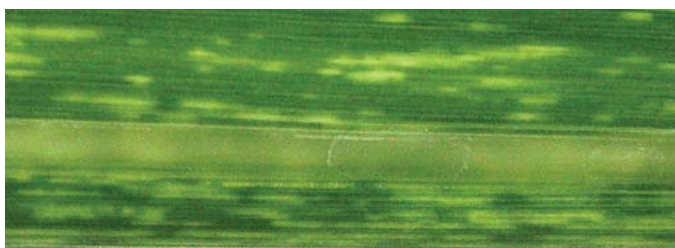
"Indonesia already has a number of older SRA varieties and so the opportunity to gain an understanding of the current commercial standards is critical," Dr George Piperidis said.

"The Indonesia program does present some promising clones for inclusion within our breeding program. Like all, however, they will need to prove themselves under Australian conditions."

The importance of understanding a disease which poses a significant biosecurity risk to the Australian industry is crucial in the event of an incursion.

Knowing how the disease is spread, how to identify the disease and the control measures available to the industry are the foundation of any disease management plan.

If you believe you have found an exotic pest or disease within the Australian sugarcane industry please do not hesitate to contact the exotic pest hotline on 1800 084 881, SRA, or your local Productivity Service. ■



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Pictured (page 20): SRA Leader for Crossing and Selection, Dr George Piperidis, with SRA KFA Leader for Biosecurity, Dr Andrew Ward, in Indonesia; (this page) leaf and stalks exhibit signs of striate mosaic virus.

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Plant Cane - Brightly, QLD

Foundation LM applied at 5 L/ha at planting

Treatment	Area (Ha)	Tonnes Harvested	Tonnes of Sugar	Tonnes of Cane/Ha	Tonnes of Sugar/Ha
Untreated	2.28	214.02	32.39	93.845	14.2
Treated with Foundation TM LM	2.03	200.84	30.68	99.065	15.145

+940 kg sugar per hectare vs standard practice

Note: Variety SP80-1816 plant cane planted in September 2015 in 10 row strips at 800 m long rows. Cane was harvested 25-27 October 2016. Sugar Pricing approx. \$500/tonne average dollars per hectare for the following:

- Control average pricing \$7101/ha return
- Foundation LM average pricing \$7570/ha return

Harvesting and application cost have not been deducted in these figures.

Plant Cane - Brightly, QLD

Foundation LM applied at 5 L/ha in furrow



To learn more, contact your local Landmark agronomist.

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LANDMARK

PEACE OF MIND for Ingham grower

Supplied by Incitec Pivot

In wet or dry seasons, Robert Silvini likes the peace of mind that comes with using ENTEC treated fertilisers in his sugarcane.

"By using urea blends treated with ENTEC, I know the nitrogen is staying on my farm and there's a much lower risk of losing it in runoff after a downpour," he said.

"I'm also doing my bit to make sure our industry is protecting the Great Barrier Reef."

Mr Silvini grows cane on a range of soil types between Forrest Beach and Taylors Beach, east of Ingham.

He feels more confident that his cane is benefiting from the nitrogen supplied by ENTEC urea blends and there's a much lower risk of nitrogen leaching from the sand hills or flood-prone blocks he farms.

"I like the idea that by using urea blends treated with ENTEC, the nitrogen stays in the soil for longer and whether the cane is cut early or late, I am giving the crop the best possible chance to make the most of the nitrogen," Mr Silvini said.

ENTEC is a treatment that keeps nitrogen stabilised and available in the soil for weeks or months longer than untreated urea, promoting more efficient plant uptake and reducing the risk of leaching and denitrification.

Two years ago, Mr Silvini trialled 20 tonnes of ENTEC urea blends and increased this to 90% of his total fertiliser requirements in 2016.

"I'm also doing my bit to make sure our industry is protecting the Great Barrier Reef."

This season, he plans to use ENTEC urea blends on all his sugarcane blocks.

"The cane looks nice and green and I know I'm giving it the best possible chance, whichever way the season goes."

The 2016 growing season was typically unpredictable, with wet weather delaying the start of harvesting until August, before a dry spell and a wet finish in the lead-up to Christmas.

"The season meant we were cutting until the week before Christmas, so I wasn't expecting much from this last block so close to the wet season," Mr Silvini said.



"Nevertheless, I fertilised it with an ENTEC urea blend to give it the best possible chance and it is looking good for a late cut block.

"Cane growers can use ENTEC with confidence and they don't have to worry about where their fertiliser is going," he said.

Sibby Di Giacomo, branch manager at Ingham Farm Centre, described ENTEC as a welcome development for the district's cane growers.

"Nitrogen management is a constant challenge for cane growers who have to cope with the most unpredictable weather conditions and with the Reef close by, there's increasing pressure on growers to improve nitrogen use efficiency," he said.

"ENTEC keeps nitrogen stable in the soil for longer, giving it more staying power so the crop can use the nitrogen more efficiently.

"We like ENTEC because it means growers like Robert have a better alternative for enhancing the efficiency of their nitrogen applications while protecting the environment."

Pictured: Robert Silvini (right) likes the peace of mind that comes with using ENTEC treated urea blends in his cane, as he discusses with Sibby Di Giacomo, Branch Manager at Ingham Farm Centre.

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To find out more about ENTEC protection, and what else growers are saying about it, see your local accredited ENTEC dealer or visit incitecpivotfertilisers.com.au

Peace of mind for Ingham grower

"I like the idea that by using ENTEC, the nitrogen stays in the soil for longer and whether the cane is cut early or late, I am giving the crop the best possible chance to make the most of the nitrogen."

"Cane growers can use ENTEC with confidence and they don't have to worry about where their fertiliser is going."

Robert Silvini Ingham

Incitec Pivot Fertilisers

Introducing EasySpread + Sulphur

Supplied by Rob Howe, Mineral Mulch

From the manufacturers of Mineral Mulch comes EasySpread plus Sulphur. Mineral Mulch is a sustainable soil amendment product containing much needed soluble plant-available silicon and calcium silicate.

EasySpread, the premium calcium silicate soil amendment in our Mineral Mulch range, is now available with added sulphur.

Being true to our sustainable ethos, our sulphur is locally sourced in Australia and, just like EasySpread, is from a sustainable, non-mined source that is absolutely pure.

By blending pure sulphur with EasySpread to create EasySpread+S250 we have created a true alternative to traditional mined products such as gypsum.

And EasySpread+S250 is not all about the sulphur either – it's a unique product containing not just one form of calcium, but four, all in one go.

EasySpread+S250 contains calcium silicate, calcium carbonate, calcium oxide and calcium sulphate.

This reduces the requirements for additional on farm blending and the costs associated with multi pass spreading.

As well as calcium and sulphur, the product still has loads of plant available silicon.

The true genius of EasySpread is having a product consisting of micro fine particles that is still EASY TO SPREAD.

The raw material from which EasySpread and EasySpread+S250 are manufactured is initially milled to a sub 75um particle size, resulting in a flour like product.

At this particle size, elements such as calcium, silicon and sulphur are

highly soluble upon contact with water and available for the plant to use straight away.

Our process allows these minute particles to be lightly clumped together, resulting in a consistency similar to damp beach sand which makes it easy to transport, easy to store and easy to spread.

With 99.995% of particles passing a 1mm screen and 97% of particles passing a 0.30mm screen, EasySpread products make any 3mm classed product look positively enormous!

If you'd like further information, give Rob (0447 888 018) or Wendy (0447 888 029) a call, send an email to info@mineralmulch.com, or check out our website www.mineralmulch.com

INCREASE YIELD WITH MINERAL MULCH



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MINERAL MULCH = PLANT AVAILABLE SILICA



COST EFFECTIVE



CALCIUM SILICATE



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MINERAL MULCH TICKS ALL THE BOXES

For more product specifications and pricing contact Rob
0447 888 018 or info@mineralmulch.com

FIRST 5 LINES FREE* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

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

Next deadline is **24 July 2017**.

* 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

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8.1 litre engine, 3,000 hrs from engine rebuild. 600mm elev extension. Full elevator rebuild. Standard topper. Recent pump overhauls. Reversing fan fitted to the cooling package. 8 blade chopper. Hubs resealed. GPS fitted. Very Good For Age.

NEW! BILLET PLANTER 2500
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Suit JD 3510/20 and CASE. Helps Drop Dirt. Enquire NOW!

WRECKING CAMECO 1996 Track Harvester. No engine, crop lifters, 8 Blade Diff chopper drums, various hydraulic valves & Hydraulic motors.

IN STOCK NOW 12, 10, 8 & 6 BLADE DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS
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Classifieds

Mossman-Tully

MF 188 Multipower \$7000 inc gst ono, Zetor 7245 2000hrs \$10000 inc gst ono, Kubota 1750 interrow 1140hrs good condition \$8000 inc gst ono. Ph. 0429 332 731

Surplus items in good order: Yamaha Grizzly 400 Quad Bike 894hrs 2009 Model \$3000 inc GST; 2 Tractor Rear Mud Guards for 60-80 HP Tractor brand new never been used \$800 inc GST; ROPS Frame and Canopy to suit 60-80 HP Tractor brand new never been used \$900 inc GST. ONO on all items. Ph. 0427 665 759

7 Tyne Lely Ripper & Roller Drawbar. \$11,000. Ph. 0427 327 977

Plant cutter (Silkwood implements). Kennedy Valley. Ph. 0437 630 577

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

3 x JCB 2135 with 6 Tonne HBM Tippers, Good Condition, \$44,000 each inc GST. Ph. 0437 932 489 or 0427 337 601

Mackay-Proserpine

2 water allocations in Pioneer River Water Supply Scheme. 107 ML & 95 ML, both in Riparian area. Ph. 4959 1425

Massey Ferguson 390 2wd ROPS tractor. Good Condition \$12000 incl. GST. New Holland 275 square Baler. Good condition. Knotters have had work done. New knives. \$4500 incl. GST (Proserpine) Ph. 0418 770 218

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)

DitchWitch R100 trenching machine with back hoe attachment. F10 Volvo 10-tonne tipper with tagalong trailer used to transport trencher. Ph. 4959 2260

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

Tractor tyres for sale - 2 x 18.4.38 with 45% rubber and 2 x 14.9.28 with 25% rubber - \$1900 +gst. Call 0417 615 250

Sprayrite Tempo 1200 Spray Tank, Brand New, 1200L Capacity UV resistant tank, 170LPM PTO driven Pump feeding a 5 section electric controlled spray controller, Heavy Duty 3point Linkage carry frame, \$22,000 Inc. ono Ph. 0428 236 165

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Howard Rotary Hoe, AH80 \$5,500 inc gst; David Brown with 5 ft slasher and loader, \$10,000 inc gst; International 856 with loader \$8,750 inc gst; Bag Lifter \$950; International 766 Tractor \$7,750 inc gst; All prices O.N.O. Ph. 0419 577 110

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Year to date	Average rainfall (mm) January-July
	7 days to 9am	10.07.17		
	3.07.17	10.07.17		
Mossman	0	0	1624	1761
Mareeba AP	1	0.2	593	724
Cairns	46	4	1308	1628
Mt Sophia	57	31	2432	2655
Babinda	0	0	1250	3402
Innisfail	91	7	2520	2849
Tully	104	19	1818	3303
Cardwell	10	1	1356	1686
Lucinda	12	4	1425	1705
Ingham	17	0.6	1106	1591
Abergowrie	49	3	768	1457
Townsville	0.4	0	639	882
Ayr DPI	0.6	0.6	769	727
Proserpine	0	0.2	1262	1049
Mirani	0	0	1095	1155
Mackay	1	0.8	1814	1209
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0	2433	1316
Bundaberg	0	0.4	447	652
Childers South	1	3	590	552
Maryborough	0.4	2	406	781
Tewantin	4	13	885	1217
Eumundi	6	7	749	1172
Nambour	5	15	669	1169
Woongoolba	7	13	676	906
Murwillumbah	22	5	1191	1103
Ballina	14	0.2	1370	1265
Woodburn	12	0	1344	968



**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.

JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

**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)
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Kubota M7040 4WD Tractor gwc \$22000
Neg Case David Brown 990 Working \$4400
Neg International 3/4 24 Plate Offsets gc
\$4400 Neg. 0414 497 264

Austoft Powerhaul 9-tonne highlift, good
condition. Ph. 0418 711 411

Moorooka MST1700, g.c. 250hp Cummins
engine, 1900 hrs, a/c cab, new tracks,
fitted with 6-tonne high lift cane tipper bin
+ original tipping body. \$37,000 inc GST.
Ph. 0417 750 925

Wanted

STL shares wanted. Genuine grower.
Pay market price. Let's keep STL shares
in the hands of non-miller growers.
Ph. 0419 717 006 or 0408 448 227

Wanted to buy - parts for Bonnell B60 offset
discs. Contact Roger 0419 788 376

WTB: Stool splitter Fertiliser Box. With or
without Confidor Tank Preferably 2 or 3
Tonnes. Ph 0408 934 309

Wanted - Hooper Scoop or similar type with
drawbar or linkage pull. Phone 0427 163 519

Wanted to buy - Travelling Irrigator. Soft
hose or hard hose, prefer 3.5 inch or above.
Contact Roger, 0419 788 376

CANE WANTED for 2017 and subsequent
seasons. Tully area. Shawn Ph. 0418 782 815
Tractor tyres - BUY & SELL. All sizes.
Ph. 0418 775 698

Work Wanted

28yo operator/labourer/ fitter seeking work
in the Sarina/Mackay area and surrounds.
Have a car and place to stay in Sarina. Fitter
and operator for the last 10 years, worked
in the farming industry when I was young
and progressed to the mining industry. Can
fix your mowers through to your truck and
can operate a forklift through to a semi.
Call or text Sam on 0422484558 or email
Sammyhart2007@hotmail.com

Hard-working loyal individual looking for
farm work. I am 28 years old and coming
from the Netherlands. I have experience
in fruit picking, am a fast learner and
always ready for a new challenge. Available
from August till November. Please
contact me if you have any work. Robbert
Brouwer. Tel. 0011-31-614705816 or
E: robbertbrouwer@hotmail.com

Motivated and dynamic French group of
seven (2 women and 5 men aged 21-26
years) looking for work to extend visa. All
friends with a good team spirit. We've got
3 cars (2 x 4WD and 1 van) so we can move
immediately. Call 0420574278 or email:
manonpelletier83@hotmail.com Thanks.

Property

ABERGOWRIE: Cane farm on Tarakan Rd,
270 acres freehold. Genuine enquiries please
phone 47774633 or 0408608664


INGHAM. Cane Farm for sale. Hawkins
Creek. Total area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6. Shed,
electricity & water. Genuine enquiries
Ph. 0407 635 175

Cane farm at OAKENDEN, 6brm home, sheds
and machinery. Irrigated, flat, no rocks, good
soil, close to town, close cart. Ph. 4958 5224
or 0428 575 787

BELLENDEN KER - Cane farm for sale, 80ha.
Can be converted to cattle if required. 40
mins south of Cairns. Call 0427 142 102

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you need to report a claim, we
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