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COVER IMAGE: Isis grower Chris Russo is using a modified implement, originally built for fertilising corn, to trial an innovative split application fertiliser strategy on his Farnsfield cane farm.

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Less talk, more commitment needed from parties

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

By the time this edition of Australian Canegrower reaches you, we may have a clearer idea of when Queenslanders will go to the polls to vote in the next State Election.

Many people I speak to have become disillusioned with the entire political process and are dismissive of the upcoming election, believing the outcome will make little difference to the day-to-day struggles facing Queensland communities.

But nothing could be further from the truth.

Elections are a vital part of our democratic process and this election will prove extremely important for the 4,500 Queensland cane farming businesses that form the backbone of Australia's sugar industry.

In the campaign weeks, political parties will saturate us with their policy platforms, as they attempt to convince growers that they will do more than their counterparts to support the sugar industry.

But rather than simply listening to what the polities are promising, we want to make sure the voices of Queensland's cane farmers are heard. We are using this election as an opportunity to spell out our concerns and invite political parties to respond to our wants and needs.

While there is literally a shopping list of issues of concern to the sugar industry, the CANEGROWERS' Policy Council has chosen to highlight four key ones that need attention.

MARKETING

The Real Choice in Marketing legislation must be retained.

CANEGROWERS fought long and hard to secure fair laws that give growers choice at a time when mills were attempting to exploit their monopoly status and dictate unfair cane supply and marketing arrangements.

Of the major parties, only the Labor Party has indicated a desire to scrap the legislation. We will fight strongly to prevent that from happening.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

Our production costs are key to remaining profitable and internationally competitive. But while almost all our production is tied to the global sugar price, all our costs are domestic costs.

Over the last eight years we have witnessed increases of 130% in electricity prices. We can't continue to sustain these murderous hikes.

Politics is the art of the possible and we need politicians to act decisively to get electricity prices down immediately.

We are sick of the rhetoric and blame-game, we're tired of hearing, "It's the other mob's fault". We need bipartisan solutions to get the price of electricity down now.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental sustainability is a key aspiration of the Queensland sugar industry. We have rolled up our sleeves in the effort to change our farming and cultural practices.

We need funding maintained for our best management practice program, Smartcane BMP, as it is growers, not government, that are best placed to drive the necessary practice and cultural change.

We need to maintain co-operative funding programs, not impose big stick bureaucratic regulations.

Further reef regulations will only drive growers to minimum standards of compliance, forgoing the greater environmental dividends that can be generated from partnerships between growers and government.

THE FUTURE

Finally, we need a government that has an eye for the future and is committed to funding industry R&D. This commitment must include restoring Sugar Research Australia's annual grant back to \$4.3 million.

We also believe that growers can be part of the biotech and renewable energy future. But, while government declarations that the sugar industry could provide biofuels to power the US Navy are well-meaning, we need policy certainty - policies that let us grow cane rather than regulating us out of existence.

Certainly, there are interesting political times ahead. We, at CANEGROWERS, will take this election process as an opportunity to drive the best policy outcome for Queensland's cane farmers. ■



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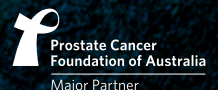
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Queensland LNP Senator Barry O'Sullivan defends the Sugar Industry Code of Conduct

CANEGROWERS has thanked the Senate for voting down a misguided attempt to disallow the Sugar Industry Code of Conduct.

"By voting against Senator David Leyonhjelm's disallowance motion, the majority of Senators have shown they support Australian farmers, their family businesses and regional communities," Chairman Paul Schembri said.

"We thank the Senate for reaffirming the need for a Code to address the imbalance of power at the grower-miller negotiating table in our industry.

"Put simply, the Code ensures growers are not backed against a wall unfairly by regional milling monopolies because they have no choice over where their cane is processed.

"Senator Leyonhjelm sought to bring about profound industry change without any reference to growers and this unnecessary and futile episode has caused stress and uncertainty.

"We now look forward to going back to the business of growing quality sugarcane with the Code's provisions in place to provide stability and security in our industry."

IT'S SAFE! SENATE BLOCKS MOVE TO QUASH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

A vote of 37-18 has ended the bid by New South Wales Senator David Leyonhjelm to disallow the Sugar Industry Code of Conduct put in place by the Coalition Federal Government in April.

Coalition, Greens and One Nation senators joined forces with other cross-benchers to defeat the disallowance motion on 17 October.

The Code requires contract negotiations to be conducted in good faith with each party acting reasonably, fairly and honestly without intimidation. It also provides a mechanism for arbitration should there be a deadlock.

Senator Leyonhjelm claimed such requirements would stifle investment in the sugar industry and hurt Australia's international competitiveness. He said the Code should be disallowed because it was unbalanced and hastily prepared.

"This code tilts the scales heavily in favour of the blinkered demands of those who complain the most, to the long-term detriment of the entire sugar industry," he said.

NSW Nationals Senator John Williams was quick to point out that Senator Leyonhjelm had the situation very wrong.

"Leaving it to the market is fine when you have a fair, competitive market," he said. "But the fact is that, when cane growers grow their cane, they must take it as quickly as possible to the nearest processing plant—the nearest mill."

Queensland LNP Senator Barry O'Sullivan, who'd worked tirelessly behind the scenes to rally the numbers to defeat the motion, defended the Code's protections for growers when dealing with monopoly millers.

"I will not tolerate any senator coming in here and attacking the agricultural base of these great families, 4,500 of them, who have provided enormous input to the economy of my state and the economy of this nation," he said.

"The big boys, the Wilmars, one of the biggest processors in the world, can look after themselves."

Senator Pauline Hanson, in confirming One Nation's support for the Code, put on the record the fact that Senator

Leyonhjelm did not seek a grower perspective before moving his motion.

"I attended meetings up in North Queensland myself ... I don't recall ever seeing Senator Leyonhjelm."

Senator Janet Rice explained the Greens had concerns about the Code and looked forward to the required review process over the next 12 months to find improvements.

"Ultimately, having this code with its flaws is much better than having no code at all," she said.

"The Greens will not be supporting Senator Leyonhjelm's disallowance of this code tonight, because we are standing up for farmers, against the predatory behaviours of those multinational corporations who, if this code was disallowed and no longer existed, would be able to keep on screwing down the screws and hanging cane growers out to dry."

This position was in contrast to the ALP which sided with Senator Leyonhjelm. Senator Carol Brown said her party was not opposed to a mandatory code but would vote to disallow this one.

"Until adequate consultation is had and the views of various stakeholders are heard, we believe that the current code is not good enough and should be ripped up," she said.

The only surprise in the 37-18 vote against the motion was Senator Derryn Hinch voting in favour of disallowance. He did not address the Senate. ■

THANK YOU!

CANEGROWERS thanks all the members who wrote letters and contacted Senators ahead of this important vote. Your input ensured these elected representatives had a clear understanding of how important the Code of Conduct is to growers. Your words were echoed in the speeches the Senators made during the debate. Well done!

Cane community in mourning

The far north Queensland community of Mossman is in mourning this month, following the tragic death of popular young cane farm worker **David Oui**.

Mr Oui died in a workplace accident on 7 October, when he became trapped between a haulout vehicle and fuel tanker trailer.

The 25-year-old father of two, who was alone at the time of the accident, was found by a co-worker who went to check on him after Mr Oui failed to return or call on the UHF radio.

Unfortunately he could not be revived.

The cause of the accident is still unclear and a Queensland Police - Workplace Health and Safety Queensland investigation is ongoing.

CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** said the entire Queensland cane community was saddened at the news of this tragic accident.

"We were deeply saddened to learn of the tragic death of David Oui," Mr Galligan said.

"On behalf of the CANEGROWERS organisation and the entire cane growing community, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to David's family and friends, especially his wife **Chloe**, young sons **Lethain** and **Joziah**, and niece **Annazarrah**.

"The most important job of every farm worker is ensuring they return home safely to their loved ones at the end of the day."

"Sadly, at times, farming operations can be inherently risky. And this time of year, when the harvest is in full swing, is a particularly risky time for farm workers in the cane industry.

"In light of this heart-breaking incident, I urge everyone in our industry to take every precaution while at work and remember that the most important job of every farm worker is ensuring they return home safely to their loved ones at the end of the day."

A GoFundMe campaign has been set up to assist Mr Oui's young family during this difficult time.

To make a donation visit:
www.gofundme.com/help-for-david-and-chloes-family

Mr Oui's death is second workplace fatality to the strike the cane industry in as many months.

In September, long-time CANEGROWERS representative **Jim Dillon** died in a workplace accident on his farm near Cairns.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Mary**, four children and five grandchildren.

See Jim's story on page 21.

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CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Mossman

In Week 18 (ending 7/10) Mossman Mill processed a total of 41,411 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 14.29 CCS.

Season to-date Mossman Mill has processed a total of 711,495 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 13.14 CCS.

The week's reduced throughput was due mainly to a scheduled maintenance stop and repairs to No.5 pan condensate pipe, the average crushing rate in Week 18 was down to 302t/hr.

CANEGROWERS Mossman Directors have signed their Cane Changer commitment and are looking forward to rolling out this project across the district with the official launch being scheduled for 31 October.

Cairns Region

The forecast rain finally arrived with generous falls across the area. Prior to this, the conditions have been excellent for field work and weeds have not featured as a big issue.

Fertilising is well underway and the plant cane and ratoons are both looking promising. With the season on the downhill run, the management of inter-mill transfers is under control with both Mulgrave and South Johnstone mills destined to finish together.

Innisfail

As at end of week 15 October, 75% of the crop had been crushed. The crop is cutting out at 97% of the pre-season estimate. An official change to the estimate has been reduced to 1,520,000 crushed at South Johnstone Mill and 260,000 transferred to Mulgrave Mill.

24 November is still the current estimated finish with an allowance of four days loss to wet weather.

Tully

The Tully crush is edging closer to the two million tonne milestone and seasonal CCS is almost 0.5 units above the long term average of 12.7. A recent storm provided welcome rain for the plant and ratoon cane and this will go towards establishing a good crop for the 2018 season.

SRA has completed the harvest trials and Phil Patane and his team are crunching the numbers from the data prior to meeting with the grower groups and contractors to develop a strategy to implement the findings.

The nomination date for GEI sugar marketers is 31 October and there have been grower meetings conducted by the two marketers, Tully Sugar and QSL.

The Major Integrated Project for the Tully and Johnstone Catchments is progressing with the appointment of project leader Charles Hammond, and basin coordinators Fiona George (Tully) and Sandra Henrich (Johnstone).

Landholders and district extension staff will be involved in meetings to ensure that some Water Quality and Treatment Sites are established prior to the wet season.

Herbert River

Wilmar has increased the official estimate for the Herbert's 2017 crop by 37,000 tonnes, making the district's official estimate a rounded 4.94 million tonnes. At the end of Week 18, 3,625,001 tonnes were crushed at an average CCS of 13.38. Week 18 had the highest CCS of the season to date at 14.64.

Wet weather came in as forecast on Sunday, 15 October, with a storm delivering about 75 mm to the Upper Stone River area in a short period.

EHS Chopper System

The EHS chopper system for cane harvesters that went on display at SRA on Wednesday 11 October created interest and lively discussion about the innovative way these choppers make fewer, cleaner cuts to the cane thereby reducing juice losses. It's all part of the SRA-led project to better inform industry players about managing potential losses in harvesting. Data from the Harvest Optimisation Week will, in due course, add to further informing industry on these matters.

WTSIP

Thursday 12 October was an historic day in the relatively short life of the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP), with all grower representative bodies, sugar mills and productivity services bodies signing a Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU sets out a governance charter for the partnership, which is involved in both Commonwealth and Queensland funded reef programs.



WTSIP delivers extension services to cane growers across the Wet Tropics NRM region, targeting a productive, profitable industry that manages its off farm footprint with a focus on water quality improvement through best practice.

Pictured: Peter Sheedy signs WTSIP MOU under watchful eye of WTSIP and CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman Joe Marano

Burdekin

The first weather event to impact 2017 harvesting operations arrived on Sunday 15 October, with rain recorded in most parts of the district.

The fortnightly crushing update finds that Burdekin mills have now crushed a total of 6,426,048 tonnes of cane, or around 80% of the estimate, which has been further revised down to 8.05 million tonnes.

In Week 18 (ending 14/10), Burdekin mills crushed 394,009 tonnes of can. The average weekly CCS levels continued to hold up at just over 15 units, with season to date climbing to 14.23.

The best performing variety on a regional basis in Week 18 was still Q183, with 40% of supply and 15.4 CCS, closely followed by Q208 at 15.13 CCS with 22% of supply.

Without rain, the crushing could have been completed by the middle of November, but forecast wet weather will force a review of finish dates once crushing resumes.

There has been another collision between a cane train and a third-party vehicle—the sixth time this year a cane train has collided with a harvester, tractor or road vehicle. This time the Wilmar loco struck a ute at a farm entry. None of the incidents have been on public roads and fortunately there have been no serious injuries. But the next time we may not be so lucky. Wilmar is requesting that drivers make certain there are no trains approaching whenever you are near the cane railway. **Remember, trains can run at any time – day or night.**

Mackay

It was a disappointing outcome for week ending 15 October with the three Mackay mills crushing 189,495 tonnes.

Downtime was experienced at all three mills. Maintenance crews at Farleigh Mill replaced the dryer motor and repaired the No 2 primary heater, and there were numerous other small stops that occurred causing significant lost time.

Marian Mill's availability was poor due to cane quality and extraneous matter. Repairs to No 8 pan at Racecourse Mill along with a maintenance days at both Racecourse and Marian mills all combined for a challenging week. 3,729,850 tonnes or 74.6% of this year's forecast crop of 5 million tonnes has now been crushed. PRS average to date is 13.63

Plane Creek

For the week ending 14 October, the reduced weekly throughput of 59,209 tonnes was due mainly to a stop resulting from a choked rear sluice and burst water pipe at the number 3 boiler. The season-to-date crushing total is now 960,771 tonnes or 80% of the district's crop.

The average weekly CCS was 15.46, up from 15.23 the previous week. About 300 tonnes of standover was crushed for the week.

The highest CCS recorded for the week was 17.90 from three rakes of Q138 plant in the Turners Paddock productivity district and also from a rake of Q208 plant in the Cliftonville productivity district.

Rainfall of 10.4 mm was recorded at Plane Creek Mill on Saturday, 14 October, bringing the total for the season to 50.4mm. More rain is forecast for the coming week.

Proserpine

The persistent dry weather has resulted in another downward revision of the Proserpine crop to 1.47 million tonnes. As at the end of Week 15 (14 October) the mill had crushed just over 1.25 million tonnes, or 85% of the newly revised estimate. Throughput for the week was 78,413 tonnes, which was below budget expectations due to an extended maintenance stop and cane supply issues. Average CCS has remained relatively stable over the past month with last week's average being 14.67.

With a little over two weeks of the harvest remaining, the Operations Review Committee agreed to adjust the payment CCS from 13.90 down to 13.80 to better reflect the final average CCS. Season to date average CCS currently sits at 13.75.

The new crop estimate should see harvesting completed by 31 October, subject to any weather or mechanical stoppages. Some much needed wet weather is forecast for the next few days which may extend the crush into November.

Sugarcane District Extension Officer

Funded through the Australian Government's *Reef Trust Phase 3*, the *Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership* has **District Extension Officer** positions available to work with Wet Tropics cane farmers, in the Innisfail cane district, over the next two years to help them improve their land management practices that lead to improved water quality, profitability and productivity.

If you are interested in applying for one of these exciting roles go to www.wtsip.org.au/careers for more information and to download an application kit.

Applications close **6 November 2017 at 4pm**



**Wet Tropics
Sugar Industry
Partnership**

A cane industry and Natural Resource Management partnership to deliver water quality, productivity and profitability outcomes in the Wet Tropics.

Regional round-up continues page 8...

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Bundaberg

The Bundaberg Mill area has been experiencing heavy rain. The irrigation and climatic information service weather stations across the district recorded substantial totals with rain continuing to fall and the forecast is for a bleak and very wet week.

The crush has been stopped and standover cane is a very real possibility.

To date we are about 75% the way through this year's crop.

RAINFALL BUNDABERG DISTRICT (14–16 October 2017)

Location	mm
Bundaberg Area	64
Qunaba	86
Fairymead	92
Moorland	65
Bingera	38
Wallaville	59
Sharon	60
Yandaran	52

Maryborough

What a difference a bit of rain makes! Most of Week 11 was lost to wet conditions with only 1400 tonnes processed. Up until the rain, CCS readings had climbed significantly with reports of some reaching into the 17 range. Average CCS for the season now stands at 14.22 to 12 October with 73% of estimated crop supplied. At this stage expected finish to the season is still early November.

At the time of writing, the weather gods were expected to come good again, with high chances of substantial falls throughout the area, providing a much better start to season 2018 than this season.

Don't forget to send your pictures into Cam for the "My Best Cane Pic" competition and help add some life to our hall.

Isis

The two recent widespread rain events have been a very welcome change from the extended dry period prior to the beginning of October. The wet will probably impact the future CCS and we may see the estimate rise slightly for this season. The rain also has the potential to add significant value to the 2018 crop and will far outweigh any of the short-term issues.

Crushing at Isis Mill came to a halt midway through Saturday 14 October with the total crushed thus far sitting at just over 1,002,000 tonnes. With approx. 147,345 tonnes left for crushing, this equates to around 14 days of processing.

Contractors will be needing their wet weather gear to complete the crush which at this stage probably will not recommence until 23 October or later.



Rocky Point

The Rocky Point Mill has been out of action since 26 September due to a major breakdown in the co-gen plant supplying power to the mill. Rocky Point Mill sent all stale cane to Condong Mill for processing and continued to send 300t of cane per day to NSW for a further six days.

As at the end of Week 15, total tonnes crushed at/for Rocky Point were 202,191 (43%) at an average CCS of 12.98. CCS has been rising (average for the week 14.05), however, with rainfall in excess of 100mm over the weekend of the 14 October, we expect this to now drop off. ■

Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

WHY YOU'RE NOT SWITCHED ON ABOUT YOUR SUPER

Australians often don't take an active role in managing or understanding their superannuation.

Many still view retirement as something 'too distant from now' to be a consideration in their current financial decisions.

Yet, despite the lack of interest, super is a worrying topic for more than a third of Australians aged between 45 and 65.

Statistics reveal that this group are concerned they will be unlikely to reach the level of wealth required to maintain their lifestyle in retirement¹.

WHY AREN'T WE ENGAGED WITH SUPER?

The fact is that many Australians don't know all that much about super, or even understand the basics of their accounts.

A common attitude is 'compulsory retirement savings is my employer's responsibility', and once an account has been set up, it's often not thought about by the member which may be much later in life.

Some don't even realise that extra amounts can be contributed, and that tax benefits may apply.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

The good news is there's a way to get the answers you've been after. As an AustSafe Super member you have access to several resources to help improve your super knowledge:

- You can call us on **1300 131 293** to access either general or personal advice;
- MoneyTree – our online financial literacy program has a range of educational modules that can help you understand the basics about super. To find out more, visit austsafe.com.au/moneytree;
- Your local Regional Manager – may be able to come out to your home or workplace and help you understand your AustSafe Super account. Give us a call, **1300 131 293**, so we can connect you to the Regional Manager looking after your area.

¹CoreData Post Retirement Report March 2013



SWEET DEAL SUPERCHARGES CANE TRAINING

Seventeen organisations from across the Wet Tropics sugar industry have joined forces to deliver over \$20 million dollars of investment to boost extension and financial support to cane growers to improve water quality running off farm.

The Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP) has been made official with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

All of the industry's major players are represented in the partnership, including CANEGROWERS, SRA, mills, productivity services, natural resource management groups and government organisations.

Chairman **Joe Marano** said the concept of the partnership was a first for Australia and an important step towards coordinating efforts in the industry to meet the Reef 2050 targets.

"The spotlight is on the cane industry to accelerate improvements in land management practices," Mr Marano said.

"Millions of dollars of investment is coming into the region and all 17 of our partners recognise that it makes absolute sense for us to work together.

"Our target is to achieve a more efficient use of nutrients and pesticides across 51,870 hectares of high priority cane production land.

"We will be much more effective in achieving this if we coordinate what we're doing rather than everyone going off separately to do their own projects.

"We want to show that by making decisions collectively, we can achieve positive results for the reef and also deliver greater benefits to growers in terms of improved yields and profits."

WTSIP is already responsible for delivering part of the Australian Government's Reef Trust III program, which is focused on helping growers refine their use of nutrients and pesticides.

Mr Marano said WTSIP's team of 10 extension officers provides a vital link to the latest information and science, enabling growers to tweak their

farming practices and save money in the process.

"One of the most important benefits for growers is that we have developed a consistent approach to preparing whole of farm nutrient management plans. Many growers are finding this a really useful tool.

"They can work one-on-one with an extension officer to analyse soil tests and farm maps to make better decisions about fertiliser application and save on costs," he said.

Cane growers in the Wet Tropics are encouraged to contact their local extension officer to develop a whole of farm Nutrient Management Plan. To find out contact details go to www.wtsip.org.au/team/ ■

Pictured: WTSIP partner organisations have signed an MOU and will work together to deliver government water quality programs to benefit growers and the environment.



Front Row (L-R): Lawrence DiBella (HCPSL), Peter Sheedy (CANEGROWERS Herbert River), Carole Sweatman (Terrain NRM), Joe Marano (Chair, WTSIP), Sarah Standen (CANEGROWERS Cairns Region), Caroline Coppo (WTSIP Extension Coordinator), Belinda Billing (SRA). Back Row (L-R) Evelyn Matthews (CANEGROWERS Mossman), Wayne Thomas (CANEGROWERS Innisfail), Chris Bosworth (CANEGROWERS Herbert River), Peter Lucy (CANEGROWERS Tully), Ian Davies (Wilmar), Phil Hales (DAF), Mick Ward (MSF Sugar), Greg Shannon (Tully Sugar), Andrew Dougall (MSF), Neil Fisher (SRA).



Rajinder Singh

Chairman - CANEGROWERS
Economics and Trade
Committee

"State-owned generator CS Energy is offering discounts of 25% to SEQ customers ... the State Government can and must offer at least a similar deal to regional Queensland."

Regional Queensland must get same power deal as SEQ

Meeting three times a year, the Economics and Trade Committee helps shape CANEGROWERS' marketing, trade, electricity and water policy. It also provides an opportunity for Policy Council members on the committee to take an in depth look at the issues.

In a first for the committee, the next meeting will be held outside Brisbane, with the members gathering in the Burdekin on 23 October.

This will provide an opportunity to take a closer look at energy and water use efficiency issues.

Despite numerous submissions and strong advocacy over many years, exorbitant electricity prices remain an unresolved issue.

With electricity now accounting for 15% of the input costs for an irrigated cane farm, cane growers have suffered longer and harder than most.

The recently released CCIQ Suncorp Pulse Survey Report says electricity costs are now the biggest constraint on business growth and viability.

CANEGROWERS' longstanding assessment that prices are one third higher than efficient levels is now widely supported.

Retailer Alinta and state-owned generator CS Energy are offering discounts of 25% to SEQ customers.

This has been achieved through State Government removal of the solar bonus scheme costs for two years. However, this doesn't take inflated network costs into account. Doing so would reduce prices much further.

To maintain the uniform tariff policy the State Government can and must offer at least a similar deal to regional Queensland.

The Community Service Obligation (CSO) paid to Ergon is not a good reason not to do so. Much bigger CSO payments are made to support other state initiatives, such as public transport in SEQ.

While price is the number one issue that must be addressed, advances in technology have seen more efficient energy and water plant become available.

The QFF-managed Energy Savers program has identified a number of measures that irrigators must consider to ensure a sustainable future.

Furthermore, with the cost of solar continuing to fall, hybrid solutions combining onsite generation blended with grid supply can provide significant savings. For others, going completely off grid with diesel may be the best option.

In making the right decision it is important to have accurate data on consumption and how it varies across the year. CANEGROWERS' successful efforts in getting Ergon to trial various tariff options and roll out digital metering will be very helpful.

CANEGROWERS continues to examine all possible options. Unfortunately, all of these come at a cost.

Ensuring prices are set at efficient levels must be the first priority. Consumers should not be forced to adopt alternative options at a time when network owners, generators and retailers are enjoying record profits. ■

The RIVER GRANDE

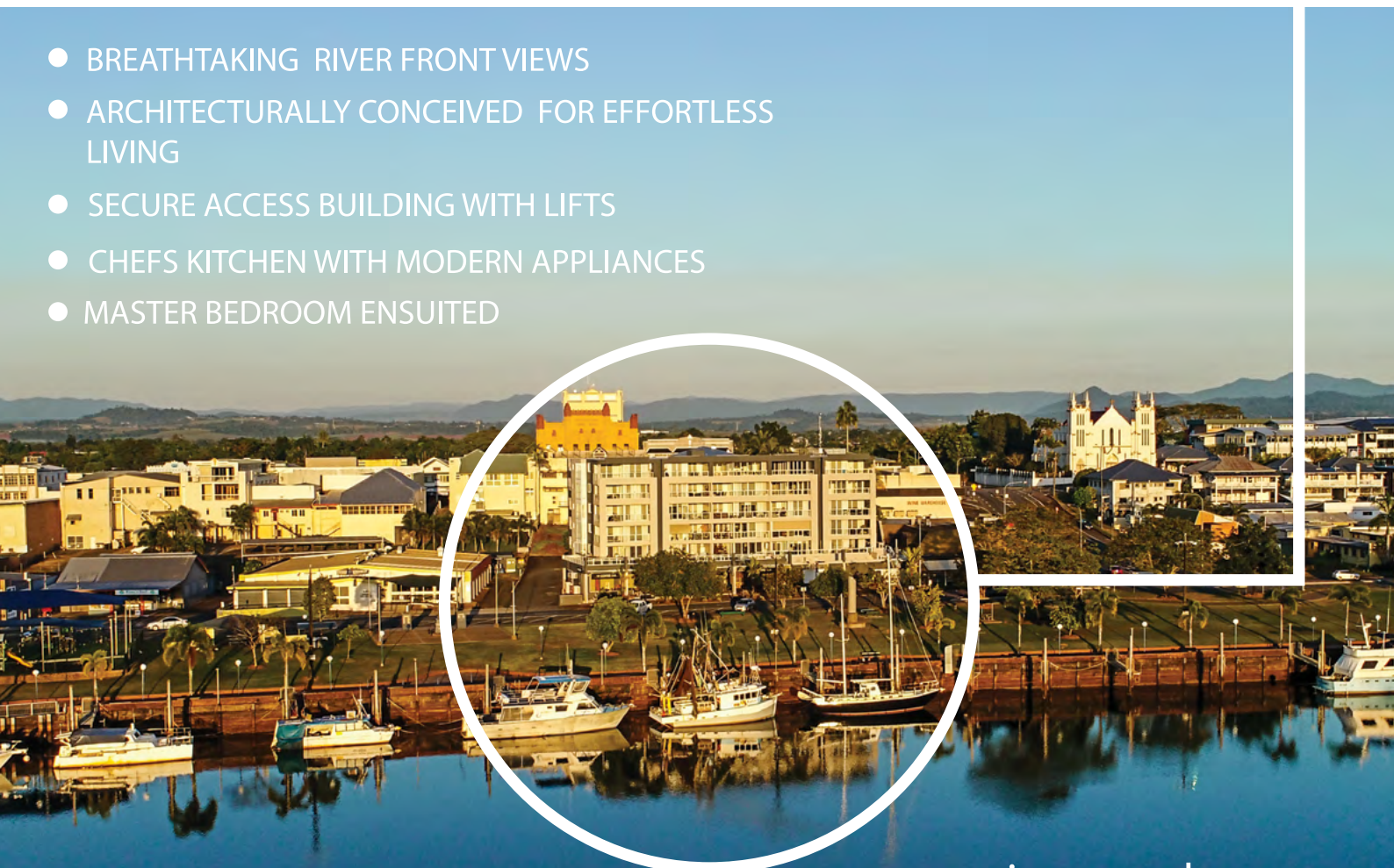
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ENHANCED EFFICIENCY FERTILISER

EEF60 trials rolling out on a major scale

By Nick Hill, SRA, Mackay



Enhanced efficiency fertilisers (EEFs) consist of two main types, nitrification inhibitors and coated products.

"I have looked at a number of alternative fertiliser options, but at this stage this technology sits well within the current thinking of cane growing."

Nitrification inhibitors maintain N in the ammonium form, which is available to the crop but is less likely to be lost than nitrate.

Coated products delay N release based on the properties of the coating and, ideally, the timing of N release from the product is matched with the timing of N uptake by the crop.

EEF products potentially improve nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) which may result in increased yield or the ability to reduce fertiliser rates.

However, further validation and demonstration is required to determine where and when they are likely to work and the benefits that they offer to the sugarcane industry.

The EEF60 project is looking to assess the benefit of EEFs at 60 sites within Queensland's major cane growing districts.

Funding for this project is provided by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy (Reef Trust 4), and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

This project was awarded to Queensland CANEGROWERS with trial activities to be managed by SRA.

A range of agencies, including productivity services organisations, are providing extension support.

SRA, in conjunction with local extension providers and collaborators, has identified, and is in the process of

establishing paddock scale strip trial sites across Queensland to identify the benefits of EEFs over a three year period with trial site activities concluding in 2020.

Industry will be kept informed of trial outcomes at project events and via general extension materials, as well as from CANEGROWERS and SRA.

Burdekin grower, Joe Linton, has one of the 60 trials on his property at Home Hill and is looking forward to learning more about EEF technology and how it could deliver efficiencies for his business.

He already uses the SRA SIX EASY STEPS nutrient management guidelines and added that he had a focus on finding the most efficient way possible to grow the crop.

"EEF products have been identified as one way to do that," Mr Linton said.

"I have also looked at a number of alternative fertiliser options, but at this stage this technology sits well within the current thinking of cane growing."

This project is funded by the Australian Government Reef Trust and Queensland Government Great Barrier Reef Innovation Fund. ■

Pictured (left): Joe Linton is keen to learn more about EEFs and how they fit into his farming system.

Pictured (right): SRA Research and Adoption Officer, Nick Hill, at the establishment of Joe Linton's trial site in September. It has been a busy few months for the research team as the 60 sites are established across Queensland.

At each trial site, four N treatments are being applied:

1. SIX EASY STEPS N rate using Urea
2. 80% of the SIX EASY STEPS N rate using Urea
3. 80% of the SIX EAST STEPS N rate using a 1/3 nitrification inhibitor and 2/3 polymer coated urea
4. A wildcard treatment, which is any EEF at 80% of the SIX EASY STEPS N rate. Thus far these have included: Entec ® and Entrench ® and Urea and polymer coated blends.

Sites also include small zones with no N fertiliser to determine the amount of N available from the soil.

Activities at each site include: soil coring to one metre to identify current nutrient status and characterise the site; development of trial site and whole of farm nutrient plans; fertiliser application; in-crop monitoring of N uptake; and, assessment of the impact of the treatments on cane yield, CCS and sugar yield through commercial harvesting. Economic analyses and an assessment of NUE will also be performed.



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Deadline looming for Tully and Wilmar growers



By QSL CEO and Managing Director
Greg Beashel

Tully Sugar and Wilmar growers seeking more information about the 2018 season Marketer Nomination deadline and their QSL pricing options for the season should contact their local QSL Grower Services Team representative:

[Far North Qld:](#)

Daniel Messina
Ph. 0429 660 238

[North Qld:](#)

Carla Keith
Ph. 0409 372 305

[Herbert River:](#)

Jonathan Pavetto
Ph. 0428 664 057

[Burdekin:](#)

Rebecca Love
Ph. 0429 054 330

[Proserpine and Plane Creek:](#)

Emma Sammon
Ph. 0418 978 120

Kathy Zanco
Ph. 0437 645 342

[Central and Southern Districts:](#)

Cathy Kelly
Ph. 0409 285 074

While most cane growers' thoughts are focused on completing the current harvest, time is running out for Tully Sugar and Wilmar growers to choose their sugar marketer for next season.

Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Greg Beashel said growers supplying Tully Sugar or Wilmar only had until the end of the month to exercise their hard-fought right to marketing choice for the 2018 season.

"Most growers are preoccupied with getting through the current season, so may not realise that the deadline for choosing next season's marketer is 31 October 2017 and nearly upon us," he said.

"Growers fought hard for Marketing Choice, so we just want to make sure that they are aware of their options for the 2018 season and don't let this important deadline slip by and end up defaulting to a marketer that they may not want."

MSF Sugar growers have slightly longer to finalise their 2018 season marketing nominations, with their deadline set at 31 December 2017.

Mr Beashel said that after three years of heated industry debate, 2017 had been a transformative season for both the Queensland sugar industry and QSL.

"We've not yet completed our first season of Marketing Choice and we've already designed and implemented our new online grower portal to manage pricing and payment functions, opened regional offices to support local growers, set up new direct payment arrangements for growers and rolled out a series of new services and pricing products," Mr Beashel said.

"There's certainly room for improvement and we're continuing to work with growers and our milling partners to identify how we can serve them better, but in the end we've not only delivered what we said we would, we've also notched up some strong pool results in what has been a tough raw sugar market."

Mr Beashel said QSL's 2018 season offering built on the achievements to date and gave growers a range of additional enhancements, including:

- **Improved pricing products** that give growers longer to price, more flexibility through smaller pricing increments and the ability to roll pricing forward, with no separate fee if growers want to make their own pricing decisions.
- **More payment options**, with a choice of a guaranteed minimum return, standard or accelerated Advances payments and deferred initial payments.
- **More detailed reporting**, with no hidden charges and all costs included in each grower's QSL Shared Pool allocation and published on the QSL website.
- **A Loyalty Bonus** for those growers who nominate QSL as their marketer for three consecutive seasons forward. ■

DISCLAIMER:

This report contains information of a general or summary nature. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial, investment or product advice or a risk management strategy. You should seek your own financial advice. This report should not be taken to include representations as to future matters, and nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this report.



Market Update

Current as of 10 October 2017

Sugar

Contract	Latest Settlement	Monthly Change	High	Low
Oct-2017*	13.54	-0.75	14.58	13.01
Mar-2018	14.00	-0.85	15.20	13.72
May-2018	14.11	-0.92	15.26	13.90
Jul-2018	14.29	-0.99	15.40	14.08
Oct-2018	14.64	-1.04	15.72	14.46
BRL/USD	3.1883	-2.84%	3.1996	3.0800
Ethanol Parity	15.11			

Source: Bloomberg. Current as of 10.10.17 (*Oct 17 at end of contract on 28.10.17)

WHAT HAPPENED?

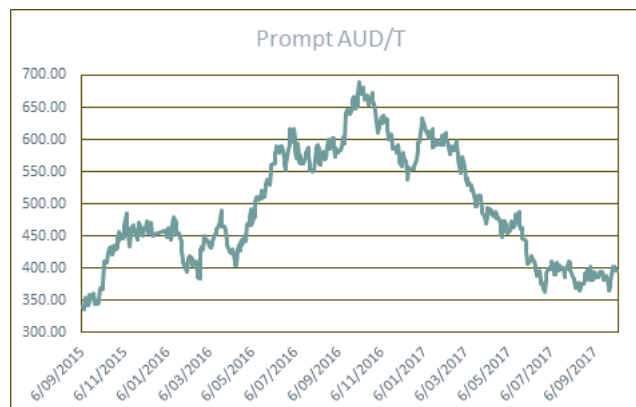
During early to mid-September we experienced a recovery for sugar prices in the lead up to the Oct 17 expiry. Speculators bought back futures contracts to close out their sold positions and some Brazilian buying activity took place to enable more ethanol production. We also finally felt a bit of weakness in the AUD/USD. The net impact was that towards the end of September the prompt prices poked back above A\$400/metric tonne (mt), and reached levels for the 2018 season around A\$440/mt at the same time. Over the past few weeks since then the market has fallen away again, with sugar prices falling and the AUD/USD strengthening.

From a fundamental point of view there were several reasons for the sugar market to be supported during the month. Firstly, there were a succession of hurricanes that ripped through sugar-producing regions in the Caribbean and USA. The impact is still being assessed, but it provided a supportive sentiment for buying activity in a number of commodities. Secondly, as shown in the table above, ethanol parity in Brazil remains higher than sugar. Typically, sugar trades at a premium to ethanol due to the delayed payment, so the current situation is expected to encourage a switch back from sugar to ethanol at some point and many analysts are sharing different scenarios for this which result in the current expectations for a global surplus to switch back to being closer to parity. The third fundamental reason is that Chinese smuggling demand is still very strong, which has led to record-high FOB (Free On Board) physical premiums for white sugar in the Asian region.

Balancing this relatively optimistic situation is the expected negative impact of growth in white sugar export availability from Pakistan and selling by producers coming from the new production recovery out of Europe and Thailand, India and China. The inability for Brazilian raw sugar to competitively access China and Indonesia due to tariff changes is also expected to weigh on the market.

The expiry of the Oct 17 contract was pretty tame compared to previous years, and there were no real surprises in the delivery volume of just over 1 million mt from south Brazil.

After continuing to buy back around 2 million mt of their sold positions sugar during September in the lead up to the Oct 17 expiry, the speculators have since piled back in, selling a massive 1.5 million mt back again over the past couple of weeks.



Source: Bloomberg. Current as of 10.10.17

GOING FORWARD

The two opposing fundamental forces of excess white sugar in Europe/Pakistan and an improved crop outlook for Thailand, India and China versus the outlook for lower sugar production in Brazil due to the higher ethanol prices there are likely to keep the futures prices within a tight 13-15 c/lb range until either of these overpowers the other.

With the mixed outlook for fundamental news, the newly increased speculator sold positions could potentially move either way and exacerbate a move to either side. A sustained breach of the technical indicators on the upside or downside could trigger further speculative selling or buying.

With the long five-month period lead up to the next futures contract Mar 18 expiry period, it feels like from the current spot market level of around 14 c/lb being a mid-point, we could potentially see pricing activity on either side of this level to test both ends of the 13-15 c/lb range over the next few months.

WHAT COULD CHANGE?

Any USD strength (and corresponding Brazilian Real weakness) on the back of geopolitical issues could drive commodity markets down.

QSL Market Cost Drivers

Market Cost Drivers	Prompt (Mar18) A\$/MT as at 10.10.17	2018 Season A\$/MT as at 10.10.17
Current Market	\$394.65	\$420.65
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.

HEIGHT NO PROBLEM FOR INNOVATIVE ISIS GROWER

By Wayne Griffin

A quest to find efficiencies and cut production costs while maintaining yield and reducing environmental impacts was the driving force behind an innovative fertiliser trial being carried out by Childers cane grower Chris Russo.

In an industry first, the 36-year-old Isis grower is trialling a split application strategy that includes injecting liquid fertiliser directly into the root zone up to 150 days post emergence.

If successful, the system could potentially change the way cane growers across the industry fertilise their crops.

"The whole idea came about because we were looking for ways to get the most from the nitrogen we're putting into the soil," Chris said, when *Australian Canegrower* visited the Russo farm recently.

"We wanted to make sure the cane was getting the nitrogen when it needed it and that we were losing as little as possible into the environment, because that is just wasted money."

Together with his father, **Pete**, and brother **Jeremey**, Chris farms around 800 hectares of irrigated caneland across two properties in the Farnsfield region.

Like many others in the area, the Russo's also grow peanuts as a rotational crop, which they sell to the Peanut Company of Australia in Kingaroy.

In early 2016, Chris attended a nitrogen efficiency seminar hosted by Professor **Mike Bell**, Chair of Tropical Agronomy at The University of Queensland's School of Agriculture and Food Services.

"Mike was speaking about nitrogen efficiency and when you should be fertilising your cane. He was of the opinion that the cane is not chasing the nitrogen until 150 days post emergence," Chris said.



"The problem is, 150 days out of the ground is December-January. In a good season the cane would be six foot tall at that stage, so how do we get the nitrogen into the ground?"

"There wasn't any machinery being used in the industry that was big enough to do it, you'd end up snapping cane. And to go and just spray nitrogen on top of the ground doesn't work."

Thus began Chris's quest to source an implement that would allow him to apply fertiliser when the crop was already mature.

In the end, he stumbled across the perfect piece of machinery almost by accident, while researching a new sprayer to replace the farm's old Miller N2.

"I went onto the Miller website and came across a video of a Miller Nitro with an implement on the front that looked like exactly what we needed," Chris said.





The implement in question was Miller's Injection Toolbar, designed specifically, according to the company's website, "for the precision application of liquid fertiliser between corn rows."

The problem for Chris was that the toolbar wasn't available for purchase in Australia at that time.

Luckily he had another stroke of good fortune.

"In October last year we went down to Dalby to look at a Miller Nitro sprayer that we were thinking of buying," Chris said.

"In speaking to the reseller, we explained the idea of a toolbar that we'd seen used in conjunction with the sprayer.

"It turned out the reseller had himself used a similar modified toolbar to apply fertiliser to corn in the Downs. We acquired this bar along with the sprayer, and hoped that once we got it home we could modify it to suit our needs.

"We've had to make a few modifications. It's 12m wide when fully folded out and they used to open manually, but we've added all the hydraulics to it. We've also chopped it down to suit our farming system and we've added other things.

Continued on page 18 ►



Pictured: The Russos' new Miller Nitro and modified toolbar allows them to split their fertiliser application and apply nitrogen when the crop needs it most.



Pictured: Chris and Peter Russo, together with Peter's other son Jeremey, farm 800 ha of caneland in the Farnsfield area, north of Childers.

"Right now we're trying to put bigger coulters on, going from 20 inch to 24 inch coulters."

After the initial modifications, Chris and Peter wasted no time in putting the sprayer-toolbar combination to work on the family farm.

"We used it all season last year, all of our ratoon cane was fertilised with it.

"It's hard to quantify the difference it has made because it was a hard growing season, but we've used a lot less fertiliser and we definitely haven't lost anything in yield. So in that respect it has saved us on input costs.

"This season we put on 40 units of N, with our P, K and S. We'll come through again in November/December and go with another 70 units of N.

"Prior to this we were easily using 140 to 160 units, whatever Six Easy Steps said was right for us. So to drop 30 to 50 units, it's a significant reduction."

And it's not just in nitrogen use that the Russo's have found efficiencies. They are also saving time - lots of it.

"I can cover over 40 ha a day with this machine, which is really efficient," Chris said.

"I can also pick the times I want to fertilise at short notice.

"It's an easy set-up and we can go from broadacre spraying to fertilising in about 15 minutes.

"If I can see a rain event coming I can just go out and fertilise and I don't have to worry about irrigating in.

"With your traditional farming methods, you can only do so much in a day and you're doing all your fertilising early in the season.

"It takes up a lot of time and you also have to use more fertiliser because you're losing a certain amount to the environment.

"The other efficiency we made is we can do our inter-row spraying with this combination.

"We just drop the wheels off and attach nozzles. It's about a 45 minute job to change that over and it was very inexpensive for the initial set up.

"It's also one less machine we need on the farm."

The modifications to allow the application of herbicide have been dramatically effective, reducing the time taken for this task from about three weeks to just four days.

"The benefit of this is not so much that we have more free time, but that it frees up time for other jobs," Chris said. ►



Australian Government

This article is brought to you by the Australian Government Reef Programme

Check out the November 6 edition of *Australian Canegrower* for an article from Professor Mike Bell on strategies for improving the efficient use of fertilisers in sugarcane.



It takes as little as 15 minutes for Chris to change over from broadcast spraying to fertilising.

TRIALS

Earlier this year Chris secured funding under the Federal Government's Reef Programme to conduct trials of his innovative fertilising strategy.

"We're going to run a series of four simultaneous trials to see which performs best," Chris said.

"The trials will all be done in the same block, so on the same soil type. I've got two beds of Q208 which has just been cut now. It was plant cane so it's going to be first ratoon we're doing the trials on.

"We'll run our original fertilising system in one - so one shot of fertiliser, 160 units of N as a granular on top of the stool, as is our traditional farming method.

"We have a split application of 40 units and then 100 units using our new system. The third will be a full shot of liquid at the start point and on the last we'll go with no N at all.

"Because we can cover four complete rows, it gives us enough cane to get a good sample through the mill and receive whole range of information."

Unfortunately for Chris, the funding only covers one and a half growing seasons. But he's hoping to team up with another research body to continue the trials for the complete crop cycle.

"We've found it to be a cheaper and easier way to fertilise, hopefully the trials

prove it's also a more effective way than the traditional method," Chris said. ■



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By Chris Cooper, CJ Cooper & Associates

PROPERTY OWNER RIGHTS

Property owners have a right to enjoy their land without livestock trespassing on to it. They do not have an obligation to prevent someone else's livestock from straying onto their lands. That is an obligation on livestock owners. If the property owners suffer loss or damage as a result of livestock trespassing on the property owners' land, then generally the property owners are entitled to recover compensation/damages from the livestock owners.

The following are some options for Growers whose lands are subjected to livestock straying onto their lands:-

1. Discussion

Try to resolve the issue of livestock trespass through discussion and negotiation directly with the livestock owners.

2. Mediation

If direct discussions are not possible or fail, consider using the Disputes Resolution Centres administered through the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney General. This dispute resolution system is free and is designed to resolve disputes between neighbours without going to court. The system assists neighbours and others involved in a dispute or conflict to try to resolve

STRAYING LIVESTOCK – WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Cattle and other livestock damaging cane crops is an issue for growers in many regions. The general proposition is that stock owners have a duty to keep their livestock from trespassing on someone else's property.

Stock owners are generally liable for any damage, such as damage to crops, that their stock cause by trespassing.

the problem through a free mediation involving the relevant parties with an independent mediator. The mediator is appointed locally through the Disputes Centre and conducts a meeting between the parties. The mediator's role is to bring the parties to the dispute together with the mediator and try to work out, by discussion, some way of resolving the problem that the parties agree to and can live with. Dispute Centres are located in Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.

3. Letter of Demand

Growers could consider sending a formal letter of demand, either from the grower or local CANEGROWERS office or a lawyer, to the livestock owners. The letter could give notice of trespass and demand preventative action be taken, in default of which other steps will be considered. Such a letter might apply sufficient pressure to have the livestock owners take the necessary steps to prevent further trespass.

4. Local Council

Most Local Councils have powers through their Local By-Laws, to operate a pound and to capture and detain straying livestock. Lodging a complaint with Council may assist.

5. Impounding

In some cases Growers themselves can capture and hold the livestock and claim

against the livestock owner the costs and expenses of doing so, and any damage caused.

6. Police/Stock Squad/ RSPCA

A complaint could be made to the local police and also the stock squad officer, through the local police station. Also under the Animal Care and Protection Act, the RSPCA and relevant department officers, have the right to take action, including the seizing of animals, if the animals are in danger or risk of harm. If the cattle are straying on public lands this may be an option.

7. Legal Action

The Growers could take legal action in Court against the livestock owners. Such action could be in the form of a claim for damages suffered. A claim could also be made for an injunction (binding court order) to require the livestock owner under Court Order to take all necessary steps to prevent livestock continuing to trespass. Any such Court action would have to be carefully considered as it can be expensive, stressful and time consuming. Good evidence of the trespass, and clear evidence of the identity and ownership of the livestock, would have to be established as part of proving the case.

8. Self-help

Self-help measures, such as erecting a suitable barrier or a fence to prevent the livestock coming on, might be considered. Whilst the Growers are not at fault, and have no legal obligation or duty to keep the livestock out of the Growers' property, in some cases, self-help may practically and commercially be an option to consider. The Grower might fix the problem themselves, notwithstanding that it is really the livestock owners responsibility.

9. Dividing Fence

Under the Neighbourhood Disputes (Dividing Fences and Trees) Act, a dispute about the construction, maintenance, and contribution to costs of, a suitable dividing fence, if unable to resolved by the neighbours, can be resolved by order of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. As a general rule, cane Growers are not required to contribute to the cost of erecting or maintaining a suitable dividing fence. This is because various Courts and Tribunals have consistently found that Growers derive no benefit from a dividing fence, and in many cases, such a dividing fence acts as a detriment to cane growing activities.

It may be possible, subject to the particular facts and circumstances, under the Act for Growers to make application in the Tribunal for an order that a proper stockproof fence be constructed and the cost be the sole responsibility of the neighbour, not the Grower.

10. Protection

Property owners have the legal right to use such force as is reasonably necessary to defend themselves and their property. The shooting of straying livestock is likely though to be regarded as using excessive force and may well be unlawful.

If further information or advice is required, please consult your local CANEGROWERS office or contact me on the CANEGROWERS Freecall Number 1800 177 159. ■

A MAN RECOGNISED AS ONE OF THE LONGEST SERVING CANE GROWER REPRESENTATIVES IN QUEENSLAND HAS BEEN LAID TO REST IN GORDONVALE.



Mulgrave district grower **Jim Dillon**, died in a farming accident.

At his funeral, the pallbearers who were his sons, sons-in-law and grandsons wore CANEGROWERS ties to recognise Jim's commitment to the industry and in memory of all farmers and agricultural workers who have died at work.

Jim Dillon took on his first grower representative role in 1974.

He began on the Hambledon Mill Suppliers Committee and after that mill closed was elected to the Mulgrave Mill Suppliers Committee which in 2004 became Mulgrave CANEGROWERS Ltd and then CANEGROWERS Cairns Region.

He stepped down at the 2016 CANEGROWERS elections.

Reading the eulogy, **Mark Dillon** told the congregation that the cornerstones of his father's life were family, friends, farm and faith.

"Dad was very proud of the history of the cane growers in this district and the contribution they made to the north and the nation," he said.

"Jim Dillon was a successful man but friends and family were his greatest treasures.

"There are so many examples of how Dad and the neighbours have helped each other over the years.

"This past week we have received many offers of help and advice from the farming community and for that we are truly grateful."

Jim Dillon was born in May 1937 in Tully. Apart from a stint in New South Wales as a child moved from the threat of war, he lived in far north Queensland his whole life, working on and then owning farms at Smithfield, White Rock, Green Hill and Eacham Park.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Mary**, four children and five grandchildren. ■

The facts on FAT



There is a lot of confusion about which fats are good and how much you should eat. In this article, we give you the scientific facts and some practical advice on fat.

We need some fat

The Australian Dietary Guidelines for adults say to "limit saturated fat and moderate total fat intake". They don't say you need a low-fat diet.

You can't just cut fat out because we need it to survive. However, too much of the wrong kinds can cause problems. Consuming a high proportion of saturated fat is risky for cholesterol levels and your heart.

Good fats and bad fats

Polyunsaturated fats are essential – just like vitamins – as they provide omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids our bodies require.

Saturated fats in butter, lard, cream, palm and coconut oil provide little if any essential nutrients and increase blood cholesterol levels. For a healthy heart we need to replace saturated fats with unsaturated ones.

How much?

An average adult can eat 70g of fat a day, but no more than 24g should be saturated. There's no need to start counting grams of fat in your food, just

eat mostly core foods from the five food groups and use healthy oils in cooking.

Which oil should I use?

Fat adds flavour so using healthy oils for cooking and dressing makes healthy foods taste good. Use a variety of different types and use the oil that best suits the dish.

Olive oil is great for Mediterranean dishes and salads; canola, sunflower, rice bran, or blended vegetable oil has a more mild flavour which suits Asian dishes; and a polyunsaturated margarine spread rather than butter is good for toast, sandwiches and baking.

What about coconut oil?

The hype around coconut oil is not backed up by science and heart health organisations recommend limiting coconut oil to small amounts occasionally.

Fat isn't always fattening

The famously healthy Mediterranean diet is relatively high in fat but it's the healthier unsaturated kind found in olive oil, nuts, seeds and fish. This diet has heart health and longevity benefits and it's also good for weight control.

Do I need to buy low fat products?

If a food is high in saturated fat there may be an advantage to choosing a reduced or low-fat version – such as cream or sausages – but you don't need to buy low-fat products as a rule.

Fat-free salad dressings tend to have lots of additives and cost more than oil and vinegar. ■

By the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance Nutrition Team.

HEALTHY FATS		UNHEALTHY FATS
Polyunsaturated fat	Monounsaturated fat	Saturated fat
Sunflower & safflower oil Soybean oil Cottonseed oil Polyunsaturated margarine	Olives Olive oil Olive oil margarine Avocado Peanuts Peanut oil Macadamia nuts Hazelnuts	Butter, lard, dripping Cream Fatty meats (e.g. sausages, bacon) Many fried foods Palm oil Chocolate, carob Coconut and coconut cream Biscuits, pastries, slices and cakes
Omega 3 polyunsaturated		
Oily fish White fish Shellfish	Canola oil Linseeds Walnuts	
Can lower blood cholesterol	Can lower blood cholesterol if they replace saturated fats	Can increase blood cholesterol
INCREASE CONSUMPTION		REDUCE CONSUMPTION

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Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

Specialising in Used Cane Harvesting Equipment Sales

1997 CASE AUSTOFT 7700,

Track harvester, Komatsu 325 HP 6,300 Hrs on new engine. Std whole toppler, 15 x 8 blade differential chop, raised tilt cab, swing out radiator, engine oil screen combination. Back-hoe slew. WELL MAINTAINED !!!

CUMMINS QSL 8.9L Eng.

325 HP @ 1900 RPM. 750 Hrs.

NEW ! BILLET PLANTER 2500

Rubber belt cane feed, Immediate Delivery. In Mackay NOW.

New 18" curved GROUSER PLATES
Suit D5 Case 8800 type chain, full set.

Used 10,000 series
CHAR-LYNN MOTORS 40 cubic inch.

Used 2 x 6,000 series
CHAR-LYNN MOTORS 60 cubic inch.

WHOLE TOPPERS 2 x CASE
as new one is complete.

OMNITRAC Full Track walking gear
complete with 24" rubber belts.
Hi-Track drive. 5 roller suit Case or JD.

USED BIG ERNIE or walk down front roller
suit Case or JD as used in NSW.

Used D4 Track Rollers double flange
three quarter bolts.

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

1996 CAMECO HARVESTER PARTS.
Crop lifters, 8 blade diff chopper drums, various hydraulic valves and hydraulic motors.

IN STOCK NOW — 12, 10, 8 & 6 blade DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS,
suit '05 Cameco to JD 570.
Tungsten hard faced on wear areas.
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Classifieds

Mossman-Tully

Fertiliser applicator, can hold 1.5 tonnes - \$2,500. Upton 80 irrigator, assortment of sprinklers, risers and 2inch pipe fittings - \$2,000. Silvester spray tank, pump in good condition - make an offer. Ph. 0427 142 102

3-ton M.S.W. s/s fert bin. 2 row side dresser. Good condition \$8,200+GST. Ph. 0408 456 218

4-ton Newton 6 tyne fert bin, s/s worms. Good for plant. Twin Box. 2 row. \$4,500+GST. Ph. 0408 456 218

Complete second-hand chains, sprockets, idlers and rollers to suit track cane harvester. TYRES: 2x Goodyear 14L-16.1 New 10 ply; 4x S/H Olympic 14.9.28 6 ply; 2x S/H 340-70-18; 1x S/H 520-85 R42 radial Goodyear. Ph. 0407 160 673 or 07 4055 4449

Plant Cutter, Blower, 7-tine ripper, Silvan Spinner C X 2, Hardy 600L Tank, Rotary Hoe M130, Half Tracks 7000 Harvester. Ph. 0407 160 673 or 07 4055 4449

Case 2590 2WD; Chamberlain 4080; Fiat 1000 2WD; Fiat 980 2WD; Michigan 14yd Scraper; Spicer Dolly; Rims 14DW 21 X 32 689; Edbro Hoist (Truck). Ph. 0407 160 673 or 07 4055 4449

Track Walking Gear - Going Cheap! Telescopic Lift Ram For 12 Tonne Carter Bin. 100-90 Fiat. Mulgrave (Gordonvale) Area: 0427 163 748

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

98 Cameco CHW 2500, VGC, Westhill Half Tracks, POA. Mulgrave Area: 0407 183 680

Herbert River-Burdekin

Mack Ultraliner 400HP rebuilt, cab over, aircon, 80% tyres, new clutch & diff, air suspension, 12-speed gearbox, and hydraulics. \$25,000 ono. Ph. 0408 777 803

Valpadana 330 with tank & 3 row boom plus sundry other attachments \$5500; Howard 80" r/hoe \$1800; Don multi weeder \$975; Viccon 1/2 t spreader \$600; Rinaudo Ripper & crumble rollers \$1100. All prices ex gst. Ph. 47777277

Mackay-Proserpine

2008 Reinke 8 span centre pivot irrigator in good condition. Ph. 0428 588 516

48 lengths of 4 inch aluminium irrigation pipes with Southern Cross couplings and sprinklers attached to the majority. Ph. 0427 756 564

Silvan 800L Fire Fighter with Honda pump and hose reel. Done little work. \$3,600 new. Asking \$2,000 ono. Ph. 0409 221 601

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)

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Year to date	Average rainfall (mm) January–October
	7 days to 9am 09.10.17	16.10.17		
Mossman	0	2	1646	1897
Mareeba AP	0	7	629	751
Cairns	0	7	1379	1729
Mt Sophia	0	25	2633	2894
Babinda	0	0	1465	3753
Innisfail	0.4	12	2730	3135
Tully	0.8	30	2023	3647
Cardwell	0	47	1487	1807
Lucinda	0	0	1555	1831
Ingham	0.6	10	1225	1717
Abergowrie	0	4	812	1561
Townsville	2	11	657	933
Ayr DPI	0	4	775	780
Proserpine	0.2	30	1295	1136
Mirani	3	6	1111	1252
Mackay	0.4	7	1841	1293
Sarina (Plane Ck)	19	23	2475	1423
Bundaberg	241	64	761	795
Childers South	65	79	782	687
Maryborough	102	153	687	940
Tewantin	102	152	1164	1425
Eumundi	60	135	966	1383
Nambour	97	108	889	1376
Woongoolba	42	110	859	1088
Murwillumbah	39	105	1372	1284
Ballina	70	73	1546	1510
Woodburn	32	77	1466	1161

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)
133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740



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regional Australia

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

HowardCrumbleRoller,HO-CROLLCH365DT, brand new still in crate, fits rear tool bar of Howard CH2365DT, 2 rollers each@2M. \$4,422 GST inc. Ph. 0428 236 165

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

Nissan Navara 4x4 2008 Diesel single cab ute, bull bar, tow bar \$8,800 inc GST ono Ph. 0407 638 381 AH 4954 0190

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Case 8000 Cane Harvester. 5800 hours. \$195,000 plus GST. Will consider trade. Quinco 1 ton Fertilizer Incorporator with plastic bin and stainless worm. \$8,000 plus GST. Good condition. Ph. 4156 1409 or 0431 044 022

Low pressure irrigator, Avoka winch with Bauer 50m boom \$47,000 inc gst, MF 1085 Tractor, motor needs attention \$3,750 inc gst Ph. 0419 577 110

SBX 540 Small Square Baler- VGC Done very little work - 5,000 bales. Ph. 0419 493 288

John Deere 6125R Premium 1255hrs purchased new February 2013 owner operator well maintained machine VGC \$80000 incl GST negotiable. 0439930455



LRRCH CO-OP Ltd

MACHINERY FOR SALE

- 1 x 2010 Case 8800 Full Track Cane Harvester: \$210,000 + GST
- 1 x 2011 John Deere 3520 Full Track Cane Harvester: \$250,000 + GST
- 2 x 1982 Toft Extended Full Track in-field bins with CAT 3208 engines: \$60,000 + GST each
- 1 x 1980 Toft standard Full Track in-field bin with CAT 3208 engine: \$50,000 + GST
- 1 x John Deere 7710 Tractor and 10 tonne side tip bin: \$80,000 + GST
- 1 x Fiat F130 Tractor and 10 tonne high lift tipping bin: \$70,000 + GST

Machinery located in Northern NSW, for further details including photographs or to arrange inspection please call
0400 192 101

New South Wales

Toft Full Tracked Can Buggy in Northern NSW Caterpillar 3208 motor, extended chassis with 28 cubic metre bin 10 tonne capacity available NOW \$80,000. All enquiries to Jim 0412 661 819

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

CANE WANTED for 2017 and subsequent seasons. Tully area. Shawn Ph. 0418 782 815

Tractor tyres - BUY & SELL. All sizes. Ph. 0418 775 698

Wanted infield track transporter. Any condition. Ph. 0439 622 347

Double side tipper either 5 or 6 tonne for haulout. Ph. 0427 541 346

Wanted: 3 row McLeod cutaway in good condition. Ph: 0428 588 516

Wanted: 2 row grubber with 1 1/4 tynes. Ph. 0404582501

Property

Wanted to lease: Cane farming land, Mackay or Sarina areas. Ph: 0407 054 417

Herbert Area - Leasing of cane farms. Genuine established farming enterprise is seeking cane farms for leasing. For a confidential appointment phone 47765007. Here is your chance to retire! Call now.



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