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10 September 2018

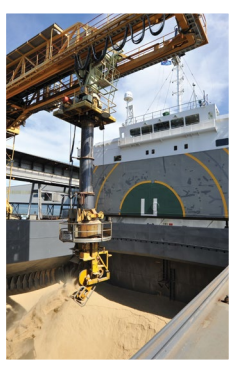
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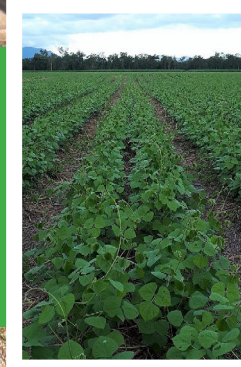
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purchase
process



Sugar tariff
cut in new
Indonesian
trade deal



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COVER IMAGE: Hervey Bay cane grower Ashley Petersen is one of many growers who participate in soil health trials.

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We need to get on with it

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

A week can be a long time in politics and a month can be an eternity! This phrase has been repeated often recently as we observe the ever-changing landscape that is Australia's federal politics.

For most of my lifetime, government leadership in Australia has tended to be stable and dependable. That is certainly not what we've experienced in the past 10 years.

Most Australians, including the nation's 4500 cane growers, would be shaking their heads in disbelief at the revolving door that Australia's Prime Ministership has become.

Uncertainty is the enemy of investment, and for the sugar industry, like every other industry and economic sector, this instability of leadership and government is unhelpful.

Our industry has a strong focus on trade, the environment, farm costs and regulatory arrangements.

Hence, it has been commonplace over the years for CANEGROWERS to have access to the Prime Minister, as well as the ministers for Agriculture, Trade, and Environment.

With the latest leadership change in Canberra, many of those areas of ministerial responsibilities have new faces.

We are pleased that **David Littleproud**, at least, retains the important agriculture portfolio.

While a change of personnel in key leadership roles can be a positive opportunity to bring in fresh ideas and reenergise these roles, there is also a cost, with advocacy momentum built up on industry causes lost.

One positive outcome from the latest ministry reshuffle is the appointment of a standalone Minister for Energy. The cost of electricity is crippling everyday Australians, not to mention doing untold damage to many Australian industries, including the sugar industry.

What now?

Ultimately the caravan moves on. We have a new Prime Minister, **Scott Morrison**, and new ministers for Trade (**Simon Birmingham**), Environment (**Melissa Price**) and Energy (**Angus Taylor**) to engage with.

Our industry is not without serious problems that require immediate government attention. First and foremost of these being our major problem with low world sugar prices.

Current prices of just 10-12c/lb US are delivering returns below the cost of production. In the main, the low price is caused by export subsidies in India and Pakistan.

Recently 23 countries, including Australia, met in Geneva to plot a strategy to end export subsidies that are destroying the world sugar price. This strategy is all about taking an application to the World Trade Organisation to end these subsidies.

It is time for the new Prime Minister and new Trade Minister to ramp up towards WTO applications against India and Pakistan.

Our industry, and the regional economies that depend on sugar, will be in a parlous economic plight unless these subsidies are reined in.

The recent leadership instability also ended for the time being the National Energy Guarantee (NEG).

The cost of electricity is destroying Australian agriculture, including the sugar industry. As farmers we are getting tired of the debate as to who is responsible – we want action to lower electricity prices.

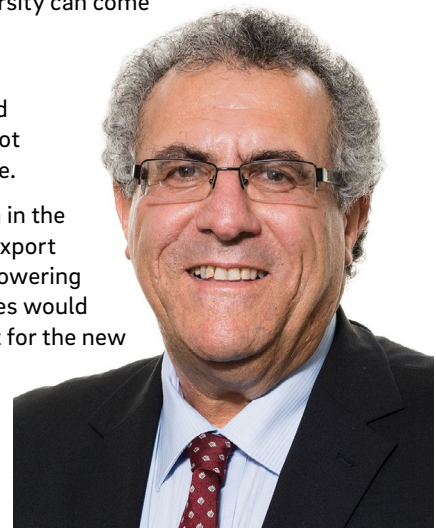
It would be timely for the new leadership to make the cost of electricity the highest priority for the Federal Government.

Hopefully as the dust settles in Canberra we can return to stable government. After all, out of adversity can come opportunity.

Our problems are difficult and complex, but not insurmountable.

Decisive action in the WTO against export subsidies and lowering electricity prices would be a good start for the new leadership. ■

"Our problems are difficult and complex, but not insurmountable. Decisive action in the WTO against export subsidies and lowering electricity prices would be a good start for the new leadership."



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Boost for grower mill purchase process

Douglas Shire Council has approved a payment of \$250,000 to help a sugarcane growers' company purchase the Mossman Mill.

The money will help Far Northern Milling Pty Ltd cover the costs of acquiring the mill and support plans to create a Daintree Bio Precinct to tap into renewable energy opportunities and create valuable by-products.

Mayor Julia Leu said the pending acquisition could be a historic moment for the region.

"If tourism is the backbone of our economy, then the Mossman Mill is the heartbeat," she said. "Douglas Shire has hundreds of jobs, many small businesses and countless families who depend on a strong sugarcane growing sector.

"Here is an opportunity to save the industry our region was built on and invest in an economy-boosting project that sows new seeds for growth in Douglas Shire agriculture."

Council also submitted an application to the Regional Growth Fund on behalf of growers.

Mayor Leu said Council was serious about securing the sugarcane industry's future viability.

"We are firmly optimistic about this green transformation of the sugarcane industry," Mayor Leu said.

"Putting the mill back into cane growers' hands will give our young farmers certainty, restore investment confidence and push more dollars through the tills of small businesses in our shire."

Far Northern Milling plans to produce valuable by-products at a processing facility on the land adjacent to the Mossman mill.

Company Director **Rajinder Singh** said growers have already been introduced to credible international companies that produce high-value products through environmentally-friendly processes.

"Our initial focus will be green chemicals," he said. "We believe we have a strong prospect of attracting these companies to the Bio Precinct.

"Their processes and products are consistent with the environmental credentials of the Mossman and Daintree area." ■

"Putting the mill back into cane growers' hands will give our young farmers certainty, restore investment confidence and push more dollars through the tills of small businesses in our shire."



ENOUGH TALK: FARM GROUPS TELL GOVT TO ACT ON POWER PRICES

Farm groups including CANEGROWERS have called on the revamped Federal Government to implement all 56 recommendations of an Australian Competition & Consumer Commission report into electricity supply.

The ACCC estimates its plan released in June will reduce power costs for small-medium businesses by 24% and commercial & industrial customers could see costs decrease 26%.

Along with the National Farmers' Federation, Queensland Farmers' Federation, Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group and others, CANEGROWERS will be watching the new Energy Minister **Josh Frydenberg** closely.

A joint statement said:

"The cost of electricity used to be a source of competitive advantage for Australian industries, now our electricity costs are amongst the highest in the OECD.



"This is harming our international competitiveness and economy, providing poor outcomes for consumers, and disproportionately and negatively impacting vulnerable consumers and communities. These conditions are clearly unacceptable.

"All levels of government will be held accountable by the Group if ACCC recommendations are not implemented, and there is a failure to achieve the very conservative target of a 20% electricity price reduction within four years.

"There is no more room for political manoeuvring or passing the buck."

The full statement can be read here: <https://bit.ly/2NeXSoO> ■

Sugar tariff cut in new trade deal

Australia and Indonesia have signed a free trade agreement which improves access for Australian sugar into this growing market.

The agreement means that over 99% of Australian goods exported to Indonesia will enter duty free or, in the case of sugar, under significantly improved preferential arrangements.

"Improving the conditions for trade with our nearest neighbour is a great outcome for the Australian sugar industry," CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri said.

"The change in tariff from an effective 8% to 5% puts us on a par with our competitors in that market and provides the opportunity to increase our exports to Indonesia from their present level of 350,000 tonnes to more than one million tonnes."

The World Bank reports Indonesia's middle class is at least 52 million people whose consumption accounts for 43% of total household consumption.

"Indonesia is a growing market and one which we are perfectly situated to supply with quality sugar well into the future," Mr Schembri said.

"We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship."

The Prime Minister **Scott Morrison** went to Jakarta with National Farmers' Federation President **Fiona Simson** to finalise the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA). The deal took eight years to negotiate.

"The agreement creates new opportunities for Australian farmers and Indonesian processors to partner in exporting to the world."

Mr Morrison told the ABC the economic relationship between the countries was underdone and Australia wanted to be part of Indonesia's rapid growth.

"As an economy that continues to advance in all areas from technology to the rural sector and we want to be part of that," he said.

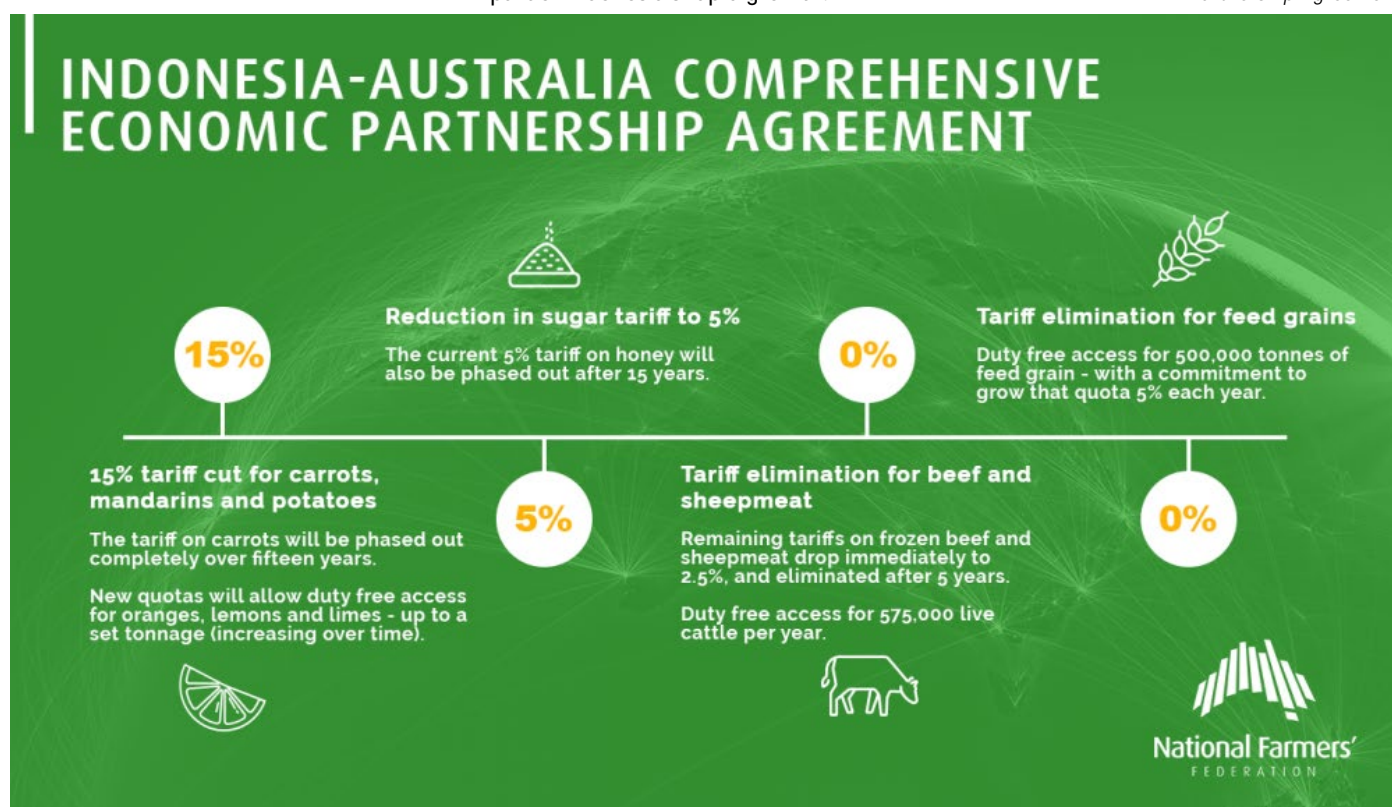
Ms Simson said the enhanced trading arrangements were welcome news for Australia's farmers, many of whom were struggling with drought.

"Expanded market access in existing markets and the establishment of new exports, ultimately means more money in the pockets of our farmers," she said.

"The agreement creates new opportunities for Australian farmers and Indonesian processors to partner in exporting to the world."

The Australia-Indonesia Business Council said the IA-CEPA will be a strong driver for enhancing the historically 'underdone' trade and investment relationship between the two countries. ■

Below: Major outcomes of the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement



CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

Mossman

Dry, cool conditions around the district have seen CCS levels steadily rise. The adjustment to the base CCS will be welcomed by growers.

While the dry conditions are ideal for harvesting, like most regions we would like to see some rain to give the plant cane a boost.

At time of writing we had not received crushing figures for Week 13, however, to-date 50.1% of the crop has been cut.

Week ending 25 August (Week 12):

Mossman Mill had processed a total of 420,815 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 12.79CCS

Cairns region

The weather remains good for all cane farming operations, but unfortunately very little has improved regarding milling performance for those growers who supply Mulgrave Mill.

The impacts of these delays will now be felt across the MSF region as more cane gets transferred back to South Johnstone Mill.

In Mulgrave the increased quotas in bin deliveries as a result of these transfers will mean some increased hours/days for contractors.

MSF is working with harvester operators to try and achieve some amicable outcomes.

A lot of delayed cane was again experienced in the Mulgrave area this last period, with the impacts on grower/grower equity being clearly identified.

Elected representatives continue to meet with MSF senior management and have received a written response from the CEO, who has recognised the significant negative impact these breakdowns are having on growers. He has committed to fixing the problems around reliability, while indicating he will remain much more involved in the running of Mulgrave Mill.

Tully

Conditions in Tully have been cool and dry, providing an excellent environment for harvesting. Three weeks of CCS in the high 14s has resulted in year-to-date CCS of 13.5 as we approach the 50% milestone for the harvest.

The 2009 season was the last time that Tully experienced CCS levels like these, however, unlike 2009 which was a low tonnage crop, 2018 yield estimates remain above average.

Forecasts are for a dryer than normal for spring and crushing is expected to continue until early December. With no significant rain recorded since the first week in July, and nothing forecast in the near future, the new planting will be looking for a drink soon.

The 2.4 mm of rain recorded at Tully Sugar for August this year is the lowest August recording since 1925 when recording started.

Tully Sugar recently conducted a marketing information session with Farmaco's Rob Imray. It was an excellent session and compliments the CANEGROWERS strategy to provide education and market information to its members.

The CANEGROWERS Tully AGM has been set for the 22 October, with Dan Galligan as the guest speaker.

Innisfail

Continuing fine weather has allowed the harvesting operations to continue smoothly. Milling operations have been smooth also, with only some small stoppages.

The average seasonal CCS has improved, with daily mill average CCS now settling into the high 13s, however it is still much lower than other northern mills. Unfortunately, processing at the mill has to slow down with higher CCS. It is a long-standing problem with the mill that it struggles to process high sugar syrup.

Planting operations continue across the district however ground moisture conditions are drying up quickly.

Burdekin

Burdekin's 2018 cane crush is over the hump, with 55% of the revised estimate crushed as of Week 12 (week ending 1 September). Season-to-date throughput for the Burdekin mills remains ahead of forecast and CCS continues to trend up, with the weekly average topping 15 units for the fourth consecutive week. For the first time this season, Inkerman Mill had the highest weekly CCS of all the Burdekin mills with 15.33. The Burdekin season to date average is now sitting at 14.52.

Just over 360,000 tonnes of cane were crushed across the Burdekin's four mills in Week 12, bringing the total crushed so far to 4,406,648 tonnes.

The highest CCS sample for Week 11 was 18 units for a rake of KQ228 first ratoon cane recorded at Invicta Mill. In Week 12 a rake of Q183 at 17.9 was also recorded at Invicta. The best performing variety in Week 12 on a regional basis ►

Plane Creek

Throughput for the week ending 1 September was 51,721, bringing the season to date total to 646,280 tonnes.

CCS average for the week was 15.32 units, with the season to date average at 14.11 units. Throughput was impacted significantly by unplanned stops on Wednesday and Thursday.

The first was caused by a broken intermediate carrier chain and the second was due to a failed bearing on the No. 1 mill gearbox.

The highest CCS recorded for the week was 17.70 units from a rake of Q208 5th ratoon from the Koumala productivity district.

Mackay

Mackay Sugar's three mills processed a total of 217,566 tonnes for the week ending 2 September.

Individually the mills crushed:

Farleigh Mill - 67,254 tonnes

Marian Mill - 89,334 tonnes

Racecourse Mill - 60,978 tonnes

This week's throughput brings the season to date total to 2,779,783 tonnes, with PRS for the week at 15.39. The year to date average PRS is 13.44.

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Proserpine

Throughput at Proserpine Mill was interrupted by an extended maintenance stop to carry out major repairs on the hot air ducting of No 3 boiler.

Despite the lost time, the mill still managed to crush 163,754 tonnes during the fortnight.

Average bin weights of 9.8 tonnes over the last week has contributed to the strong milling performance.

The mill is expected to pass the one million tonne milestone sometime during the coming week.

Average weekly CCS has continued to increase slightly over the last few weeks.

The season-to-date average CCS now sits at 14.41. Highest CCS sample was 17.67 from a rake of first ratoon Q183 from the Lethebrook productivity district.

The cool and dry conditions have assisted CCS, but are beginning to have an impact on the ratooning crop.

Bundaberg

Bundaberg Sugar mills processed 90,422.21 tonnes of cane during the week ending 1 September, with an average CCS of 15.35 units. This brings the total tonnes processed for the season to date to 840,991.73, equating to a little over 58% of this year's crop estimate, with a CCS average of 14.33 units.

The highest individual CCS for the week was 17.50 units for Q252 plant cane in Bingera. The base CCS for both mills will be increased again this week. Bingera base will increase by 0.20 to 14.40 and Millaquin will increase by 0.10 to 14.30.

The dry weather continues around the district and at current crush rates, the estimated finish date of 20 October looks to be on target.

Rocky Point

The Rocky Point crush continues well, with the exception of a two-day mill stoppage and some small cogen delays.

Total tonnes crushed to date, as at 2 September were 123,514 tonnes at an average CCS of 13.42CCS. The overall crush is now over 31% of an estimated 394,000 tonnes.

The district received between 25mm to 40mm of well-needed rain over the weekend of the 25 August, and more rain is expected this week.

While most districts are experiencing a prolonged dry spell, Mackay was one of the few regions lucky enough to get some meaningful rainfall recently. CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri found 60mm in the gauge at his Farleigh farm on 5 September. (See our rainfall report on page 26)



was Q252 with just 3% supply and 15.71 CCS, followed by Q183 at 17% and 15.54CCS, then Q240 at 41% and 15.26 CCS.

Wilmar will be conducting in-season mill tours this month with the first to be held at Pioneer on 5 September followed by Inkerman on 26 September.

A district wide growers meeting regarding the level and

payment of Burdekin Shire Council rates was conducted on 1 September. The district's four grower collectives have submitted a request to Councilors requesting the following:

- Extension of payment due date;
- Allowing repayment of 2018/2019 rates over remaining period of council's financial year;
- No interest applicable to extension/repayment program.

Continues page 8 ►

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Isis

The 2018 crushing season has now passed the midway point. Conditions in the field continue to be ideal for cane harvesting, however, it is the climatic conditions that has everyone talking. The prolonged dry spell and the recent cold conditions that triggered frosts across the region are now impacting the 2018 crop prospects.

The grower pre-season estimate of 1,315,000 tonnes has been steadily declining, with the current crop now forecast to be around 1,220,000 tonnes. Consultation with growers concerning individual estimates continues, however, most growers are confirming a decline of around 10%.

The declining crop estimate has also triggered a review of harvester rosters and group rotations, which will need some fine tuning to ensure the efficient and orderly harvest of the remaining crop. These changes will be communicated to impacted harvesting groups and growers in the coming weeks.

The season to date CCS had risen to 14.12 units at the end of Week 11. The highest individual CCS recording for the week was a very sweet 17.52 units on 3rd ratoon Q240, supplied by a Burnett River grower.

Spring cane planting preparations are underway, with many growers in the field this week laying clean cane plants into the freshly worked soil

Rain over the weekend of 25-26 August was very patchy with the weather station at the Isis Mill recording just 12mms during the 48-hour period. While the rainfall event was not substantial, we are hopeful that this is a precursor to a change in the dry weather pattern of the past few months. ■



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Our balanced investment options also ranked in the top quartile and above the median on a rolling 10 year period¹, with our MySuper (Balanced) Investment Option returning on average **7.01% p.a.*** for the last 10 years to 30 June 2018, and our Pension Balanced Investment Option returning on average **7.78% p.a.*** for the same period.

If you or your employees would like more information on AustSafe Super's investment options, your local Regional Manager is available to meet you at your worksite.

Visit austsafe.com.au/regional-managers for more information. ■

Disclaimer:

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. *Return is the rate of investment earnings net of investment fees and taxes on earnings. This does not reflect administration fees deducted daily from member accounts, which are currently \$2.30 per week and 0.15% pa of the first \$500,000 of account balances. ¹SuperRatings Fund Crediting Rate Survey and SuperRatings Pension Fund Crediting Rate Survey – 30 June 2018. This editorial is general information only and does not take into account your individual objectives, financial situation or needs. You may also wish to seek the advice of a qualified financial planner. Please also read the relevant AustSafe Super Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) before making a decision in relation to the product available at austsafe.com.au. AustSafe Pty Ltd ABN 96 010 528 597, AFSL 314183 is the Trustee of AustSafe Super ABN 92 398 191 503





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EAR TO THE GROUND

SRA Board visits Innisfail and Cairns regions

The Sugar Research Australia (SRA) Board and Research Funding Panel (RFP) recently visited the Cairns and Innisfail regions ahead of the August Board meeting.



The SRA Board regularly meet with sugarcane growers and millers in regional areas and these visits are an opportunity for the industry to discuss their priorities for research, development and adoption from SRA, which is their industry-owned company.

The visit included a range of meetings with stakeholders to discuss their priorities for SRA, including with local CANEGROWERS organisations and productivity services organisations.

The visit was also a chance to see a range of SRA research projects underway, including a harvest best practice site north of Cairns, a Regional Variety Trial at Joe Marano's farm at Innisfail, and a water quality demonstration at Gordonvale.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the visit and met with the Board and RFP. ■



Pictured: (main) SRA Directors, Funding Panel and staff talking varieties with growers at Innisfail. (Right top) SRA Adoption Officer Gavin Rodman and Principal Researcher Belinda Billing discussing water quality research with the SRA Board, Funding Panel, and local growers at Gordonvale (Right bottom) SRA Adoption Officer Phil Patane talks harvest best practice north of Cairns.



Matt Kealley

CANEGROWERS Manager -
Environment & Sustainability

"As users of chemicals and herbicides, you must rely on the regulator who makes the decision whether a product is registered in Australia and how it can be used."

GLYPHOSATE

A MISUNDERSTOOD KILLER?

For a long time, herbicides have helped you to manage weeds and improve your cane production, meaning more money in your pocket because your cane, rather than weeds, takes up the nutrients in the soil.

One of these herbicides is glyphosate, also known as Roundup®. This knock-down weed killer, which is widely used on farms, at schools, by councils and in home gardens, is considered effective against many weeds and safe.

Or is it?

When we talk about herbicides, the language is often 'weed killers' which sound dangerous. By association the conclusion is often that the products must also be dangerous. After all, they kill weeds. So what are they doing to people?

That's the question now being asked about glyphosate in light of a recent verdict by a San Francisco jury which found that glyphosate, manufactured by global chemical company Monsanto, contributed to a former groundskeeper's cancer. The claimant was awarded US\$289 million in damages.

It's fair to say that herbicides do not have a clean rap sheet. However, environmental and human health concerns mean that herbicides are well researched.

This is where the glyphosate case gets interesting. The ruling in San Francisco is at odds with the overwhelming scientific consensus that includes over 800 studies showing that glyphosate-based weed control products are safe and do not cause cancer.

The scientific evidence covers more than 30 years of significant use around the world. The research includes reviews by government agencies and regulators from around the world, as well as many comprehensive independent regulatory safety assessments. Even the Australian regulator, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA), believes products containing glyphosate are safe to use as per label instructions.

So, what is the basis for the ruling? It appears that an assessment in 2015 by the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) said that glyphosate is 'probably carcinogenic to humans'.

This is the smoking gun. Glyphosate was placed in the Group 2A category which is applied when there is limited evidence of carcinogenicity in humans as well as enough evidence of carcinogenicity from animal testing. However, this doesn't mean that it will cause cancer.

As users of chemicals and herbicides, you must rely on the regulator who makes the decision whether a product is registered in Australia and how it can be used. The regulatory decisions are based on scientific data and independent assessment. Glyphosate is registered in Australia and deemed safe to use.

Where glyphosate's future in the US goes is anyone's guess, but you can be assured that this is not the end of the product, the litigation or the debate.

More cases will come forward, more questions on science will be raised, argument will be made about its benefits to agriculture and conspiracies will circle around Monsanto, GM and Roundup ready crops.

I just hope that glyphosate doesn't become a misunderstood killer.

- Background to the court story: www.courthousenews.com/423934-2/
- For a great video to explain the IARC findings and what 'probably causes cancer' means: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbBkB81ySxQ
- The APVMA's position on glyphosate: <https://apvma.gov.au/node/13891> ■

Lock in your QSL Loyalty Bonus today



Bryce Wenham
QSL Finance Manager
Supplier Relations

Although the 2018-Season harvest is still in full swing, the deadline for next season's marketing nomination process is already in view for some growers.

Growers supplying Wilmar and Tully Sugar only have until **31 October 2018** to choose the marketer of their Grower's Economic Interest in sugar (GEI Sugar) for the 2019 Season.

MSF Sugar growers have a little more time up their sleeve, with their 2019-Season Marketing Nominations closing on **31 December 2018**.

Wilmar, Tully Sugar and MSF Sugar growers who nominate QSL as their GEI Sugar Marketer for three (3) consecutive Seasons forward are also eligible for the **QSL Loyalty Bonus**.

This additional payment was worth an extra \$1.50/tonne of sugar in the 2017 Season and consists of a share of the returns from QSL's corporate activities via the Shared Services Rebate and a Supplementary Commitment Premium, with these results incorporated into eligible Growers' Shared Pool allocations for each applicable season.

The QSL Shared Services Rebate is the net revenue from QSL's corporate activities and includes the net return from QSL's holding of Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) G-class shares, which returned \$2.9 million for the 2017 Season (i.e. net dividend + franking credits).

The QSL Supplementary Commitment Premium reflects the marginal premiums secured by QSL for long-term contracts and any profits associated with those sales from supplying third-party origin sugar.

The value of this premium varies from season to season and cannot be determined until all of the sugar supplied for the season is sold.

It should be noted that Mackay Sugar, Isis Central Sugar Mill and Bundaberg Sugar growers automatically receive their share of these returns through their millers'

current Raw Sugar Supply Agreements (RSSAs) with QSL.

SECURING YOUR BONUS

It's still not too late to receive the QSL Loyalty Bonus for the 2018 Season. To be eligible, Wilmar, Tully Sugar and MSF Sugar growers already marketing with QSL for the current season just need to choose QSL for the 2019 and 2020 Seasons as well before the 2019-Season's GEI Sugar Marketer nomination deadlines outlined above.

Growers in Wilmar milling districts who have already nominated QSL as their marketer for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 Seasons are already receiving the bonus via their current Shared Pool allocation, while growers in the Tully and MSF Sugar milling districts will have the bonus paid via an adjustment to their Shared Pool allocation in the final Advances payment of the Season (for administrative reasons).

Those growers who are not currently marketing through QSL are eligible to receive the QSL Loyalty Bonus next season if they nominate QSL as their GEI Sugar Marketer for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Seasons, with the adjustment applicable for each of these seasons being paid in those seasons.

To choose QSL as your GEI Sugar Marketer, you must make the required nomination within your Cane Supply Agreement. Upon confirmation of your three-year marketing nomination, the Loyalty Bonus will be applied as part of your Shared Pool allocation for the applicable seasons.

Further information regarding the QSL Loyalty Bonus is featured in the QSL Loyalty Bonus Fact Sheet as well as section 2.8 of QSL's Shared Pool Pricing Pool Terms, both available at www.qsl.com.au.



TARGET PRICE POOL REMINDER

Growers who have unpriced 2018-Season tonnes in the QSL Target Price Pool will have these automatically rolled forward after 20 September 2018 and costs may apply.

While the previous July18-Oct18 roll cost was \$1.49/tonne, current estimates of the Oct18-Mar19 roll costs are over \$12/tonne. This is not a charge imposed by QSL, but the cost of transferring unfilled pricing exposure from the Oct18 contract to the Mar19 contract and the difference in values between the two. Any costs from this Oct18-Mar19 roll will be in addition to the existing \$1.49/tonne already incurred from the Jun18-Oct18 roll.

Growers can find an estimate of the Oct18-Mar19 roll cost on the bottom of the Indicative ICE 11 Prices table published in the QSL Market Snapshot each day and featured in our daily pricing email.

To avoid these additional rolling costs, growers must ensure that any remaining 2018-Season tonnage for this pool has been priced prior to 20 September 2018.

For more information about the QSL Target Price Pool, including key pricing deadlines, please refer to the Pricing Pool Terms available at www.qsl.com.au ■

Don't miss your chance to market with QSL in 2019

Marketing nomination deadlines for the 2019 Season are right around the corner.

Tully Sugar Growers – 31 October 2018

Wilmar Growers – 31 October 2018

MSF Sugar Growers – 31 December 2018

Mackay Sugar Growers – Register your interest now

* Bundaberg and Isis Growers are already contracted with QSL for the 2019 Season and do not need to take any action.



To learn more about your 2019 QSL pricing and payment options, contact your local QSL rep

Far North Queensland:

Daniel Messina 0429 660 238

Herbert River:

Jonathan Pavetto 0428 664 057

Herbert River & Burdekin:

Greg Watson 0411 230 800

Burdekin:

Rebecca Love 0429 054 330

Proserpine & Plane Creek:

Kathy Zanco 0437 645 342

Emma Sammon 0418 978 120

Central & Southern Districts:

Cathy Kelly 0409 285 074

QSL Direct Helpline:

1800 870 756

Growers should visit WWW.QSL.COM.AU to read the full Pricing Pool Terms for all QSL 2019-Season products.



Lock in your QSL Loyalty Bonus today

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USING ORGANIC AMENDMENTS TO IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH

DOES IT WORK?

Dr. Graham Stirling
Biological Crop Protection

Sugarcane soils are not as productive as they should be and one of the main reasons is that soil carbon levels have declined precipitously. Some growers are applying mill mud, compost and other amendments in an attempt to overcome the problem. This article provides results from their trials and considers whether amending soil with organic matter can play a role in improving soil health.

Although it is widely recognised that compaction, tillage, bare fallowing and burning harm the soil, few sugar growers realise that one of the main reasons they have soil health problems is that their soil carbon levels are low.

Soil carbon plays a pivotal role in determining the physical, chemical and biological health of a soil.

CARBON LEVELS IN CANE SOILS

Measurements of agricultural soils in many countries have shown that levels of soil organic matter have declined markedly in the past 150 years. Although sugarcane produces more biomass than most other agricultural crops, this decline is also evident in sugarcane soils.

Figure 1 (*right*) shows what happens whenever land under natural vegetation is converted to agriculture.

In this example, land in the Burdekin was cleared in the 1980s, planted to maize for seven years and then used for sugarcane.

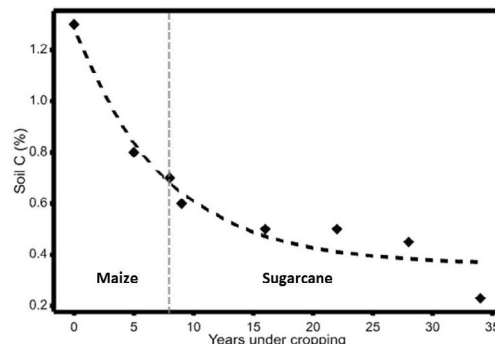
As is obvious from the graph, about 50% of the soil carbon was lost in the first five years. After 30 years, carbon levels had declined from 1.3% to about 0.4%.

Another way of showing that organic carbon levels in sugarcane soils are much lower than they should be is to compare them to soils under a grass pasture that has been left undisturbed for many years.

A paired-site comparison of this nature was done on a number of cane farms



Figure 1:



during the Sugar Yield Decline Joint Venture. The results (Table 1) showed that the organic carbon content of the cane soils was consistently 2-3 times lower than nearby soil under pasture.

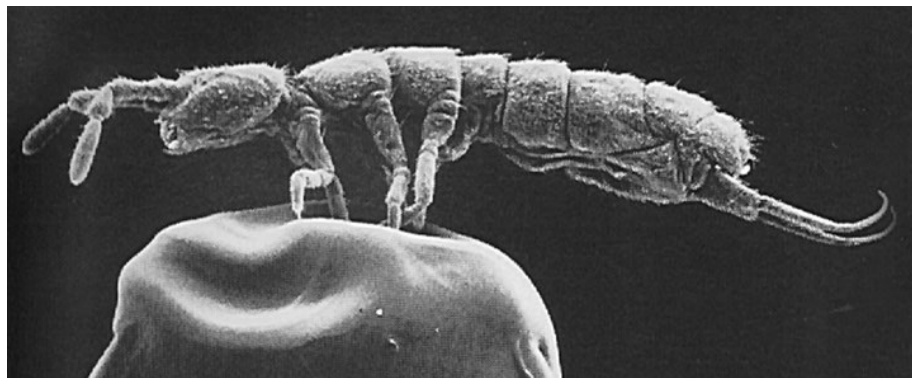


Table 1:

LOCATION	% C	
	Sugarcane	Grass
Tully	1.35	3.81
Murray Upper	0.99	3.50
Ingham	1.27	3.61
Home Hill	1.08	2.25
Proserpine	1.64	1.99
Bundaberg	1.29	2.60
Maryborough	1.11	3.01



Pictured: (above) practices such as burning, bare or weedy fallows and excessive tillage can result in poor soil health; (opposite): healthy soil hosts a range of beneficial microarthropods, such as predatory springtails which kill and consume destructive nematodes.

THE CAUSES OF POOR SOIL HEALTH

Many factors are responsible for poor soil health but the main contributing factors are:

- *Compaction from farm machinery, harvesters and haulouts*
- *Excessive tillage*
- *Bare fallowing or weedy fallows between crop cycles*
- *Burning or removal of crop residues*
- *Low soil carbon levels*

WHY IS SOIL CARBON IMPORTANT?

When growers receive their soil analysis report they are likely to check their pH and CEC readings and look at the results for N, P, K and a range of other elements. They will then use the information to decide on a fertiliser program.

Unfortunately, many growers will ignore the soil carbon reading, which from a soil health perspective is by far the most important measurable parameter in the report.

The reason it is important is that soil carbon and the organisms it sustains have positive effects on a huge range of soil properties. As soil carbon levels increase:

- Macroporosity and aggregate stability improve, thereby increasing rainfall infiltration, improving soil aeration and reducing soil losses due to erosion;
- The moisture-holding capacity of the soil increases;
- Soil pH becomes more stable and cation exchange capacity (CEC) improves;
- Nutrients are retained in an organic form and are constantly being mineralised for use by the crop

- Fewer nutrients and pesticides are lost to the environment;
- Soil biological diversity increases and natural enemies begin to suppress soil-borne pests and pathogens.

TRIALS WITH ORGANIC AMENDMENTS

One way of increasing soil organic matter levels and obtaining the above benefits is to add animal manures, crop residues, organic wastes and composts to the soil.

Some sugarcane growers were aware of research that had been done with organic amendments in other industries and decided to establish replicated trials on their farms to see whether it was worthwhile using them for sugarcane.

Detailed results from those trials can be found in the papers listed at the end of this article, but the key results are summarised here.

COMPOST V MUD/ASH

A trial on the property of **Alan Munro** at Harwood, NSW compared compost and mud/ash at rates up to 90 dry t/ha.

Continues page 16 ...



Pictured: (above) double-disc opener designed by Denis and John Werner to apply mill mud in a V-shaped furrow, and the improvement in root biomass and health that was obtained in the mill mud slot; (below) nematode-trapping fungi can be found in high carbon environments. These fungi produce a range of trapping devices to capture nematodes from which they obtain the nitrogen they require to grow.

Yield data collected from the two-year-old plant crop showed that both amendments improved sugarcane yield and that the response increased as the amendment rate increased.

Analyses of soil organic carbon 2 and 4 years after the amendments were applied indicated that both increased total carbon levels - Table 2 (below).

Some biological improvements (e.g. a reduction in numbers of root-lesion nematode and an increase in beneficial free-living nematodes) were also observed in some treatments.

LOW RATES OF COMPOST AND MILL MUD

Three growers (Paul Willis in the Burdekin, Tony Chapman in Bundaberg and Ashley Petersen at Hervey Bay) established trials in which mill mud or composts made from household waste or other organic materials were applied at 3-6 t dry matter/ha.

However, results proved to be disappointing from a biological perspective because the composts

had little impact on soil carbon levels, microbial activity or the composition of the biological community.

Mill mud only improved some of these parameters in one of the trials.

APPLICATION OF MILL MUD IN A V-FURROW

Denis and John Werner in Mackay designed a machine with double-disc openers that allowed them to slot mill mud into furrows on either side of the cane row.

Mill mud was applied for three successive years. Samples taken about 12 months after the final application showed that soil carbon levels in the zone where the mill mud was placed were almost double the levels in the untreated zone.

This resulted in a profusion of fine roots in the area where the amendment had been placed (*pictured above*).

Also, microbial activity and numbers of free-living nematodes increased markedly and numbers of plant-parasitic nematodes declined by about 67%.

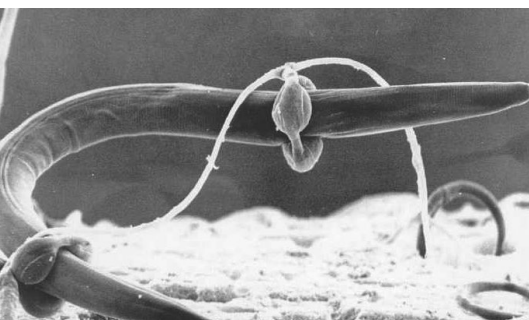


Table 2:

Effect of organic amendments on organic carbon levels in a field trial at Harwood

Treatment	Total C (%)	
	After plant crop	After first ratoon
No amendment	2.09	2.04
Mud/ash	2.30	2.26
Compost	2.24	2.22

Table 3:

Effect of slotting compost into the subsoil on sugarcane root biomass and various root parameters 13 months after the amendment was applied to a field in Maryborough					
Amendment	Dry wt. roots (g)	Total root length (cm)	Total surface area (cm ²)	Total no. tips	Total no. forks
Nil	0.11	189	35	670	733
Slotted compost	0.69	2908	283	10,609	8,406

AMENDMENTS TO THE SUB-SOIL

Duplex soils with dense, sodic, poorly draining subsoils are relatively common in the sugar industry.

As these soils limit root growth and have low yield potential, there have been attempts to improve their productivity by adding organic matter to the subsoil.

A grower group led by the Cronau family in Maryborough established a field trial in 2011 and it showed that when the soil was deep-ripped and compost was slotted into the subsoil at depths of 30–40 cm, the ameliorant increased sugarcane yields in two of the following five years.

Given this result, two additional trials were established in 2015 on land farmed by MSF Sugar.

Although these trials are on-going, samples collected 6 and 13 months after mill mud or compost had been applied to the subsoil showed that both amendments improved root biomass and parameters such as root length, root surface area and the number of tips and forks.

Results showing the effect of compost in one of the trials are shown in Table 3 (above).

"When organic matter was added to surface soils at relatively high rates, soil carbon levels increased, roots became more functional and soil biological health improved."

CONCLUSIONS

Results from these trials showed that when organic matter was added to surface soils at relatively high rates, soil carbon levels increased, roots became more functional and soil biological health improved.

However, these benefits were not always seen when the amendments were added at rates likely to be economically feasible in the sugar industry.

Adding organic matter to the sub-soil also improved root health and produced some biological benefits in the slot where the amendments were placed.

However, we do not know whether sub-soil amendments will consistently improve yield. Until this is proven, growers should focus on using amendments to improve the health of surface soils.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Increasing soil carbon levels is a long-term process. However, the rate at which organic amendments can be applied is limited by economics, and so multiple applications over many years are likely to be required to achieve the desired results.

Consequently, growers need to develop efficient and effective ways of applying amendments on a regular basis.

The double-disc opener system designed by the Werners and used in their trial at Mackay is one option that is worthy of further investigation.

This machine provides a practical method of applying organic amendments to established cane but the fixed positioning of the double-disc openers is a limitation.

If that feature was altered so that furrows could be placed at varying distances from the stool, then an organic amendment could be applied after every crop was harvested and it would be

possible to apply composted or non-composted amendments to the whole width of the inter-row during one crop cycle.

Although organic amendments are likely to be useful in sugarcane, it is important that they are not viewed as the only solution to soil health problems.

Instead, they should be seen as one component of best-practice systems that also include minimum tillage; traffic control; trash blanketing; biomass-producing, deep-rooted or multi-species rotation crops; and perhaps inter-cropping.

When such practices are used collectively, soil carbon levels should increase and soil health will begin to improve. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION

Stirling GR, Young AJ, Aitken RL, Beattie RN, Munro A (2018) Effects of compost and mill mud/ash on soil carbon and the nematode community in a field trial on sugarcane at Harwood, New South Wales. Proceedings Australian Society of Sugarcane Technologists 40, 41–49.

Stirling GR (2018) The impact of mill mud and compost amendments on the biology of sugarcane soils. Proceedings Australian Society of Sugarcane Technologists 40, 50–61.

Stirling GR (2018) Deep placement of organic amendments in a dense sodic subsoils: effects on sugarcane root growth, soil carbon levels and soil biological properties. Proceedings Australian Society of Sugarcane Technologists 40, 62–70.

INCREASING YIELDS WITH LIQUID SEAWEED CONCENTRATE

By William Farnsworth, Farmsnorth Research, Innisfail

Liquid seaweed concentrates are used worldwide to improve agricultural productivity. They are particularly useful for improving root growth, plant health and plant tolerance to climate stresses such as drought. In Australia, new sugarcane field trial results have shown significantly improved yields, by as much as 20% across three cropping seasons, when the liquid SEASOL® Commercial Seaweed Concentrate is applied.

Earlier research uncovered that SEASOL® promotes vigorous root growth in Australian sugarcane billets (Figure 1).

Given the importance of healthy root growth for maximising crop yields, a three-year sugarcane Research & Development field trial study was undertaken.



Figure 1 - Increased root growth on sugarcane billets with liquid Seaweed treatment. Water Control (Left), Seasol® treated sugarcane (Right)

The aim of this study was to determine the potential benefits of regular applications of a liquid seaweed product to sugarcane in an Australian production setting.

Two field trials were established at different sites in far north Queensland at the beginning of the 2014/15 season. In total, six sugarcane R&D field trials were conducted over three years.

Each site had two large (3.5-7.5 ha), adjacent, irrigated blocks of commercially grown sugarcane. Each block had similar soil types and identical agronomic inputs.

In each trial, both blocks were irrigated/fertigated by sub-surface drip irrigation (SSDI). One block received ongoing, monthly injections of SEASOL® at 10 L/ha, with the other serving as an untreated control.

Each field trial site was assessed during the season for growth parameters such as shoot density, crop height and stick diameter.

Crop yield assessments were conducted at each site by comparing harvested mill tonnages from whole treatment block areas. Results were statistically analysed across three seasons.



The results of the trials across the three years and two commercial field locations found that regular SEASOL® applications:

Improved sugarcane plant growth:

- SEASOL® treated sugarcane was found to increase sugarcane shoot density, crop height and stick diameter during different growth stages and seasons (Figures 2 & 3).

Improved sugarcane yields:

- SEASOL® treated sugarcane yielded 20.3% more raw cane per hectare (t/ha) and 20.1% more raw sugar per hectare (t/ha) than the untreated control blocks (Table 1). Higher gross returns (based on 2015-17 sugar market prices) in crops at both sites, greatly exceeded the retail costs of SEASOL® applications.

The R&D field trial results support the use of the liquid SEASOL® Commercial Seaweed Concentrate as a regular management input for improving tropical sugarcane production and farm profitability in Australia.

Other potential benefits of having longer lasting ratoons and of improving fertiliser uptake (and reducing run-off) are also noted. ►



Figure 3 (above) – Field Trial 2, Emerald Creek, Queensland Jan 2016 Water Control (inset), Seasol® treated sugarcane (main).

Figure 2 (below) – Field Trial 1, Emerald Creek, Queensland. Dec 2017. Water Control (top), Seasol® treated sugarcane (bottom).



"SEASOL® treated sugarcane was found to increase sugarcane shoot density, crop height and stick diameter during different growth stages and seasons."

It is intended these trials should continue, until replanting of the trial crop is deemed to be necessary, according to commercial standards. ■

This research was recently published in Acta Hort 1205:785-788DOI: 10.17660/ActaHortic.2018.1205.98, Farnsworth, W. and Arioli, A. (2018) Assessment of the yield of sugarcane following treatment with liquid seaweed extract (SEASOL®).

Table 1:

Average Yield of Raw Cane and Sugar and % Increase due to Seasol®

	Average Yield from 6 Harvests (3 crops x 2 Sites)			
	Cane t/ha	Increase	Sugar t/ha	Increase
Seasol® 10 L/ha	137.7 a	+20.3%	19.4 a	+20.1%
Untreated Control	117.5 b		16.6 b	

* 1-way ANOVA; means with same letter are not significantly different (P=0.05)

Importance of lime in all crops highlighted at Childers

Supplied by Sibelco

The importance of regular applications of ag lime to keep pH levels in balance and add calcium to the soil has been highlighted by BGA AgriServices agronomist **Hanco Naude**.

Mr Naude, who operates throughout the Childers region, said that while the mainstay of the area is sugarcane, many farmers are also growing crops such as peanuts and vegetables in the rotation.

"Peanuts seem to be very exciting to a lot of people, being that you have a bit more control and obviously there is the potential to make a dollar or two out of the rotation," he said.

"Traditionally there is not a lot of ag lime used in sugarcane but there is a definite need to add it in preparation for the rotational option."

The calcium needs of peanuts are particularly high, with the nuts developing from nutrients absorbed directly from the soil.

"The use of ag lime lifts the pH to a more desirable level for nutrient uptake and provides other benefits," Mr Naude said.

"A lot of these soils would have aluminium at the bottom, so they're too acidic. There is aluminium toxicity as well and most of these soils are inherently low in calcium levels."

The level of pH in the district can vary from farm to farm and even paddock to paddock and past applications of ag lime do have an impact, Mr Naude said.

"We don't make any recommendations without soil testing, but I did find there is quite a range (of pH levels).

"It depends on how the paddock was loved or not loved in the last 40-odd years and you can always pick that up in your soil sample."

Testing shows that the majority of soils in the district range from slightly acidic to neutral.

"Some of the paddocks can be a little bit acidic. Most of the time we are sitting on between 6.5 and 7 pH, but there is



obviously a few paddocks running at 5.5 or 5 pH. Anything between 6.5 and 7 is considered more neutral and is more beneficial to most crops."

Mr Naude said BGA AgriServices source their ag lime from Sibelco facilities in the local area because of the high quality of the end product.

The quality of the ag lime also helps determine how much is recommended in one application.

"You look at the quality of the product and neutralising value. You also look at your soil test results and see what the cation exchange, the clay percentage is and profit capacity. It is whole calculations which give you the end result."

While the majority of growers apply ag lime just prior to a crop like peanuts, the calcium contained also has residual value across the many years of cane that follow.

"Ag lime is slow reacting in the soil so you'll get your most benefit in the next season," Mr Naude said.

"We seem to get away with the peanut crop getting the benefit and the value and obviously the follow-on value is

in the cane nutrients. We can see now definitely there is some value in extra yield in paddocks after liming."

He said the majority of farmers turn the paddock around after harvesting the last ratoon and plough the ag lime in to incorporate.

"In the perfect world we want to incorporate it as deep as possible. I always recommend deep rip, followed by blade plough. We aim for about 300 mm of incorporation and that is also the depth we use for our ag lime calculation."

The amount of ag lime applied varies but it is not unusual to put on six tonnes per hectare to ensure the rotational crop and the following cane gets the full benefit.

"The chain is only as strong as the weakest link," Mr Naude said. "So if you sorted out 80% of the conditions which contribute to 80% of your yield, you're looking at the next things. This is just part of the chain." ■

Pictured: Agronomist Hanco Naude, of BGA AgriServices, Childers, QLD, said ag lime was important to lift pH and add calcium to the soil.



SIBELCO®



Sibelco Aglime was applied to the last cane crop before rotating into peanuts. There was a definite yield increase in the cane and the lime carried through to the next crop.

"The Sibelco Aglime seemed to work well. It was available for the next crop as well giving us a double benefit."

"Even without peanuts in the rotation I think there would be a definite benefit from using Aglime on the cane ground."

Jack Russo, Farnsfield, QLD.

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New nematicide shows **IMPROVED CANE YIELDS**

Supplied by Adama



Cane growers can now call upon a new weapon in their battle on nematodes. The new nematicide has already shown improved production when compared with existing standards in a series of trials.

Nimitz®, from Adama, introduces the active ingredient, fluensulfone, which provides rapid activity on nematodes. It can control root-knot nematode and/or root lesion nematode.

Nimitz is already a key tool for nematode control in capsicum, chilli, eggplant, tomato, cucumber, honeydew melon, pumpkin, rockmelon, squash, okra, watermelon and zucchini crops, as well as in sweet potato crops under permit. Nimitz is now registered for use in cane.

Adama Head of Portfolio **Dror Dagan** said that compared with other standard nematode treatments, the new mode of action in Nimitz, developed globally by the company, made it a "true nematicide", delivering irreversible activity immediately following application.

"Other standards aren't true nematicides because they inhibit, rather than kill, nematodes. With other treatments also disappearing from the market, Nimitz is a great option for growers," Mr Dagan said.

"With Nimitz, within one hour of contact, nematodes cease feeding and become paralysed. Within 24 to 48 hours, pest mortality occurs."

"With Nimitz, within one hour of contact, nematodes cease feeding and become paralysed. Within 24 to 48 hours, pest mortality occurs, rather than the temporary freezing of activity with other treatments."

He said with the ongoing cost pressures on cane operations, ensuring healthy soils was critical to help maximise potential yields and returns.

Another benefit for soil health with Nimitz, compared with alternatives, is that it is selective on beneficial nematodes and organisms, which play a key role in healthy soils.

Trials at Mackay, South Ballina, Oakenden and Burnett Heads showed up to 25% increased yield with Nimitz, compared with under 8% for a standard treatment.

Mr Dagan said the trials also highlighted the simpler handling practices of Nimitz.

"It is safe and easy to apply using existing methods and low rates minimise any impact to the environment," he said.

"It has a very short re-entry interval (REI) and requires minimal personal protective equipment."

Application options include broadcast or banded spray with mechanical incorporation, as well as simple injection via drip irrigation.

"For most growers, this means operations can be carried out without the need for

additional equipment or input from an external contractor," Mr Dagan said.

Adama also recommends rotating Nimitz with treatments featuring a different mode of action.

"It should be used as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to control nematodes. IPM programs using cultural practices, farm hygiene, monitoring or other detection methods, proper pest identification and rotation of products with different modes of action will help prevent economic pest damage."

Meanwhile, as part of a special offer with the introduction of Nimitz for cane crops, growers can take advantage of an opportunity for free soil testing.

Soil samples will be tested through an independent laboratory and growers receive a full nematode analyses and report on the particular nematodes of concern and recommended management.

Growers interested in the free soil testing should contact their local Adama sales agent.

For further info about Nimitz, growers, advisers and agronomists can contact their local Adama representative. ■

Pictured: Treatment T3 is Nimitz® at the rate of 1.0L/ha while treatment T7 is the untreated control. Photos are taken from a demo trial in sugarcane from Brazil, 2017.



Is your
cane
stalling?

Nimitz® Revolutionary Nematode control.

Nimitz® is a breakthrough in true nematicidal control.

- Unique Mode of Action makes Nimitz® a key tool in plant-parasitic nematode management in Sugarcane
- Up to 25% yield increment in Sugarcane
- Nimitz® is safe and easy to apply with low use rates and without specialised equipment or licenced contract applicators, with minimal impact on non-target and beneficial species
- Nimitz® is also registered in: Capsicum, Chilli, Carrot, Cucumber, Eggplant, Honeydew Melon, Okra, Potato, Pumpkin, Rockmelon, Squash, Sweet Potato, Tomato, Watermelon and Zucchini.



To find out more
about Nimitz®
use your QR
reader here or
contact your local
Agronomist.

ADAMA
Simply. Grow. Together.



Bio Dunder® gives you more

After many decades of agricultural production involving continuous cropping, cultivation and burning, soil carbon levels in many sugarcane farming areas have dramatically declined.

While there is unfortunately no easy way to remediate the soil, Wilmar's Bio Dunder® liquid fertilisers can assist with putting

back some of the important nutrients taken out by the last crop.

In addition to supplying the nutrition to grow a healthy crop, Bio Dunder® products recycle key nutrients and elements back into the soil – including calcium, magnesium, trace elements and organic carbon – that would have otherwise been lost.

To maximise your fertiliser effectiveness and boost your soil with more than just nutrition, consider Bio Dunder® for your crop.



Organic carbon

Over the course of a year, an average of 15 tonnes (to the hectare) of dry cane trash breaks down to form around 2.5 tonnes of organic matter*. Around 1,450 kg of this is organic carbon.

At a typical Bio Dunder® application rate of 3.4 m³/ha you will get over 300 kg/ha of organic carbon that will provide a benefit to your soil.

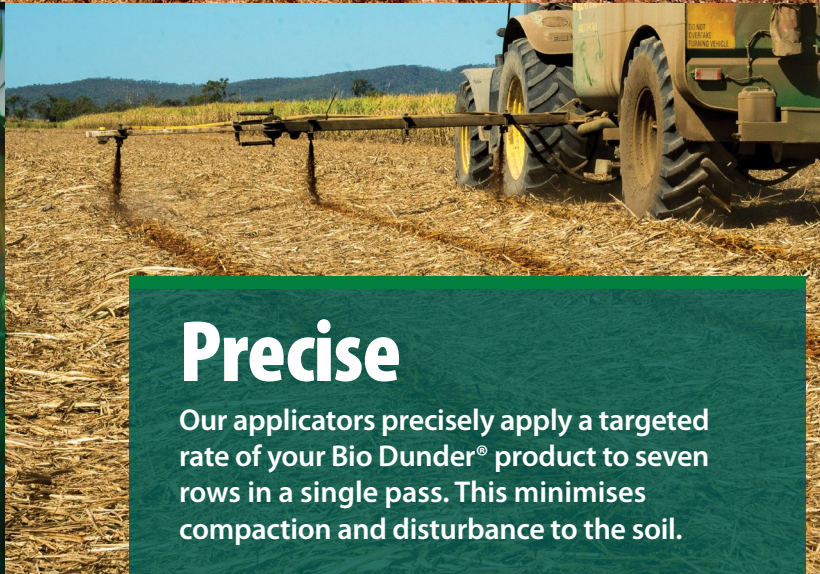
*Calcino, D. 1994. Australian Sugarcane Nutrition Manual

Why use Bio Dunder® liquid fertilisers?



Sustainable

Soil nutrients, trace elements and organic carbon that would have otherwise been lost are recycled back into the soil.



Precise

Our applicators precisely apply a targeted rate of your Bio Dunder® product to seven rows in a single pass. This minimises compaction and disturbance to the soil.

Supports the local sugarcane industry

The molasses used in the production of Bio Dunder® is sourced directly from Queensland sugar mills.



For more information on how Bio Dunder® can work for you, contact your local Wilmar AgServices agronomist.



Damian Baxter M 0417 161 805
Wilmar AgServices P 1800 881 957

wilmar

Bean planter the way forward on cane farm



"In days gone by cane farmers would just throw the fertiliser out and grow cane year after year. We were doing the same thing again and again, and we took all the goodness out of the soil. We need to nurture it now by building up organic matter and soil organisms, and that'll also help the cane."

A bean planter is the next step for Ingham cane grower **Mark Zatta** whose farm has become a trial site for legume fallow crops.

Mark manages 440ha of cane land that has been in the family for 70 years.

"This land had grown cane back-to-back year-in year-out," he said. "Leaving bare fallow wasn't enough – after yield declines and soil tests consistently showing high aluminium and low pH levels we knew we needed to make changes including using a break crop to stop the crop cycle."

For the past three years, Mark has planted cowpeas and lablab between cane crops and enjoyed strong results.

"The first year I dabbled in legumes with a 5.5 ha paddock near the house and then we planted out a 14 ha paddock and a 34 ha block and it all looks good," Mark said. "The beans grew really well and the physical size of the next cane crop was impressive."

Now he is getting a bean planter manufactured with the help of funding received through the Australian Government's Reef Trust IV Repeated Tenders program, delivered by the Wet

Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership in the Wet Tropics region.

Mark's goal is to make it quicker and easier for cane growers to plant fallow crops.

"The problem with legumes has always been their application – it can be costly and time consuming with three extra passes for discing and planting," he said. "In our case that's also on abrasive soils which is hard on our machinery."

Mark trialled a stool splitter that a friend converted into a planter and was impressed with its efficiency.

His bean planter will combine a stool splitter and coulter and will only require one pass instead of three.

"This way we can spray the cane out and direct drill the beans into the mound with a cane trash cover to hold the moisture in," he said. "We won't be discing into bare dirt and drying the ground out."

He plans to plant two legume varieties between cane crops – one after the other

- to improve soil health and increase the soil's biomass material.

Mark said a soil masterclass and then a soil health course, run by the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership and Herbert Cane Productivity Services, had opened his eyes to changing land management practices.

He has also been slowly cutting back on fertiliser.

"In days gone by cane farmers would just throw the fertiliser out and grow cane year after year," he said. "We were doing the same thing again and again, and we took all the goodness out of the soil."

"We need to nurture it now by building up organic matter and soil organisms, and that'll also help the cane."

"It's a long road ... but the answer is good soil health." ■

Pictured: Ingham cane farmer Mark Zatta is getting a bean planter made with the help of Reef Trust IV Repeated Tenders funding.

FIRST 5 LINES FREE* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

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

Next deadline is **17 September 2018**.

* As a FREE service to CANEGROWERS members, *Australian Canegrower* will print suitable classified advertisements **UP TO 5 LINES FREE, FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY**. A charge of \$5.50 will apply for each extra line or part thereof. A charge will apply for advertising of non-cane growing activities. Advertisements must relate exclusively to cane farming activities, e.g. farm machinery etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only pre-paid ads will be accepted.

Mossman-Tully

GESSNER 2 ROW SIDE-DRESSER 1.5 Tonne, Confidor injection (both sides of each row), ground drive, canvas cover, Excellent condition Ph: 0414604974

John Deere 4430, A/C Cab, 7400hrs, 8 Speed Power Shift, Good Rubber, Booster Ram Lift, \$15,000 + GST. Unregistered Large Tip Trailer, \$1000 + GST ONO. Ph: 0416 727 775

Wanted to buy: Tractors and all types farm and earthmoving equipment. Any condition. Ph: 32015099

B275 tractor with loader Ph: 40652165

Mackay-Proserpine

Parts available for Howard AR & AH Rotary Hoes from \$50 to \$500. Ph 49595883 or 0407643441

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. Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler - VGC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay) Howard Crumble Roller, 4m long (bolts together at centre) brand new still in crate, fits rear tool bar of Howard CH2365DT Rotary hoe, \$4,422 GST inc. Ph. 0428236165

Earthmoving tyres brand new 14.00R25, \$550 each. Ph 0488300361

Howard AH90 rotary hoe fully reconditioned \$12650. Ph 0407643441 or 49595883

Perkins 306 motor, vg running condition with radiator, good irrigation motor, \$2200 incl GST. Fully reconditioned Isuzu 5 speed gearbox out of 3 tonne truck \$1320 incl GST. Ph: 0407176828

Bonel billet planters ,wide elevator models x2, \$7700 incl for both. Hodge 5 furrow reversable plough, new hyd hoses, good cond \$1650. Hodge Ratoon roller, new bearings, good cond \$1100. Phone 0407176828

Side Tipper (6 Tonne), good working order, rams reconditioned \$8250 inc GST. New 6 Tonne side Tipper chassis x2 with axles, hubs and hitches fitted, \$8250 for both. Phone 0407176828

Everflow 200FHL 6 stage turbine pump fully overhauled VGC \$6000 +GST; Amarillo right angle bore drive. VGC \$3000 + GST Ph: 0438 583 234

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Hodge heavy duty 28 plate offset disc, hydraulic gang shift \$21,000+GST; Inter 24 row combine \$2,200+GST All items very good working order. Ph: 0477 704 134

WHOLE STICK CANE PLANTER. No longer used - just taking up room in the Shed. \$600.00 incl GST. Ph: 0428 722 672

Wanted

6030 John Deere. will consider any condition .Also any 10, 20 or 30 series John Deere tractors. Also wanted to buy any old Don Mizzi steel signs Ph 0488541660

Scarifier work required on 20 acres cane (5foot 2inch row) in Fairymead area. Ph: 0477 311 434

Wanted STL Shares. Ph. 0419 717 006

Wanted: International 1066 trike row crop tractor or similar. Ph 0428283454

PDO pump to operate 4 inch water winch Ph: 0407638381 or 49540190



TAPER SPLINE LOCK

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

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

- ✓ Locks the spline, simulating an interference press fit.
- ✓ No waiting time is needed before use - tighten the lock and GO!
- ✓ Detailed fitting instructions provided.
- ✓ 13th year of proven service in the field.

*For further information contact the manufacturer

Glenella Engineering

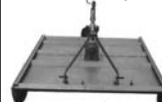
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JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

New Hydraulic Heavy Duty

OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,
All bath bearings
\$12,000 plus GST (\$13,200 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

Classifieds

Positions Vacant

Haul out operator for the remainder of the 2018 season. Tully area. Ph: 0418 181 646

Two Level 2 positions for farm hand/operators at MSF Sugar Silkwood farms. HR licence, forklift operator accreditation required. ACDC accreditation and GPS/computer skills desirable or willing to learn. Ph or email Alan 4065 2339 alancross@msfsugar.com.au

Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

Specialising in Used Cane Harvesting Equipment Sales

2 x BSM 6 tonne side tippers
Single axle units
23x1x26 tyres
one fitted with New Holland TS115A

CASE 7700 pump drive gearbox
Complete with eaton and vane pumps
2006 model

CUMMINS QSL 8.9L Eng.
325 HP @ 1900 RPM. 750 Hrs.

NEW ! BILLET PLANTER 2500
Rubber belt cane feed, Immediate
Delivery. In Mackay NOW.

VERSATILE TOFT Hi-Lift
7 tonne side tipping trailer
23x1x30 tyres single axle

TOFT 7 tonne Hi-Lift
7 tonne side tipping trailer
hydraulic remote hydraulics
23x1x30 tyres on single axle

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.

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

IN STOCK NOW — 12, 10, 8 & 6 blade
DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS
suit '05 Cameco to JD 570. Tungsten
hard faced on wear areas. New seal
plates, clamping bars & dowels with kit.

Graham Twyford
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Mobile: +61 (0) 418 742 696
graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au
www.gtmachinerysales.com.au

Property

GLEN ISLA Cane Farms - . Approx* 334.82 acres in 8 FH titles with fertile alluvial soils. 2 equip irrig bores, mains & hydrants, 190ML allocation. Queenslander style home. Motivated Vendors looking to retire. Ph. Gary Johns 0427 241 250

HOMEBUSH/OAKENDEN Cane Farm 100t/ha 5 year average 57 ha property. Fully laser levelled farm with a large bore & underground water mains throughout. Block has 2 deeds which can be sold separately. This years crop, Machinery shed with 3 phase power & water, tractor, irrigation winch, some implements and tail water pit pump all included. Siding on boundary, great

soil and no rocks. Ph. Andrew 0428597324

Cane farm PROSERPINE 199 hectares total 155 hectares under cane. 2018 crop 10500 ton approx. 495megs of water. 2x hardhoses and half of the farm is flood irrigated. Farm comes with machinery. 3 houses on the farm main house is fully airconed and has a large swimming pool. 0400794857

Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls phone 07 4777 4633 or 0408 608 664

Tropical Paradise Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property, 96 acres 6klms to PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable land, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. Easy farm to maintain. Call 0408 880 724 Mandy

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–September
	27.08.18	03.09.18		
Mossman	0	0	2117	1834
Mareeba AP	0	0	652	736
Cairns	0	0	1967	1689
Mt Sophia	0	0	3245	2800
Babinda	0	0	1667	3641
Innisfail	0.4	0	2892	3052
Tully	0	0	3178	3548
Cardwell	0	0	1604	1754
Lucinda	0	0	1454	1790
Ingham	Tce	Tce	1628	1671
Abergowrie	0	0	1684	1522
Townsville	0	0	753	908
Ayr DPI	27	0	601	752
Proserpine	0	0	816	1098
Mirani	6	0	623	1211
Mackay	0	0	663	1256
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0	773	1368
Bundaberg	16	0.2	462	722
Childers South	8	0.2	597	618
Maryborough	16	0.2	623	865
Tewantin	26	0	934	1334
Eumundi	4	0	976	1288
Nambour	16	0	830	1270
Woongoolba	30	0.6	705	1006
Murwillumbah	42	2	576	1196
Ballina	42	28	1065	1411
Woodburn	15	30	699	1088



**AustSafe
Super**



The industry super
fund for rural and
regional Australia

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

ACCREDITATION'S THE GOLD STANDARD

Let's show off the great work you're doing.

The destination's the same, but the journey's
different for everyone.

Contact your Smartcane BMP district facilitator to
discover what accreditation could look like for you.



Andrew with Burdekin district facilitator, Jasmine



Contact your district facilitator to find out more.

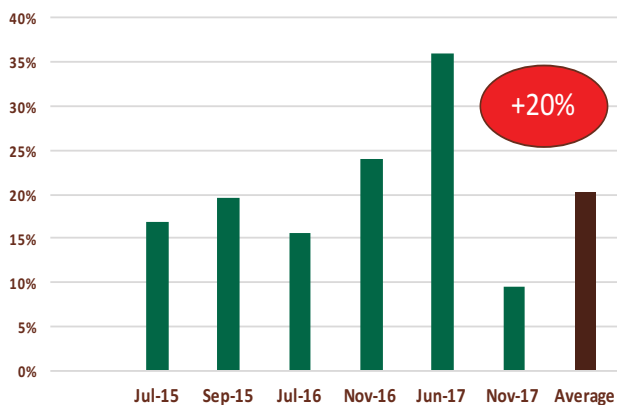


**SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN
OVER 3 YEARS**

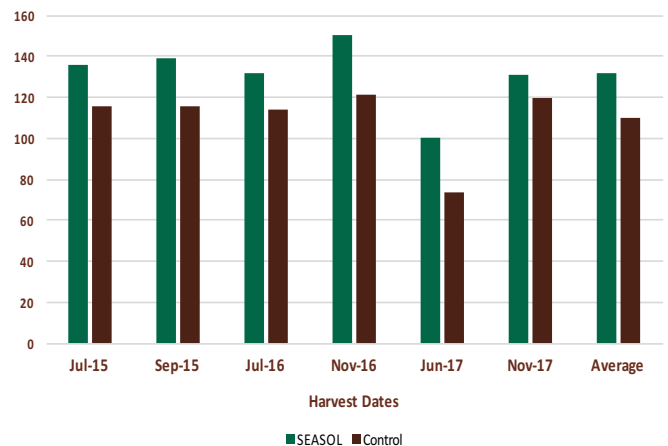
**FOR UNDER \$500 /HA
with NO REDUCTION IN CCS**

**20%
MORE
YIELD**

**Percentage Increase
Harvested Cane (Tonnes /Ha)**



Harvested Cane (Tonnes /Ha)



Jeremy Liddle

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& Southern Queensland

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