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ant threat



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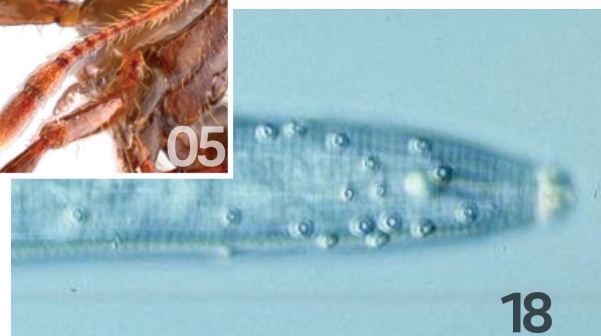
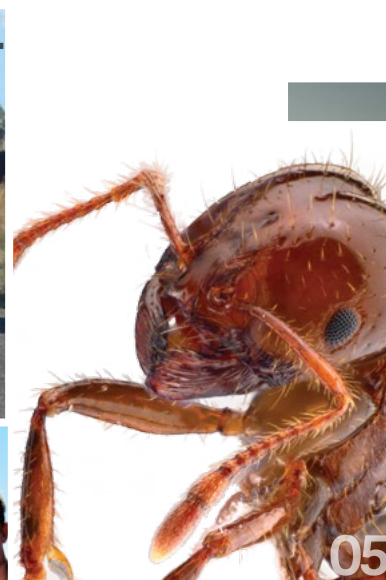
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COVER IMAGE: Harvest on track, as Burdekin and Herbert River pass the million tonne mark.

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We need to trade

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

The Australian sugar industry exports approximately 80% of its annual production. This ratio of export to domestic sales makes our industry possibly the most highly trade-exposed sugar industry in the world.

Exporting 3.5 million tonnes of sugar, out of a total annual production of 4.5 million tonnes, depends not only on managing the logistics of shipping sugar, but, more importantly, on managing Australia's trade policies and our relationships with trading partners.

At times, I sense that our industry's efforts to maintain the right trade policies are taken for granted or not fully understood by all growers.

Australia's export sales only occur because people in other countries want our sugar. Not one tonne leaves our shores unless people and governments in other countries want it.

There are no obligations on other countries to buy our sugar. They buy it because they want to trade with us.

This is important to remember as we experience a resurgence of the debate around free trade and protectionism.

At face value, the arguments in favour of protectionism seem appealing, but when you dig deeper it becomes clear that they lack logic and avoid the reality of our situation.

I'm often told that free trade should be abandoned and that the Australian sugar industry should be protected against international competition. Whilst well intentioned, such a policy would destroy our industry.

Australia's population of 23 million people cannot consume our total production, which is why we export a large part of it and, in doing so, satisfy the domestic markets of other countries.

To protect our domestic industries and then expect unfettered access to other countries is illogical.

We spend a lot of time as a sugar industry pursuing more free and fair trade because, at the end of the day, every import tariff we pay to another country comes out of our own pockets and makes us less competitive.

That is why Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are so important to us.

For example, our FTA with South Korea has

meant almost one million tonnes of sugar being sold there at zero tariff.

Recent negotiations between the Australian and Indonesian governments has secured a tariff deal that makes Australian sugar entering Indonesia competitive with imports from Thailand. That decision alone could underpin almost \$500 million in sales to Indonesia.

Had it gone ahead, the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) would have allowed us an entry point into the lucrative United States domestic market.

While we support free trade, we also support global trade reform. In particular, we support the World Trade Organisation (WTO) pursuing fair trading terms.

The WTO decision of December 2015 to outlaw export subsidies means that highly subsidised surplus production is not dumped into the world sugar market, collapsing the global price.

The current world sugar price is not strong, but it would be so much worse if export subsidies were in place.

Recently in Australia we've seen an increase of right-wing political posturing, advocating that we lurch back to an era of protectionism.

That would do untold damage to our Australian sugar industry.

Events in Europe and the US have shown that we live in volatile political times.

I ask growers to think very clearly about these issues and be very careful about the appeal of slogans that at face value might seem appealing, but are damaging to export industries.

The Australian sugar industry has around \$1.5 billion of exports to manage - the wrong trade policies would put that at risk. ■



"I'm often told that free trade should be abandoned and that the Australian sugar industry should be protected ... such a policy would destroy our industry."

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Contact your local CANEGROWERS Office to discover how WE CAN HELP YOU!

NEWS IN BRIEF

CHILD FARM SAFETY WARNING

Children under the age of 15 years make up about 20% of on-farm injury fatalities and are over represented in all on-farm injuries.

The sobering statistic was highlighted during this year's Farm Safety Week by Farmsafe Australia chairman **Charles Armstrong** who wants farmers to reverse the trend.

"We want all farmers to be pro-active and take the steps that we know can protect our farmers of the future," he said.

The biggest risk to children on farm is drowning, especially for those under five years of age, while other risks include quad bikes, machinery and vehicles.

"It's not about wrapping them up in cotton wool, it is about taking sensible steps to reduce the chance of things going wrong."

About 30% of the child deaths on Australian farms involve farm visitors.

"Whether you are parents of young children, a grandparent or simply have kids visiting on your property every now and then, a secure play area is a must," Mr Armstrong said.

"It's not about wrapping them up in cotton wool, it is about taking sensible steps to reduce the chance of things going wrong.

"We are pleading with parents to ensure children under 16 years do not

ride, or be carried as passengers, on quads of any size.

"Last year three children were killed as a result of quad bike incidents. Kids don't have the physical size, strength, coordination or emotional maturity to safely operate such a dangerous piece of equipment."

Mr Armstrong says if children are helping on the farm, put them on an appropriate two wheeler with a helmet and other protective gear.

"They may still come a cropper, but the chances of serious injury or worse, is far less, as two wheelers don't crush or asphyxiate riders when they roll," he said. ■



STICKY SITUATION

A faulty mill valve was to blame for almost a tonne of sugar syrup finding its way into the South Johnstone River this month, the *Innisfail Advocate* has reported.

While such spills were "not desirable", Chairman of the South Johnstone Catchment Management Association, **Sam Pagano**, said there had been no reported harm to fish stocks.

"On the scale of nasty things, it's not really up there," Mr Pagano said. "It's not as bad as a chemical spill or oil spill

"In the grand scheme of things, a tonne is not that much and it was an accident ... nature will break it down in short order."

A spokeswoman for MSF Sugar said the spill had been reported to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and that EHP officers had inspected the site and given it the all clear. ■

CROC MANAGEMENT

The Queensland Government has announced changes to its Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP) in response to community concerns following recent croc sightings near Mareeba.

Local cane harvester **Daryl Bell** was bitten on the hand by a 1.4m saltwater crocodile earlier this month when he attempted to remove the animal from the path of his harvester.

The croc, which had been badly injured in a cane fire the previous day, was later euthanased.

Mystery still surrounds how the crocodile came to be in a cane paddock 400 metres above sea level in the first place.

Announcing zoning changes to the QCMP, Environment Minister **Steven Miles** said the new rules would allow the targeting of all crocodiles for removal within the Mareeba Shire Council.

"In response to concerns raised by Mareeba Shire Council, a new zoning (Zone F – atypical habitat zone) was applied to an area of Two Mile Creek near Mareeba on June 26 2017," Mr Miles said.

"Over the weekend, a man was bitten by a saltwater crocodile at a property on Two Mile Creek and before that, there had been a number of reported sightings of saltwater crocodiles in the same area."

Mr Miles said EHP officers would respond to any crocodile sighting reported in this zone by inspecting the area to confirm the presence of the animal and targeting it for removal. ■



"Australia's agriculture ministers must fund a 10-year, open & independent fire ant eradication program!"
#fireants



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New \$411.4 million effort to tackle fire ants

CANEGROWERS joined a coalition of conservation, community and farming organisations urging state and federal agriculture ministers to escalate efforts to eradicate red fire ants.

The Agriculture Ministers' Forum responded with a commitment to fund a 10-year plan which will effectively double the current amount of treatment and surveillance.

Queensland Agriculture Minister **Bill Byrne** said the plan would be implemented as a priority in Queensland with an expanded treatment program starting in September.

Mr Byrne said all states and the Federal Government had agreed it was in the national interest to eradicate fire ants due to the potential impacts these invasive species had on Australia's economy, environment, public health and lifestyle.

"If left uncontrolled, the impacts of fire ants in Australia have been estimated to be between \$5.3 billion and \$45 billion over 20 to 70 years," he said.

"As a result of this agreement the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program will receive \$38 million a year, adjusted annually for inflation, until 2027."

Ahead of the Forum meeting, CANEGROWERS had signed an Invasive Species Council open letter calling for the commitment.

"Our members are on the frontline trying to prevent this imported pest becoming a serious impediment to agriculture in Queensland but they are being let down by an overstretched State Government capability," CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** said.

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Thanks to everybody who participated in our #fireants social media Thunderclap.

Because of you, 138 supporters shared our message to reach

65 K PEOPLE 5 COUNTRIES 68 CITIES 13 DAYS

THANK YOU!

Cane growers in the Rocky Point district have reported more than 300 suspect fire ant nests to authorities to June 2017.

"But they are waiting up to 60 days for an inspector to arrive to look at the nests," Mr Galligan said.

"Their calls for help are sitting in an unacceptably big pile of backlogged reports.

"This is unacceptable when you are dealing with an invasive species that has the potential to kill people and animals.

"We urgently need more resources to address the risk that fire ants pose so we are added our voice to the Invasive Species Council's campaign. This is a national issue and not one Queensland can tackle alone."

Mr Byrne said the first treatment program under the new plan would focus on the high risk infestation areas.

"Biosecurity Queensland will be communicating with residents and businesses in these areas before and during the treatment season," he said. ■

Pustules from fire ant stings, Photo from Murray S Blum, The University of Georgia



Pictured: (from left) John Pickering (Behaviour Innovation), Innisfail grower and CANEGROWERS Board member Joe Marano, Environment Minister Steven Miles, CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri and CEO Dan Galligan.

MINISTER'S CANE COMMITMENT

A Queensland State Government minister put his signature on a commitment to the sugarcane industry at the July 2017 meeting of the CANEGROWERS Policy Council. He also committed to continue to support the Smartcane BMP program, while reaffirming his plan to expand reef regulations.

Environment Minister **Steven Miles** signed a Cane Changer commitment in front of CANEGROWERS grower representatives and staff. The commitment (*reproduced opposite*) is similar in format to those already signed by 109 growers in the Wet Tropics region.

Mr Miles committed to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of cane growers to improve farming practices, especially as they relate to the health of the Great Barrier Reef, to recognise the important role that cane growers play in Queensland and to work collaboratively with the industry for a better future for the industry and the environment.

"I am here to celebrate the work of Cane Changer," Mr Miles said. "I'm signing a contract, just as those growers have, to demonstrate my support for this and the other programs we're doing together."

The Cane Changer project, being backed by the Queensland Government and CANEGROWERS and being delivered by Behaviour Innovation, is currently operating in the Innisfail, Tully and Cairns Region cane growing districts, with plans to expand it further in the future.

It is designed to recognise growers for their past innovations, foster innovation, pave the way for further sustainable change and 'set the record straight' with regards to the public image of the sugarcane industry.

Mr Miles said it was important that he acknowledged that publicly so the community could see and recognise how many growers were signing up and supporting the various programs.

Mr Miles told the Policy Council that Smartcane BMP was seeing exactly the kind of ramp up that was needed, with 70% of the cane area of Queensland now benchmarked and 224 businesses accredited.

However, Mr Miles did make it clear that there would be no backdown in the Queensland Government's plan to expand reef regulations to include more catchment areas and more agricultural industries.

CANEGROWERS is opposed to the regulation of farming practices and advocates that Smartcane BMP is the most enduring way for the industry to

meet its obligations to improve water quality.

Mr Miles said he valued the work of CANEGROWERS in providing coherent and collective responses to around regulations.

"It's useful to be able to say that on a fundamental level we have a disagreement about this, but we can manage that in a mature relationship," he said.

"It will deliver a better outcome for the industry than would've been the case if you'd just said 'we don't agree with regs and we're not going to contribute'.

"We've been pretty frank with each other that while we would continue to invest in and aggressively support BMP as our preferred method for getting voluntary buy in and commitment to improved practices, I've also said all along that at some time there would be a time for minimum standards.

"I said we would go slowly with that and three years down the track we have just concluded a consultation process."

CANE CHANGER COMMITMENT

I, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, MP, hereby commit to the following actions as they relate to Queensland's sugar industry.

I commit to:

- Acknowledging the ongoing efforts of Queensland cane growers for improving their farming practices, especially as they relate to the health of the Great Barrier Reef
- Recognising the important role that cane growers play for the State of Queensland
- Working collaboratively with the sugar industry for a better future for the industry and the environment



Hon. Dr Steven Miles, MP

Minister for Environment & Heritage Protection
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef



Date



CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Mossman

In Week 6 (ending 15/7) Mossman Mill crushed a total of 44,167 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 12.25CCS, with an average crush rate of 325t/hr.

Coastal growers supplied 31197 tonnes for an average of 11.89CCS, while Mareeba growers supplied 12,970 tonnes for an average of 13.13CCS.

Season to date, Mossman Mill has processed a total of 210,865 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 11.89CCS, a unit above at the same period in 2016.

87,089 tonnes of Mossman Supply have been toll crushed by Arriga Mill.

Innisfail

After disruptions due to wet weather and closure of the mill for the annual Show Holiday, there has been excellent weather conditions that have allowed harvesting operations to proceed without disruptions across the district. Unscheduled mill stoppages have significantly reduced and South Johnstone Mill has crushed around 16.5% of the estimated crop for this year.

Mill average CCS continues to be very low, but with the increase in the supply of plant cane it is hoped that the CCS will improve.



Cairns region

Both Babinda and Mulgrave zones have recorded improved CCS and yield compared to this time last year.

Planting in both zones is behind schedule, however, fine weather is being experienced at present and progress is being made.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Directors have signed their Cane Changer Commitment and are looking forward to rolling out this project across the region.

Congratulations to those growers who made the effort to enter cane in the local agricultural shows.



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Herbert River

The Herbert's wet and dry climate zones continued to create issues for harvest crews in Week 6, with the migration of harvesters to dryer areas creating challenges with the availability of locos to service groups. The field sector has been working closely with the mill to overcome these issues for the overall good of the industry.

CCS has responded to the dryer conditions ending Week 6, with the weekly average CCS up to 12.55, for a season to date average of 12.11.

The million tonne mark was reached on Saturday 22 July. Whilst the official estimate remains at 4.7 million tonnes, early indications are that the crop could cut out higher than the original estimate.

A new system of managing unexpected changes to daily loadings with mill breakdowns is to be tried along with a system of making up for changes to a day off in the roster.

Data from the rewritten Harvest Management System appears to be improving but remains unable to

generate a Proportional Estimate, which has been a useful tool for the recalculation of quotas to reflect the influence of trends as to when the crop cuts above or below the latest estimate. Growers and their harvesting contractors remain disappointed and concerned that the previously available online satellite imagery of harvester tracking remains unavailable well into the season. This system was originally developed under the Herbert Resource Information Centre, as a shared effort whereby the growers originally funded the GPS devices fitted to harvesters. Along with other data on harvesting equity, it provided good and immediate feedback on progress of the harvest.

A higher-level meeting is to take place between CANEGROWERS Herbert River and Wilmar to address a disputed interpretation of claimable lost time under the Performance Target Incentive provision of the Collective Cane Supply Agreement. The meeting, to be held on 1st August 2017, also provides a forum for discussion of data sharing issues that have arisen this year.

Burdekin

Ideal harvesting conditions have continued in the Burdekin, with no stoppages in mill crushing operations from rain events since the beginning of this year's harvest.

The Burdekin mills have completed Week 6 of the season (ending 22nd July) with a total of 1,808,441 tonnes of cane crushed. This represents more than 20% of the district's 8.4 million tonne crop. Inkerman and Invicta mills achieved their highest weekly throughput for the season.

At this stage, actual cane yields are cutting very close to estimate, but average weekly CCS levels are below expectations at around 13.67 units. We expect to see an improvement in CCS levels over the coming weeks as the cane crop dries out.

The best performing variety in Week 6 on a regional basis was Q183 (24% of supply and 13.95 CCS). Q240 was the highest variety supplied at 33% and 13.61 CCS.

Proserpine

It was a good fortnight for Proserpine mill with just over 180,000 tonnes of cane crushed, which was significantly above budget. Season to date, the mill has processed 223,384 tonnes of the estimated 1.37 million tonnes.

At this early stage, the crop is cutting slightly above estimate and CCS continues to rise, with the season average now standing at 12.30.

Despite the favourable throughput, the mill has experienced a significant number of short stoppages. While most of the stops are related to equipment failure, there is a substantial amount of dirt and extraneous matter which is impacting performance.

Average bin weights have also improved during the fortnight, which is helping to maintain a consistent crush rate. Harvesting conditions remains ideal, although some delays have been experienced with empty bin deliveries.

Bundaberg

Bundaberg Sugar mills processed 86,101 tonnes of cane during the week ending 22 July, bringing the total crushed so far this season to 353,707 tonnes.

The average CCS rose again this week to 13.38 units at Bingara and 13.57 units at Millaquin. The region's average CCS for the season to date is 12.85 units.

The dominant variety for the week was KQ228 (42% of supply - average CCS 13.81), followed by Q240 (23% - 13.72 CCS) and Q208 (12% - 13.30 CCS).

The variety of the week once again was Q240, yielding the highest individual CCS of 16.40 units.



Mackay

Total tonnes crushed for Mackay Sugar for week ending July 23 was disappointing, with significant downtime at all three mills.

Farleigh Mill lost time due to the failure on the main mud conveyor snubber shaft, while Marian Mill lost time due to the failure of a snubber roller driver on the bagasse belt. Sixteen hours was lost at Racecourse Mill due to the failure of the apron conveyor when the positioner wings on the ends of the carrier boards were bent out of the vertical.

Total throughput for the week was 202,836 tonnes (Farleigh 68,997, Marian 83,990 and Racecourse 49,849). To date the mills have processed 1,178,044 tonnes of the 5.3M estimate. PRS for the week was 12.09 and season to date 11.21.

Plane Creek

Plane Creek Mill crushed a total of 63,224 tonnes for the week ending July 22. This is the highest weekly throughput for the season to date.

Average weekly CCS and bin weights continue to rise – this week's average CCS was 13.07 units, with average bin weights for the week at 3.85 tonne.

About 5700 tonnes of standover cane were crushed with an average CCS of 11.75. This leaves about 35,000 tonnes of standover cane left to crush.

Season to date throughput is 256,804 tonnes.

Isis

As expected, the rainfall received at the beginning of Week 3 impacted the total tonnes crushed for the week with 56,799 tonnes being processed.

The weekly CCS figure remained static at 12.46 units, which was also the average for Week 2. The early maturing variety KQ228 continues to dominate cane supply, making up 36.67% of the total.

The end of Week 4 saw cooler weather hit the Isis cane supply area. The coldest day of the year was recorded on Friday 21 July, with reports of light frost in the Wallaville area.

Total crushed for Week 4 was 70,359 tonnes with CCS rising steadily. Approximately 18% of the 2017 crop has now been harvested.

Continues page 8 ➤

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Maryborough

Crushing is finally underway in Maryborough, albeit a little later than expected, with last minute mill repairs delaying the start of crush until 26 July. Conditions have again become dry in the region, which is great for the start of crush, but growers will soon be looking to the skies in the hope of some moderate falls.

The crop estimate remains unchanged at 600,000 tonnes.

Due to extensive roadworks around town this year cane haul trucks will be limited in the routes they can use, so we ask all drivers to show patience and courtesy on the roads this year.

Rocky Point

By the end of Week 3, Rocky Point Mill crushed 51,890 tonnes at a season average CCS of 12.06 and rising.

Reports are that some of the standover is cutting out at up to 200t/ha.

Mill reliability has been good, although the crushing rate is being affected by issues with the co-generation plant. This is a concern due to the large crop estimated at around 500,000 tonnes this season.

Harvesting conditions have been very good. ■

Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

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We've been renovating!

The CANEGROWERS website at www.canegrowers.com.au has had an overhaul.

The fresh new look is now easier to navigate meaning you'll find what you're looking for faster.

CHECK IT OUT!

All the usual features are there – lodge your classified ad online for Australian Canegrower magazine, check our latest news and see what's been happening in our key advocacy areas.

Where information is for members only, you'll be directed to the Member Resources page. You'll need to use your CANEGROWERS membership number (with all of the dashes i.e. 1-234-56789) and your mill/district area in capitals (i.e. BUNDABERG, HERBERT RIVER, PLANE CREEK, ROCKY POINT, MULGRAVE etc) as a password to access the page.

www.canegrowers.com.au



Applications open for **CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Each year, SRA invests in capability development activities for the Australian sugarcane industry. This investment includes SRA's Travel and Learning Awards (STLAs), the Early-Career and Mid-Career (ECR/MCR) Researcher Awards and Sugar Postgraduate Research Scholarships (SPRS).

All of these awards are now accepting applications for 2017.

STLAs offer up to \$5,000 for an individual award, \$10,000 towards a workshop or event or up to \$30,000 as a contribution towards a longer term staff placement or learning opportunity.

STLAs build on the sugarcane industry's knowledge and capability, and encourage innovative learning ideas.

"These awards are on offer to all industry participants, including growers, millers and service providers including researchers," said Dr Michael O'Shea, General Manager of the SRA Research Funding Unit.

"The awards cover a range of possible activities that will deliver benefits throughout the Australian sugarcane industry.

"This includes, for example, skills-development activities that could include visiting farm trials and assessing new farming methods, visiting other mills, wineries, or paper mills, and then sharing this information back with industry."

Applications close on August 31, 2017.

ECR/MCR Awards encourage innovative research ideas and seek to enhance the capability of the research sector that supports the sugarcane industry.

The awards are available for diverse activities, including for researchers who may require initial results or a proof of concept prior to developing a larger project, and who want to expand their skills and build collaborations in pursuit of an innovative initiative.

"SRA usually grants two ECR/MCR awards per year at a typical level of \$10,000 to \$15,000 per award," Dr O'Shea said.

"They present a valuable professional development opportunity for researchers in the Australian sugarcane industry to assist them to develop innovative and transformative projects that benefit



sugarcane growers and millers."

The benefits of the ECR/MCR awards should be aligned with the Key Focus Areas within the current SRA strategic plan, available on the SRA website.

Applications close on 31 August 2017.

The SPRS program is seeking applications for research scholarships (Masters or PhD), to fill capability gaps in focus areas compatible with SRA's strategic plan.

Awards are available for full scholarships and supplementary top-up awards for holders of Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA) or equivalent funding.

Applications are open throughout the year, but are assessed on the closing date of October 31, 2017.

"SRA is committed to investing in research that can be adopted on farm or in the mill, and providing a tangible and positive outcome for sugarcane growers and millers," Dr O'Shea said.

"All applications for these programs will be assessed in that context of their benefit to the industry."

"These capability development initiatives recognise that it is crucial that the Australian sugarcane industry continue in developing its skills and expertise, which includes looking at other industries and other countries to ensure that we keep our ideas and innovation at the leading edge."

"This is an important investment in the people of the sugarcane industry, and forms part of SRA's investment in the eight Key Focus Areas in the SRA Strategic Plan."

For more information email Kim Jones kjones@sugarresearch.com.au or phone (07) 3331 3346. ■

Photo : SRA Executive Manager, Communications, Brad Pfeffer, travelled to South Africa in 2017 as part of an SRA Travel and Learning Award. He met South African cane farmers and the South African Sugarcane Research Institute to discuss communication and extension strategies to help growers improve productivity and profitability.

New QSL Payment Statement explained

QSL recently introduced a new payment statement for Wilmar growers.

The following **Frequently Asked Questions** cover some common queries regarding the statement format and the key information it contains.

THE QSL PAYMENT STATEMENT FOR WILMAR GROWERS

How does the new statement system work?

Wilmar Growers who have chosen QSL as a marketer will receive two statements for each cane delivery period – one from QSL and one from Wilmar.

The QSL Payment Statement is issued via the grower's QSL Direct account and details their GEI (Grower Economic Interest) Sugar payment from QSL – that is, how they have priced their GEI Sugar with QSL and the Advances payment due to them as a result.

In addition to this Advances payment, each grower's QSL payment also includes the sum total of any allowances, deductions and GST associated with their cane transaction and passed on by Wilmar.

The Wilmar statement, known as a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) details key allowances, deductions and GST, as well as other information related to the grower's cane transaction.

Does my QSL payment include GST?

Yes. While GST is not applicable to your GEI Sugar payment from QSL, the GST associated with your cane supply transaction with Wilmar has been passed on to QSL by Wilmar and is included in your QSL payment. Please refer directly to your Wilmar RCTI for details of this GST amount.

Does my QSL payment include my allowances and deductions from Wilmar?

Yes. Wilmar provides QSL with the sum total of your GST amounts, deductions and allowances inclusive of the value of the district cane price constant and other Cane Supply Agreement (CSA) expense charges (like harbour dues).

This total is applied to your QSL payment, but QSL has no insight into the individual elements which make up this net figure. Please refer to your Wilmar RCTI for details of your Wilmar allowances and deductions.

Where do I find my new QSL Payment Statement?

Your new QSL Payment Statement is available in the Payments section of your QSL Direct account at <http://qsldirect.qsl.com.au>

COMPARING YOUR QSL AND WILMAR STATEMENTS

Why is my QSL payment different to the figures on my Wilmar RCTI?

Your QSL payment relates to your GEI Sugar and how you've chosen to price this sugar through QSL. Your Wilmar RCTI relates to your cane supply transaction with Wilmar. It bears no relation to how you have priced your GEI Sugar with QSL and the Advances payments owing to you as a result.

Why aren't I getting paid at the same Gross Cane Value (GCV) that Wilmar has quoted on my RCTI?

Wilmar has no insight into how you have priced your GEI Sugar with QSL or what it is worth as a result. Instead, they have used an ICE 11 price on a nominated date to value your cane for the week in question. The cane value they have used is reflected in the values on your RCTI and in the GEI Sugar transfer process with QSL, but is unrelated to how you have chosen to price your GEI Sugar and what you will be paid as a result by QSL.

What's this 'Cane Payables Redirected to QSL' figure on my Wilmar RCTI all about?

This figure is related to the 'discovery price' used to transfer your GEI Sugar to QSL. It is based on the ICE 11 price on a nominated day each week and is used to determine how much Wilmar pays to take ownership of the cane you have supplied.

Under the terms of your QSL Grower Pricing Agreement, this payment is redirected to QSL so that you can access QSL marketing and pricing services and be paid directly by us instead of Wilmar. In a nutshell, the process behind this is as follows:

1. **You deliver cane to Wilmar.**
2. **Wilmar pays you for this cane supply** based on a 'discovery price' (the ICE 11 price on a certain day each week of delivery). This payment is redirected to QSL under the terms of your QSL Grower Pricing Agreement and is noted as the 'Cane Payables Redirected to QSL' figure on your Wilmar RCTI. This figure is based on the discovery price plus the sum of your Wilmar deductions, allowances and GST amounts, inclusive of the value of the district cane price constants and other CSA expense charges (like harbour dues).
3. **Wilmar delivers your GEI Sugar to QSL.**



4. QSL pays Wilmar for your GEI Sugar. This payment is identified on your QSL Payment Statement as 'QSL payment to Wilmar for Purchase of GEI Sugar'. This payment uses the same 'discovery price' value used by Wilmar to value your cane and calculate the 'Cane Payables Redirected to QSL' figure. Hence, the two transactions between QSL and Wilmar are offset against each other – leaving only the net deductions and allowances plus GST on this amount (including the value of the district cane price constants and other CSA expense charges).

5. QSL makes Advances payments to you based how you've chosen to price your GEI Sugar with QSL. We add the sum of your Wilmar deductions, allowances and GST amounts passed on to us by Wilmar to your QSL Advances payment (which can be an addition or deduction).

As you can see, your Cane Payables Redirected to QSL are, in effect, used by QSL to offset the costs associated with buying your GEI Sugar from Wilmar so that you can price it with QSL and be paid Advances by QSL.

If QSL and Wilmar are both using the same discovery price to calculate the 'Cane Payables Redirected to QSL' and the 'QSL payment to Wilmar for Purchase of GEI Sugar', why aren't these numbers the same?

While the same discovery price is used for both figures, Wilmar includes a number of additional elements in its 'Cane Payables Redirected to QSL' figure, such as your cane price constant, CSA expense charges, cane pay allowances and deductions, and GST. QSL does not have visibility of these individual items – just their net total – so you'll need to refer to your Wilmar RCTI for details of these

Even when I account for the allowances, deductions and GST listed on my RCTI and adjust my 'Cane Payables Redirected to QSL' figure to reflect this, I still don't come up with the same figure you've used for the 'QSL payment to Wilmar for Purchase of GEI Sugar'. Why is that?

While your cane pay allowances, deductibles and GST are itemised on your Wilmar RCTI, other elements incorporated into the Gross Cane Value used by Wilmar to calculate your 'Cane Payables Redirected to QSL' figure are not detailed, such as your cane price constant and CSA expense charges (e.g. harbour dues). While the sum total passed on by Wilmar is incorporated into your QSL payment, we don't have visibility of the individual components of this total. For further details regarding all of the elements incorporated into your cane payment, please contact Wilmar.

I've done the sums and the 'QSL payment to Wilmar for Purchase of GEI Sugar' figure is slightly different to the figure I get when I multiple my GEI Sugar tonnes with the Wilmar purchase price listed on the QSL Payment Statement. Why is that?

Wilmar currently only supplies your data to QSL using figures with a maximum of two decimal places, sometimes rounding the figures involved. However Wilmar's calculations, including the one used to set the 'QSL payment to Wilmar for Purchase of GEI Sugar' can extend to six or more decimal places. This leads to minor reporting inconsistencies when QSL seeks to breakdown Wilmar's charges using the figures they have supplied to us. We are currently seeking more detailed information from Wilmar to avoid these reporting issues in the future.



MORE INFORMATION

Is there someone who can help me understand my QSL Payment Statement and how it interacts with my Wilmar RCTI?

Yes. Your local QSL Grower Services Team member is available to walk you through your statement and answer any questions you may have.

If you prefer, you can call our QSL Direct Helpline for assistance – 1800 870 756 – or email your query to qsldirect@qsl.com.au

Please bear in mind that QSL does not receive a copy of your Wilmar RCTI. Any queries you have regarding values on your Wilmar RCTI should be referred to Wilmar.

The QSL Payment Statement for Wilmar Growers reflects the indicative price of that Grower's GEI Sugar marketed through QSL.

DISCLAIMER:

This article contains information of a general or summary nature. It also contains a high-level overview of some of the key accounting and tax issues relating to QSL's grower pricing agreements and the related payment process, which is also of a general nature only. The information provided does not constitute financial, investment or product advice; in particular, the information does not constitute taxation or accounting advice. While all care has been taken in the preparation of this article, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information in this article is not guaranteed, and it should not replace advice sought from a suitably qualified advisor that can consider your personal circumstances. 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 article.

Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Red Imported Fire Ants

Imagine if it became too dangerous to enjoy a backyard barbeque, the kids couldn't play cricket on the lawn or you couldn't wear thongs. It's a pretty bleak picture!

But that's what could happen to the Aussie way of life if Red Imported Fire Ants are not kept in check. Fire ants are one of the world's most invasive species and they have found their way to cane-growing properties in the Rocky Point region in the Gold Coast.

With more than 300 nests being found on farms to June, growers are rightly concerned about the impact of fire ants on their businesses and family life.

CANEGROWERS has been working with CANEGROWERS Rocky Point to assist growers in their fight to eradicate fire ants from their farms.

CANEGROWERS has also been working with Biosecurity Queensland to achieve better coordination of eradication activities when nests are confirmed. However, while this work is progressing, growers would like to see a more timely response to reported nests.

Resources are stretched and some growers are waiting up to 60 days for an inspector to arrive to look at a suspect nest.

CANEGROWERS has added its voice to the Invasive Species Council's campaign urging a ministerial meeting to escalate efforts to eradicate red fire ants from Queensland.

Smoke and burning

Cane burning has become an issue across many more districts this season, with CANEGROWERS receiving some complaints from residents about ash in the Mackay and Gold Coast regions.

Urban development, particularly in the northern Gold Coast, over recent years means new residents may be unaware that there is a cane industry nearby.

Because the Rocky Point's mill worked only a few weeks in 2016 there is a large amount of standover cane in the district.

The size and leaf biomass of this cane means it is difficult to cut green, and it's being burned.

CANEGROWERS is working with Rocky Point representatives to provide residents with information on this issue. ■



Rural Water Use Efficiency

The Rural Water Use Efficiency for Irrigation Futures project has come to an end, with the final milestone completed.

A quick look at the results from this project shows that in the Burdekin Groundwater Management Area, where incentives were offered for improvements to irrigation efficiency, there was on average a 3ML/ha saving in water used.

The average incentive paid to obtain this was \$90/ML or \$270/ha. In most cases, growers would have invested the same or more.

The main objective of the project was to reduce deep drainage and hence reduce the rising ground water. Productivity and profitability were also essential considerations.

This looks like a good return on a \$270/ha investment. Everyone is a winner!

A quick back of the envelope calculation gives a good sense of this.

SRA research has shown that over-irrigation of 3ML/ha can cause a yield decrease of up to 16 tonnes per ha.

One of the growers in the project increased yield by 15 tonnes per ha.

For my calculations I have worked on an assumption of 10 tonnes of additional yield per ha through improved irrigation efficiency.

At a price of \$35 per tonne of cane after harvesting costs, those additional 10 tonnes provide \$350/ha per annum in additional income.

Plus there is the saving in water costs, which at \$150/ha per annum brings the total to \$500/ha per annum.

In addition to this, if nitrogen is applied at 180 kg/ha, then the nitrogen use efficiency at 120 tonnes of cane per ha is 1.5 kg N per tonne.

With 10 more tonnes per ha this changes to 1.38kg N per tonne cane. This means about 14 kgs more N per ha used in the crop and not potentially lost to the Reef.

This looks like a good return on a \$270/ha investment by the project.

Everyone is a winner! ■



Economics with Warren Males

Electricity is all over the news

Two inquiries have taken centre stage on the national agenda lately and a number of investigations have been launched.

The Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market by Dr Alan Finkel was a focal point of this month's meeting of COAG Energy Council Ministers.

With 49 of Dr Finkel's 50 recommendations accepted, debate quickly turned the outstanding issue, the proposed Clean Energy Target (CET).

Focussing on keeping the power on in southern states this summer, Dr Finkel did not address the high electricity prices.

Current electricity prices are undermining the international competitiveness of Australia's export industries and they need to be reduced!

The Federal Government has tasked the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to investigate retail electricity prices.

It's currently holding public hearings around the country.

CANEGROWERS joined other members of the Australian Agricultural Industries Energy Taskforce in a joint submission to the ACCC.

The Taskforce includes the National Irrigators' Council, Queensland Farmers' Federation, cotton and dairy groups and New South Wales Farmers.

The submission was supported by independent analysis prepared by Sapere Research Group which:

- shows failure of regulation and monitoring is resulting in electricity prices 'exceeding efficient supply costs'
- confirms that the electricity market at every level is failing to work in the interests of consumers and the nation
- notes that excessive costs, profits and prices are not consistent with

the National Electricity Objective and suggest a major failure in the governance arrangements established under the Australian Energy Market Agreement (June 2004).

Responding to a Queensland complaint about the pricing behaviour of the state's two electricity generators (Stanwell and CS Energy) lodged with the ACCC, its Chairman Rod Sims says that electricity prices in Australia are too high.

He noted that increased market concentration, caused by collapsing Queensland's three state-owned generators into two, has pushed up electricity prices.

The Federal Government has also tasked the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) to investigate the price impact of the "bidding behaviour" of Queensland's electricity generators.

AER Chairwoman Paula Conboy says high wholesale electricity prices will persist in Queensland while the two state-owned power generators continue to control two-thirds of Queensland's generation capacity.

When excessive network costs are added, the evidence supports CANEGROWERS' clear message to government that Queensland's electricity prices are too high! ■



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Financial assistance to support family farm succession

Supplied by QRIDA

When it comes to family succession, knowing how to go about it and where to start can be hard – now cane growers can access grants to help make the steps smoother.

Offered through the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA), Farm Management Grants provide a rebate of up to \$2,500 to offset the costs of professional advice on succession planning. Primary producers and their families can access up to this amount once per financial year until 30 June 2019.

"Receiving professional help from trusted experts can make all the difference in ensuring what can be a stressful time is as painless as possible," said QRIDA's chief executive officer, **Cameron MacMillan**.

"By making it more affordable for producers and their relatives to access this advice, these grants are removing yet another obstacle in what can be an expensive process."

The grants are the latest in a series of recent Queensland Government policy initiatives that have made developing and implementing your family's farming

succession plans easier and more affordable.

Since 1 July 2016, family farm transfers have been exempt from stamp duty, with more than 590 transactions benefitting from this concession so far worth over \$22 million.

The Queensland Government's First Start Loans, offered through QRIDA, were also boosted to provide emerging primary producers with up to \$2 million.

The loans are designed to nurture the next generation by supporting the purchase and development of farming operations. In the 2016-17 financial year, 112 First Start Loans worth more than \$65 million were approved.

Mr MacMillan says that the loans present untapped potential for family succession in the sugar industry.

"Young cane growers in particular have shown great initiative in using these

loans to start their own operations, often starting with smaller blocks of land while maintaining off-farm employment and expanding as they build equity," he said.

"But many may not realise that these loans can also be used to buy into – or purchase outright – the family business."

Repayment terms of up to 20 years can be accessed, with interest rates as low as 3.02% and joint-lending with commercial banks available.

For more information on First Start Loans, Farm Management Grants and how both can help with farm succession, contact a your local QRIDA Regional Area Manager at www.qrida.qld.gov.au or freecall 1800 623 946.

Alternatively contact CANEGROWERS legal adviser on freecall 1800 177 159. ■

Pictured: Three generations of the Zunker family, son Greig, grandfather Graham and grandson Tom Zunker.

TRANSFER OF FAMILY FARM MADE EASIER FOR IRRIGATORS

The State Government has recently made changes to the concessions and exemptions from government transfer duty for inter-family transfer of family farms.

Water assets, including water licenses and allocations, will now be entitled to the same transfer duty exemption and conditions as apply to the farm.

This change will be a significant benefit to irrigators who are wanting to transfer the family farm within the family.

Water assets can be very valuable and the transfer duty on these assets can be substantial and an impediment to sensible succession planning and family farm transfer arrangements.

This change follows on from further changes made in July 2016 which extended the definition of family members entitled to receive the benefits of transfer duty exemption.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact CANEGROWERS legal adviser on freecall 1800 177 159.

Query over trust tax plan

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) is seeking more information from, and consultation with, Labor about plans to change the operation of trusts.

NFF Chief Executive **Tony Mahar** said, while an actual policy was yet to be announced by Labor, he was concerned by media reports, that if elected, Labor would make wide-ranging changes to taxation of trust structures.

"Family trusts play an important role in Australian agriculture," he said. "Any move to make changes to the way trusts are taxed or administered needs to be carefully considered."

Mr Mahar said trusts helped farmers manage the significant volatility a farm business faces year to year and helped with the complex task of farm succession by allowing assets to be owned across generations.

"Securing the next crop of farmers is vital to the continued success of our sector. Tools, such as trusts, that make the succession process smoother, must be preserved."

The NFF was seeking clarification from Labor on its tax reform plans.

"I urge Labor not to be short sighted when it comes tax reform and to carefully consider the holistic implications of change to policy settings," he said.

"Cross-industry consultation, on any touted reform, including with the farm sector is crucial.

"Australian agriculture contributes more than \$60 billion to the national economy each year –in on-farm production alone.

"Farmers require tax and regulatory mechanisms that facilitate their growth and future prosperity. Not hinders it." ■



Pictured: Burdekin growers (father and son), Gary and Daniel Spotswood

Advertisement

Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority

+ Help to put your succession plans in place

Farm Management Grants are now available to help Queensland's farming families with the costs of succession planning.

- **Rebate of up to 50 per cent of amount paid for professional advice**
- **Maximum rebate of up to \$2,500 per financial year**
- **Rebates are available for advice received after 23 March 2017**

For more information talk to one of our Regional Area Managers
Freecall 1800 623 946 or visit www.qrida.qld.gov.au

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PART 2

INVISIBLE ARMY

CONVENTIONAL TILLAGE SYSTEMS BOOST NEMATODE PEST NUMBERS IN QUEENSLAND CANE FIELDS

By Dr Graham Stirling, Biological Crop Protection

In the previous issue of *Australian Canegrower* we looked at soil microarthropods and the positive role they play in controlling pest nematodes in cane paddocks. This article provides more information on *Pasteuria*, a specialised parasite of several important nematode pests of sugarcane.

Bacteria in the genus *Pasteuria* are host-specific parasites of nematodes. Spores of the bacterium attach to the nematode as it moves through soil and after they germinate, the parasite proliferates through the body of the nematode and prevents it from reproducing.

Hundreds of nematode-attacking strains of *Pasteuria* are known and each of those strains is relatively specific to a particular host.

All important nematode pests are infected and because the bacterium 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.

PASTEURIA IN SUGARCANE SOILS

A recent survey of all sugar production areas in Australia showed that *Pasteuria* was present in more than half the fields sampled, with spores being seen on root-knot, root-lesion, stunt and spiral nematodes.

In most cases infestation levels were relatively low, with less than 5% of the nematodes having spores attached.

However, several fields had relatively high infestation levels and so further studies were undertaken in these fields.

EFFECTS OF PASTEURIA ON ROOT-KNOT NEMATODE

A pot experiment with soil collected from a field in Bundaberg where root-knot nematode was heavily-infested with *Pasteuria* showed that the parasite was having a major impact on nematode numbers.

Root-knot nematode was inoculated into *Pasteuria*-infested and *Pasteuria*-free soil and when nematode populations were checked 19 and 37 weeks later, 96 and 99% fewer nematodes were recovered from the naturally-infested field soil than from the soil that did not have *Pasteuria*.

This work was part of the SRA-funded project *Regenerating a soil food web capable of improving soil health and reducing losses from soil-borne pests and pathogens of sugarcane*.

In another experiment, sugarcane was grown in sand containing a range of spore concentrations and the effects of *Pasteuria* were assessed after 6, 13 and 20 months.

The results showed that the severity of root galling and the number of nematode eggs produced per plant decreased as the spore concentration increased.

At the highest spore concentration (50,000 spores/g soil), root-knot nematode populations were reduced by more than 80%.

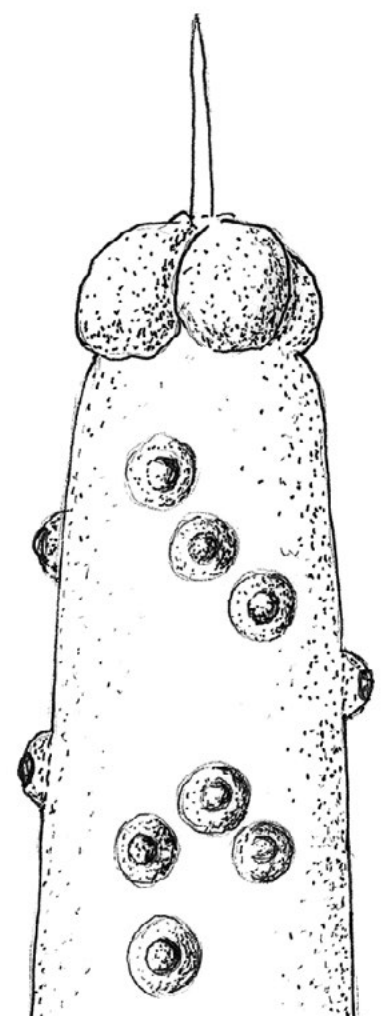
Thus, these results show that *Pasteuria* is a useful biocontrol agent, as it can markedly reduce populations of root-knot nematode in cane-growing soils.

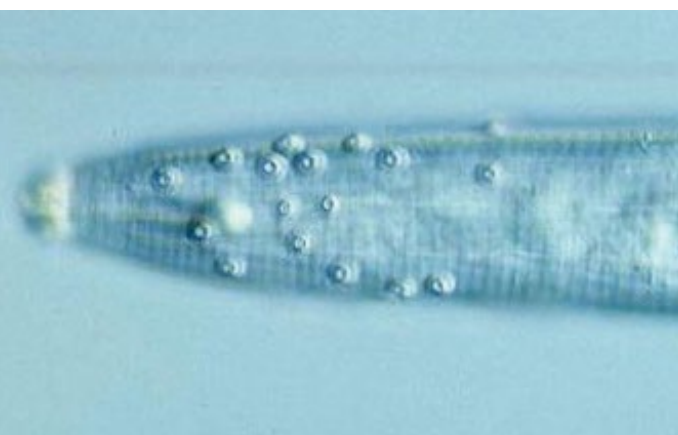
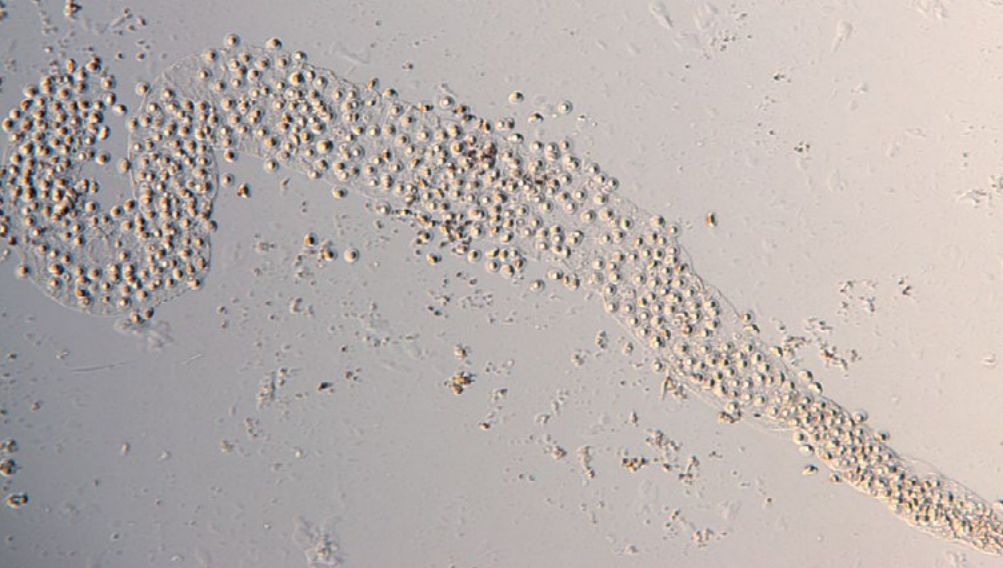
EFFECTS OF PASTEURIA ON ROOT-LESION NEMATODE

Root-lesion nematode is perhaps the most important nematode pest of sugarcane, because it occurs in almost all cane fields and is often found at high population densities.

Since the nematode has been present in most fields for at least 50 years, we would expect that a host-specific parasite such as *Pasteuria* would have increased to levels where it was having some impact on its nematode host.

However, survey work has shown that infestation levels are generally relatively low, raising the question - Why has the parasite not multiplied in cane-growing





soils to levels capable of providing some control of the nematode?

Survey results obtained in the past few months provide a clue to what may be happening.

Very high levels of *Pasteuria* were found in two fields (one in the Herbert and one on the Tablelands) that had been grass pastures before being converted to cane 18 and 22 years ago, respectively.

Root-lesion nematodes were inoculated into pasture and sugarcane soils from one of these sites.

When they were extracted 40 days later, approximately 50% of the added nematodes were either parasitised by *Pasteuria* or had spores attached.

This suggests that *Pasteuria* had increased to relatively high levels on the grazed pastures and was then carried over when these fields were planted to sugarcane.

Since grazed pastures are never tilled, the results also suggest that tillage practices commonly used in sugarcane are limiting the capacity of *Pasteuria* to increase to high levels and provide some control of root-lesion nematode.

WHY IS TILLAGE DETRIMENTAL TO PASTEURIA?

Pasteuria spores are produced within the body of parasitised nematodes and this means that spore concentrations are relatively high in microsites where the cadavers of the dead nematodes are decomposing.

Since these microsites are located in or near roots, or in root channels where old roots have decomposed, the spores are well-positioned to attach to and infect other nematodes as they attempt to establish feeding sites in roots.

However when the soil is tilled, as is usually done when sugarcane is replanted, the intimate interaction between host and parasite is disrupted.

Spores are dispersed through the soil profile and are no longer well positioned to adhere to a host nematode.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO INCREASE LEVELS OF PASTEURIA

Conventional tillage has disastrous effects on all the natural enemies of nematodes, but is particularly detrimental to *Pasteuria*.

When soil is disturbed by tillage, *Pasteuria* spores are displaced to

positions where they are less likely to encounter a host nematode and this limits the parasite's capacity to multiply to high levels.

Thus, the only way to maintain high concentrations of spores in the root zone is to adopt a controlled traffic/minimum till farming system.

Some cane growers adopted a minimum till farming system 10-15 years ago and initial evidence suggests that *Pasteuria* is more common on their farms than on farms where the soil is cultivated conventionally.

Based on what we currently know about *Pasteuria*, we would expect that if these best-practice farming systems are maintained for several crop cycles, the parasite will continue to multiply and eventually reach levels that will provide some control of both root-knot and root-lesion nematode. ■

Pictured: Sketch of Pasteuria spores attached to the anterior region of a plant-parasitic nematode; nematode killed by the parasite and its body filled with hundreds of Pasteuria spores; Female root-knot nematode; Pasteuria spores attached to root-lesion nematode.

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.

BIOSECURITY ZONES AND MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS



By Frank Fox, Biosecurity Queensland

"Far north Queensland remains a high-risk area for the introduction of pests and diseases from the Torres Strait."

In the July 3 issue of *Australian Canegrower* we explained how the new *Biosecurity Act 2014* regulates Prohibited and Restricted Matter as well as carriers. Planting material and machinery are good examples of carriers of significance to the cane industry, as they pose a risk of transferring pests and diseases.

Biosecurity Queensland has worked with CANEGROWERS to prioritise the biosecurity matters of most significance to the cane industry and to implement workable management options to control these risks.

One way to do this is to establish biosecurity zones.

Tropical-based growers would already be familiar with the Far Northern Biosecurity Zones. The new legislation has introduced a number of new zones to manage these risks where they occur in Queensland plantings.

FAR NORTHERN BIOSECURITY ZONES

From a cane grower's perspective, far north Queensland remains a high-risk area for the introduction of pests and diseases from the Torres Strait.

For this reason, the new legislation supports the continuation of the two zones established in the northern half of Cape York Peninsula.

They effectively act as staged buffers to firstly detect and then manage any northern incursions.

SUGARCANE BIOSECURITY ZONES

Further south, the new legislation has expanded the coverage of movement restrictions by introducing a series of zones through to the NSW border.

Each zone has restrictions targeting certain pests and diseases of significance to the areas in question.

As part of their biosecurity obligation, growers are required to become familiar with these zones and the movement restrictions of cane pest carriers that apply to them.

The carriers include sugarcane planting material, as well as appliances and soil that have been in contact with sugarcane.

Growers are urged to consult with the Queensland Biosecurity Manual that sets out the detail of these movement restrictions and the circumstances whereby movements may be permitted.

OTHER BIOSECURITY ZONES OF RELEVANCE TO CANEGROWERS

Cane growers engaged in mixed cropping also need to be mindful of any zones and movement restrictions that might be impacting on these commodities. Some examples include bananas, mangoes and paw paws.

MORE INFORMATION

The new legislation requires growers to exercise their general biosecurity obligation. Individual Farm Biosecurity Plans support this process.

Growers are also strongly urged to become familiar with the Queensland Biosecurity Manual that includes guidance on all these biosecurity requirements.

For more information, call 13 25 23 or visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

QUEENSLAND SUGARCANE BIOSECURITY ZONES

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Coen to Townsville | • Rockhampton to Victoria Point |
| • Townsville to Abbott Point | • Victoria Point to NSW border |
| • Abbott Point to Rockhampton | • Woodford special zone |

Spotted anything unusual?

NOTHING WILL PROTECT YOUR CROP BETTER THAN A GOOD HARD LOOK

Growers have an important role in keeping watch for exotic pests, diseases and weeds that could devastate the Australian sugarcane industry.

Early detection and reporting is the key to protecting farms, industries and the communities that rely on them. Every moment lost harms our chance of successful eradication.

If you spot anything unusual in your crop please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. The call is free (except from mobiles).

Visit phau.com.au/industries/sugarcane for further information and a list of the top priority cane pests.



Look, be alert, call an expert

Breakfast matters

By the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance Nutrition Team

You've heard breakfast that is the most important meal of the day, but why is it so? What makes a good breakfast? And how do you make it happen?



Why is breakfast important?

Most of us don't eat during the night, so by the time morning comes we're running on empty. We need to refill our fuel tank to power through the day.

This is especially important for children who need nutritious food to grow and to learn at school. Eating breakfast is also important for weight control, as people who skip breakfast tend to be heavier.

There are no rules

There are no hard and fast rules for what you eat, or what time you eat it- just have something, sometime in the morning.

If you start work at the crack of dawn then a banana and a glass of milk might get you going before you sit down to a more substantial breakfast a bit later.

Some office workers take their breakfast to work. Some commuters even have a breakfast drink in the car - while it's not ideal, do whatever works for you.

What makes a good breakfast?

A good breakfast is something healthy you can confidently prepare and enjoy. For some it might be cereal with fruit, others like eggs and toast, or porridge. To get the most from your breakfast, follow a few healthy tips

- Choose wholegrain or high-fibre breakfast cereals (check the label, and look for products with the most Health Stars).
- Enjoy wholegrain bread/toast instead of white.
- Use oil, avocado and unsaturated margarine spread rather than butter.
- Use light (reduced fat) milk.
- Include fruit; fresh, canned, frozen or dried.
- Limit fatty, salty foods like bacon and sausages to small amounts sometimes, and balance them with healthy foods such as avocado, baby spinach, tomatoes, baked beans and mushrooms.

Shake it up

Breakfast drinks, shakes and smoothies are popular and convenient. Make shakes and smoothies with light milk, fruit and yoghurt rather than ice cream.

Try adding oats, LSA mix (linseeds, sunflower seeds and almonds), nut paste or chia seeds for extra goodness and fibre.

Protein powders aren't usually necessary and you can add a spoon of skim milk powder for the same effect for less cost

Breakfast trends

Health: We're looking for healthier products, including different grains and seeds such as quinoa, millet, barley, triticale, chia and pepitas.

Convenience is king: Breakfast drinks, bars and biscuits are popular. Look for healthier options with wholegrains and more fibre. Protein bars tend not to be good options.

Protein: Protein is the flavour of the month (so to speak) and anything high in protein is popular, including cereals, bars, drinks and eggs. Choose wisely and remember most people get enough protein in real foods like meat, fish, chicken, eggs and milk.

Cafe breakfasts: We love going out for breakfast, and we're even trying classic cafe dishes at home such as Bircher muesli, French toast, baked eggs and the Aussie favourite, smashed avo on toast.

Breakfast parfait: Layering fruit, yoghurt, seeds, grains and muesli in a glass is like eating dessert for breakfast.

Pimp your porridge: Porridge has come a long way in recent years. Mix it up with a variety of grains such as barley and quinoa, and get creative with toppings like yoghurt, fruits, nuts and seeds. ■

Breakfast stats

- More women (68%) than men (55%) eat breakfast every morning.
- One in five Australian adults eat breakfast on the go or at their desk, and this rises to 40% for full time workers.
- Australians are the third largest breakfast cereal consuming country in the world, after the UK.
- The Australian Bureau of statistics has found one in seven children are skipping breakfast.

Breakfast tips

- Lay the table and do some food preparation the night before, such as soaking Bircher muesli overnight (oats, grated apple and natural yoghurt).
- Get up 10 minutes earlier to reduce the rush.
- Get the kids to make their own breakfast.
- If you must eat breakfast on the go, get the right equipment such as a smoothie cup, insulated coffee mug, or food box with compartments.
- If all you can manage is a coffee, make it on light milk (skinny latte) and grab a banana as well

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Classifieds

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

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1998 Cameco Harvester CHW2500, Very good condition. POA. 0407 183 680 Mulgrave Area

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Rainfall Report

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Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm)	
	7 days to 9am	Year to date	January–July	
	17.07.17	24.07.17		
Mossman	0	0	1624	1761
Mareeba AP	2	0	595	724
Cairns	9	0	1317	1628
Mt Sophia	41	0	2473	2655
Babinda	0	0	1250	3402
Innisfail	40	0	2560	2849
Tully	27	0.2	1845	3303
Cardwell	4	0	1360	1686
Lucinda	38	0	1463	1705
Ingham	65	0.4	1171	1591
Abergowrie	19	0	787	1457
Townsville	0.2	0	639	882
Ayr DPI	0.2	0	769	727
Proserpine	0	0.2	1263	1049
Mirani	6	0	1101	1155
Mackay	15	0.2	1829	1209
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0	2433	1316
Bundaberg	9	0	456	652
Childers South	17	0.6	607	552
Maryborough	12	0.2	418	781
Tewantin	3	0	888	1217
Eumundi	3	1	753	1172
Nambour	4	0.4	673	1169
Woongoolba	20	3	699	906
Murwillumbah	5	21	1217	1103
Ballina	9	0	1379	1265
Woodburn	5	0	1349	968



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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.

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Trailco irrigator T450, no hose \$7,500; Southern Cross irrigator 200, \$7,500 inc gst 4 Tyne Ripper \$2,500 inc gst; Kabota Inter-row tractor with spray tank \$6,750. 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

Wanted

STL shares wanted. Genuine grower. Pay market price. Let's keep STL shares in the hands of non-miller growers. Ph 0419717006 or 0408 448 227

WTB Dual row whole stick planter with or without disc openers. Ph 0488 170 668

Wanted: Side dresser fertiliser trash box. Boom spray, minimum 800L, 10m boom. Ph.: 0419 788 376

CANE WANTED for 2017 and subsequent seasons. Tully area. Shawn Ph. 0418782815

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

Positions Vacant

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