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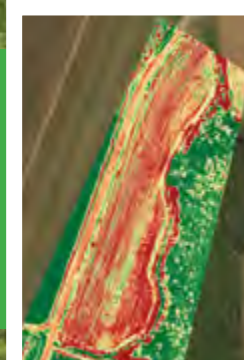
INDUSTRY COUNTS THE COST OF FLOODING
ACROSS NORTHERN DISTRICTS



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reduce soil
run-off in
Ingham
floods



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growers join
forces to
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COVER IMAGE: SRA's Ingham research station was just one of the many cane farms inundated when record rainfall caused flooding across north Queensland. Photo by Renée Liddle Photography

Editor: Wayne Griffin

Design, subscriptions and classifieds:
Jacqui Segond

Articles appearing in *Australian Canegrower* do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS

Published every second Monday by
CANEGROWERS

Level 6, 100 Edward Street, Brisbane,
Queensland Australia

ABN 94 089 992 969

Postal Address: GPO Box 1032, Brisbane,
Queensland 4001 Australia

Telephone: 07 3864 6444; Fax: 07 3864 6429

Email: info@CANEGROWERS.com.au

Website: www.CANEGROWERS.com.au

AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039

Volume 40 Number 06

Printed by Printcraft

23 Links Avenue, Eagle Farm QLD 4009

Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 25 issues (postage included)

Within Australia \$160 inc GST

Overseas (AUD) \$250

Weather dampens season prospects

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

Famous American author Mark Twain once wrote, "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it". There are many things in life we can't control – almost top of the list is the weather.

The north Queensland sugar industry has had lashings of rain which has flooded just over half of sugar cane area between Townsville and Cairns. Along with members' crops, roads, homes, farm machinery, and mill tramlines have felt the full force of the flooding.

The true picture of the economic loss is yet to be calculated, but certainly the damage bill for crops, property and infrastructure will run into the tens of millions of dollars.

Let's not forget the emotional damage to cane farmers as well. In any natural disaster, some growers will bear a greater burden of the damage than others. The crop in Queensland had been shaping up as a potentially good crop, but now our crop prospects will obviously be reviewed in light of the flooding.

Cane farmers are resilient people; it is part of our DNA. As a cane farmer in Ingham said to me on the phone, "Yes my farm is a mess – but I have seen worse".

CANEGROWERS has been working, at state and district level, with the Queensland Government to assess the extent of the damage and give consideration to appropriate assistance measures. More than anything else, let's hope that the flooded areas get the right sort of weather to allow the crop to recover.

Vegetation Management

The Queensland Government has introduced a Bill into the State Parliament to restrict landowners from clearing vegetation.

Make no mistake, this is a critical piece of legislation which, in its current form, will destroy a lot of potential economic development for the Queensland farm sector.

This Bill will put the State Government on a path of conflict with farmers – all at a time when we should be growing the agricultural sector.

The amount of vegetation cleared in 2015-16 was just 0.23% of Queensland's land area. That is less than one quarter of one percent.

And that figure doesn't factor in how much vegetation grew in the same period.

Provisions to clear for High-Value Agriculture and Irrigated High-Value Agriculture will no longer be available to the sugarcane industry. Growers will no longer be able to clear for that purpose and will instead have to go through an onerous bureaucratic process (see page 4 for more).

The Queensland Government is putting the industry in an unwinnable situation.

On one hand it is encouraging us to take advantage of growing food demand in Asia because by 2050 half of the world's demand for sugar will come from the region.

We have also been touted as the platform for the renewable energy frontier of ethanol, co-generation and biofutures. I have lost count of the number of times that its been said we could power the US Navy with biofuel!

On the other hand, the Government is tightening vegetation management laws. We cannot fulfil this aspiration of feeding the emerging Asian middle class and producing renewable biofuels if we can't clear a tree or clear out a drain. Whilst simplistic, it really does come down to this – unless we can increase our land under cane we will never fulfil our potential.

CANEGROWERS is united with AgForce and the Queensland Farmers Federation in opposing this legislation.

We must get the balance between growth of agriculture and environmental sustainability right.

This legislation must be changed – if we don't regional jobs and economic growth are thrown to the wind. ■



"The true picture of the economic loss is yet to be calculated, but certainly the damage bill for crops, property and infrastructure will run into the tens of millions of dollars."



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bill puts brakes on industry growth

The reintroduction of an imbalanced vegetation management bill into the State Parliament is, quite simply, bad policy that will cost Queensland's agricultural industries dearly.

The *Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill* is similar to one that failed in 2016. These will be the key impacts on the sugarcane industry:

- Restrict industry expansion by removing provisions that allow clearing for High-Value Agriculture (HVA) and Irrigated High-Value Agriculture (IHVA);
- Class anything that hasn't been cleared for 15 years as High Value Regrowth;
- Require growers to get a permit to manage and maintain waterways;
- Replace self-assessable clearing codes with the need to gain approval under an Accepted Development code.

CANEGROWERS and other ag groups are frustrated. Vegetation management has been a political football for years meaning no certainty for farmers needing to plan for the long term. Furthermore, when industry has been at the table prepared to find workable solutions, government and green groups have not showed up.

How does it work now and what would it mean?

Queensland's vegetation management framework consists of mapped vegetation areas that include regulated areas (Category A, B, C and R) and non-regulated clearing areas (Category X). As the name suggests, regulated areas cannot be freely cleared while non-regulated areas can.

It had also been possible to clear regulated areas by applying to clear for High-Value Agriculture (HVA) and Irrigated High-Value Agriculture (IHVA), provided the land met suitability and economic viability requirements.

In the proposed amendments, IHVA and HVA are removed, restricting farm development to Category X areas only.

"It will cost Queensland's agricultural industries dearly."

To make matters worse, an amendment to the definition of High Value Regrowth means that land that has not been cleared for 15 years will no longer be Category X but be Category C meaning it will be subject to regulation.

Other issues include the replacement of self-assessable clearing codes with codes which require landholders to notify the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and the addition of riverine protection permits for clearing within waterways. Both changes will make it harder and more expensive for growers to manage their land and waterways.

CANEGROWERS is sending a submission to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee outlining our industry's issues with the proposed Bill. ■

Time to register for WiS!

Registrations are now open for the annual Women in Sugar conference.

This year's event is in Bundaberg on Monday 30 April and Tuesday 1 May 2018.

The theme is **Past, Present and Future**.

All women involved in the sugar industry are invited to attend and to register online using this link <http://bit.ly/2GJ5EBR> The password is: **wisbundaberg**

Among the speakers on the first day are Trish Hielscher of Bundaberg Brewed Drinks and Cilla Slack of Blue Gum Farm TV which is an entertainment hub for children.

The gala dinner is at Rowers on the River.

The second day is a bus tour of the productive Bundaberg district with a company that specialises in food tours finishing with a lunch at a seafood restaurant.

Information on the conference, accommodation and transport can be found here <https://www.bundabergregion.org/women-in-sugar-conference-2018>



CANEGROWERS is among the proud sponsors of the conference which are listed below. The event is also partly funded by the Community Grants Program, Bundaberg Regional Council and is supported by the Burnett Mary Regional Group & the Regional Landcare Facilitator through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. ■

Proud sponsors of the annual Women In Sugar Conference:



Mossman growers get on board with Cane Changer



Mossman cane growers got a chance to have their say on local industry issues at a recent shed meeting hosted by Project Cane Changer, a CANEGROWERS initiative dedicated to setting the record straight about Queensland's cane industry.

More than 30 growers from around the region attended the event which was run in partnership with representatives from ACFA, the NextGen program and the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP).

The discussion focused on the future of the Mossman Mill and potential implications any changes could have for growers. Growers were invited to share their views on the matter in a discussion led by CANEGROWERS Mossman manager, **Evelyn Matthews**.

"It is important that we hear from all growers and industry members across the district so that we can form a united approach," Evelyn said. "The industry has faced a number of challenges over the years, but we believe that by working together we can aim to build a brighter future for everyone in the community."

CANEGROWERS Mossman Chairman, **Drew Watson**, said the event was an important opportunity for growers to stay informed and have a say on what is happening around their district.

"It was great to see such a large turnout for this event, there are a number of topical issues around Mossman at the moment," he said. "We really appreciated everyone's willingness to get involved in the conversation."

Cane Changer representatives were also present on the night to answer any questions growers had about project and

how to get involved. The project seeks to showcase the positive work that is happening on farms across Queensland.

To find out more or share your story about what is happening in your district locally head to canechanger.com ■



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CANE COUNTRY COPS A SOAKING

INDUSTRY COUNTS THE COST OF FLOODING ACROSS NORTHERN DISTRICTS

Two weeks after damaging floodwaters inundated over half of the cane farm area between Townsville and Cairns, industry and government officials are working to count the cost to this year's crop.

In the Herbert River region around Ingham, approximately 80% of the district's 67,000 hectares of cane area was flooded, with fast flowing currents causing significant damage on some farms.

"It's a real mixed bag, some growers came through with only very minor damage, while others have been impacted quite badly," CANEGROWERS Herbert River Chairman **Michael Pisano** said.

"We've had a lot of infrastructure damage to roads and drains and things like that, a lot of problems with erosion, and the mill has had some damage to it's rail network as well."

"We've had a lot of infrastructure damage to roads and drains and things like that, a lot of problems with erosion, and the mill has had some damage to it's rail network as well.

"At this stage we're hopeful we'll qualify for Category C assistance. We've had more than 15% of growers, which is more than 100 people, who have been seriously impacted."

In the Tully district, 18,000 hectares of cane was inundated, with preliminary estimates putting the total cane lost at 500ha.

In the Cairns region around 20% of caneland was flooded, local grower representatives have reported.

Three days after the floodwater peaked, water was still sitting in 20% of cane paddocks in the Tully region and 10% of those in the Babinda/Mulgrave region.

"It took a long time for the water to recede so farmers could get in to assess the damage, particularly the erosion," CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Chairman **Stephen Calcagno** said.

"But we've had a bit of rain since the water has dropped and that has helped wash the silt off the leaves, which has been good."

CANEGROWERS is contributing to the Queensland Government assessment of the agricultural impact of the flooding and members are urged to make sure the picture is accurate by contributing their data. ■

Pictured: (above) Floodwater carries debris into the Fitzgerald tram bridge at Daradgee - Innisfail.





Herbert River



Aloomba - Cairns Region



Herbert River



Innisfail



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Herbert River



Herbert River

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According to a recent workplace report, the Australian gender pay gap currently sits at 15.3%¹. This results in women not only earning less over their lifetime, but accruing less super.

Organisational pay reviews and paid parental leave are some of the steps businesses are taking to drive change and address the gender super gap. But what can women do on an individual level?

Here are a few steps to consider:

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2. Make additional contributions

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Next month, we'll explore additional tips in Part 2 of this series.

For more information, please visit austsafe.com.au

Disclaimer:

¹Workplace Gender Equality Agency pay gap statistics, February 2018.

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Warren Males

CANEGROWERS Head -
Economics

Sugar – we're making more and eating less

As an economist, I like numbers. So during the debate about a sugar tax, I've been collecting some numbers and they make for some interesting reading.....

In the 1980s six sugar refineries in Australia operated under the Commonwealth-State sugar agreement. With an embargo on imports, all of Australia's domestic needs were filled by these six refineries, which produced around 750kt (thousand tonnes) of refined sugar each year. While some of that was exported to Pacific Island nations, around 700kt was consumed at home.

Australia's population in 1985 was 15.76 million.

It's easy to do the sums. At the time, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) placed Australia's per capita sugar consumption at 44 kg per person. That's much lower than the 52 kg per person the ABS calculated as Australia's sugar consumption in 1973.

A lot has happened since then. At the end of the 1980s, the sugar agreement was not renewed and the embargo on imports was replaced with a tariff that was also then removed. These changes and others led to an increase in competition in the sugar refining sector.

New refineries were established near Grafton and Mackay. Many of the capital city refineries (Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth) closed.

The net result however was a slight increase in Australia's sugar refining capacity. At their peak, Australian refiners produced around 1.1 million tonnes of sugar. With the closure of the refinery in Singapore, Australia's white sugar exports increased to around 250kt with Singapore taking around 150kt of them.

Australia's geography and the cost of domestic freight means it is expensive to supply white sugar into Perth from east coast Australia. So while some white sugar makes its way west, the removal of the tariff also opened opportunities for distributors to source white sugar from refineries in south-east Asia.

Today, Australia imports some white sugar (around 150kt), it exports white sugar (around

200kt) and our refineries produce around 900kt of white sugar.

This means there is about 850kt of white sugar available for consumption in Australia.

Of course, sugar is also imported and exported in sugar-containing food and beverage products. There are a range of estimates for sugar in this trade. But most, suggest the net impact is no more than 50kt.

What does this all mean?

Australia's annual sugar consumption is now around 900kt for a population of around 24.86 million.

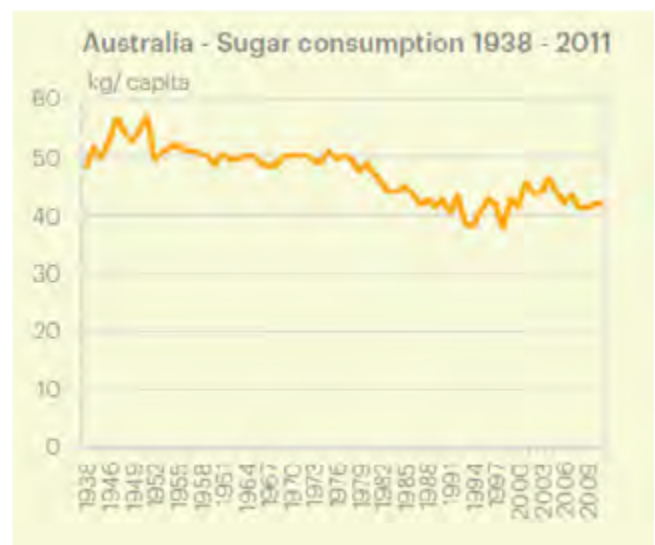
That means per capita sugar consumption is now around 36.2 kg per person and falling. And of course, this calculation does not take into account food wastage.

A portion of the food that's produced never makes it into someone's mouth - it's thrown out because of spoilage or passes its use by date. This wastage is significant. In a 2011 report prepared for the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the increased generation of food waste was described as a national and global problem.

All in all, it's an equation that reveals some inconvenient facts for those seeking to solely blame sugar for Australia's obesity problem and impose a sugar tax. ■

"Australia's sugar consumption is now around 36.2 kg/person and falling.

An inconvenient fact for those seeking to impose a sugar tax."



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SRA appoints new manager to drive

INDUSTRY ADOPTION STRATEGY

SRA has appointed experienced sugar industry professional, Ian McBean, as its Executive Manager, Regional Delivery.

Mr McBean has had an extensive career in the sugar industry in Australia and internationally and was most recently employed at Sunshine Sugar in NSW, where he was part of the Executive Team and held the role of General Manager.

SRA has worked with the Australian sugarcane industry to develop a new strategy for industry-led adoption activities.

As part of this process, the industry identified the need for SRA to appoint an Executive Manager, Regional Delivery, and Mr McBean will be the driving force behind the strategy in this newly-created role.

"Ian has extensive experience working with growers in Queensland and NSW, he has an in-depth understanding of the needs of the milling sector, and he has been instrumental in delivering extension and adoption outcomes throughout his career. This has been an area of focus in recent years in NSW," SRA CEO, Neil Fisher, said.

"He understands that the Australian sugarcane industry must be productive, profitable, and sustainable, and that a key component of this is ensuring that the research developed by SRA is adopted on-farm by growers.

"A large part of our industry operates adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef, and our industry is acutely aware that we must continue to make positive steps forward through research and adoption of best practices.

"The industry adoption strategy is a critical component of ensuring this future productivity, profitability, and sustainability."

In this role, Mr McBean will serve as the key conduit for regional coordinators and other stakeholders to engage with SRA.

He will also serve as executive officer for the industry adoption advisory group, oversee the development of regional annual

operational plans, manage relevant SRA staff, and facilitate cross-regional linkages.

The strategy for adoption in the sugar industry is underpinned by four key elements of well-functioning extension and adoption systems:

- Clear strategy which defines and sets targets for end-user change;
- Consistent processes which link regional priorities and activities on the ground with industry strategies;
- Resourcing models which enable the capacity to deliver and provide for the ongoing industry capability development; and
- Systems which enable attribution, accountability, and evaluation of success.

Mr McBean said he was looking forward to working with SRA staff, growers, millers, productivity service groups, the private sector, NRM groups, and State and Federal Governments to deliver the best outcomes for Australian sugarcane growers and millers.

"The transfer of technology to growers and millers is vital to the future success of our industry, and I am excited to be driving these outcomes forward through this new role at SRA," Mr McBean said. ■



Ian McBean,
Executive Manager, Regional Delivery

"A large part of our industry operates adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef, and our industry is acutely aware that we must continue to make positive steps forward through research and adoption of best practices. The industry adoption strategy is a critical component of ensuring this future productivity, profitability, and sustainability."




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By Bryce Wenham, QSL Finance Manager – Supplier Relations

QSL rolls out new Target Price Pool feature

Following grower feedback, QSL has introduced a new 'rolling' feature for our popular Target Price grower-managed pricing product from the 2018 Season.

As in the past, growers using QSL's Target Price Pool nominate a season-average target price for their pricing orders.

However, while Target Price growers previously had to achieve their targets by the Pricing Completion Date in mid-June each year or have them priced at the next market opportunity by QSL, these unfilled orders will now be automatically carried forward to the next contract through a process known as 'rolling'.

So what is rolling? The following provides a high-level overview of this concept and how QSL's Target Price Contract Pool works.

Growers are reminded that they should always read the full QSL Pricing Pool Terms before participating in any QSL pool and can find these on our website at www.qsl.com.au

THE 1:2:2:1 PRICING RATIO

QSL's Target Price Pool allows growers to set pricing targets based on a season-average price. This average is calculated using the four ICE 11 contracts available each season – July, October, March and May.

The ICE 11 contracts used for pricing must align with the periods in which the sugar will be shipped.

As a result, the October and March contracts have traditionally been used more heavily for pricing and sales than the July and May contracts, as this is when the bulk of Queensland's sugar production is available and our sales are made.

The season-average calculation approximates this likely shipping pattern by using a 1:2:2:1 ratio, with the season-average price calculated by using one portion against July, two portions against October, two portions against March and one portion against May.

So when you're nominating tonnes to the QSL Target Price Pool, QSL is actually

allocating this tonnage to be priced against each of the ICE 11 contracts in the 1:2:2:1 ratio described.

In practice, an order for 60 tonnes at \$500 will be filled by simultaneously pricing 10 tonnes against the July contract, 20 tonnes against the October contract, 20 tonnes against the March contract and the balance of 10 tonnes against the May contract when the average price of these contracts in the prescribed ratio of 1:2:2:1 is at \$500.

ROLLING PRICING

This is well and good while all four contracts are trading, but what happens as each contract expires?

During the season, if your Target Price orders are not filled by 20 June the portion of the order that would have been priced against July will now be rolled to the next ICE 11 contract, which will be the October contract.

This involves the QSL team closing out the portion of existing orders allocated to the July contract and establishing the equivalent portion in the next contract.

This is done by simultaneously selling futures against the July contract and buying futures contracts against the October contract.

This action is described as a 'roll' or 'rolling'. There is usually a difference in price between the contracts bought and sold, and so while QSL does not charge a fee for rolling these orders, any difference in cost in establishing the rolled tonnage on the new contract is passed on to the grower concerned.

As well as potentially incurring a cost for the grower, rolling the unpriced tonnage effectively changes the pricing ratio used to calculate the current season-average price, so that it is subsequently calculated using a 3:2:1 ratio across the remaining three contracts rather than the initial 1:2:2:1 ratio across all four contracts.

DISCLAIMER:

This document contains information of a general or summary nature. Before making pricing decisions you should read the Pricing Pool Terms, available on the QSL website at www.qsl.com.au. While all care is taken in the preparation of this document, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in this report is not guaranteed. It does not constitute financial product or investment advice, nor does it constitute a recommendation to invest in any of the pools described above or an offer or invitation with respect to any of the pools. 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 document.



Further details regarding the process of rolling are included in the Pricing Pool Terms for this product, which can be found at www.qsl.com.au

ROLLING AND ITS IMPACTS

Once we pass the June 20 deadline to achieve your Target Pricing orders for each season, QSL will automatically begin to roll any unfilled orders to the next contract and will continue to do so right through until the Pricing Completion Date of 19 April following the harvest in question (Note: MSF Growers' Pricing Completion Date for this pool is in 15 January, so they cannot roll beyond the March contract).

It is important to note that while this rolling process gives growers more time to achieve their pricing, it usually comes at a cost, as the costs associated with closing out one contract for the next continue to mount from one roll to the next if the orders remain unfilled.

For this reason, it is important that growers using the rolling feature have a market view that prices will improve at some stage during the remainder of the season.

If this is indeed the case, the ability to secure higher prices later in the season may make the cost of rolling worthwhile.

However, if this is not the case and the market falls as the season progresses, the grower will find they not only achieve a lower price but also wear the added cost of rolling.

DON'T SET AND FORGET

The QSL Target Price Contract Pool offers growers the ability to lock-in attractive pricing and achieve price certainty up to three seasons in advance.

However, as with any grower-managed pricing product, it is important that growers using this pricing product keep an eye on their orders.

Unfilled orders in the QSL Target Price Pool will automatically start rolling on 20 June of the relevant season, so if you do not want your orders to roll, you need to ensure they are filled before this date. ■



Weather impact and your QSL pool nominations

Growers in the state's north who may have experienced crop damage from recent rain and flooding are reminded that they can alter any of their existing nominations to QSL's 2018-Season managed pools – excluding the QSL Early-Start Actively Managed Pool – until **30 April 2018***.

Any unfilled grower-managed pricing orders for the 2018 Season made through the QSL Target Price Pool can also be cancelled prior to **30 April 2018***, while 2018-Season orders made through the QSL Individual Futures Contract Pool can be cancelled if no part of the order has been filled.

Earlier this year QSL moved its Pricing Declaration Date from the traditional February deadline to **30 April 2018***, giving growers pricing through QSL a further two months to finalise pricing decisions for the coming season.

Check your estimate

Growers completing their 2018-Season QSL pool nominations should revisit their 2018-Season tonnage and hectare figures

to ensure they reflect current production estimates. These estimates, together with the CCS estimate, are used by your miller to generate your Grower's Economic Interest in sugar (GEI Sugar) tonnes nomination used for pricing with QSL.

Please check with your local milling representative on the process required to ensure any changes to your estimated production are captured in their system. (Note: Wilmar growers can change their tonnage and hectare figures for the 2018 Season online within the Wilmar GrowerWeb.) Growers should also be aware that in order to amend their tonnage and/or hectare figures within their CSA, they may need to re-sign their CSA, depending on local milling arrangements.

QSL recommends that any adjustments to this information are made as soon as possible to ensure amended GEI Sugar estimated tonnages are processed and passed on to QSL well before the Pricing Declaration Date of **30 April***, when QSL pool nominations for the 2018 Season must be finalised.

** Please note that growers supplying Isis Central Sugar Mill, Bundaberg Sugar and Mackay Sugar should contact their miller for details of their local nomination deadlines for QSL pools.*

Farms sales and leasing arrangements

Are you a Wilmar grower pricing with QSL who is:

- buying or selling a farm?
- starting/changing/ending a lease arrangement?
- making changes to your farm's operating structure (i.e. subdivision, ABN changes)?

Then we need to hear from you so we can ensure we capture any necessary changes in your QSL Grower Pricing Agreement. Please contact your local QSL Grower Services Team representative or call the QSL Direct Helpline on **1800 870 756** as early in the process as possible.



FALLOW CROPS REDUCE

As crops re-emerged from paddocks that were lakes just a few weeks ago, Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited Manager and cane grower **Lawrence Di Bella** said farmers from around the district were reporting significantly less soil erosion in areas with ground cover on fallow fields.

Lawrence and his son **Hayden** are currently trialling mixed fallow crops as part of a Project Catalyst initiative.

Their small-plot trials include separate and mixed plots of 25 species, from soy beans, cow peas and pigeon peas to sunn hemp, sunflowers, canola, lablab, tillage radishes, tropical mustard, stylos and desmanthus.

The trials began in late 2016 and are producing promising results.

"We can see the positive effects of a mixed crop – in shading out weed species, in providing organic nutrients that go back into the soil and in reducing the rate of inorganic fertilisers," Lawrence said.

"We know fallow crops help with soil nutrients and weed pressure and we know monocultures create unhealthy soil conditions by building up soil pathogens.

"What we are exploring in this trial is whether greater diversity in the fallow period reduces the need for inorganic nutrient application, reduces fertiliser costs, helps with inorganic nutrient losses and creates a healthier soil profile."

Soil tests have revealed mixed plots have a low ratio of bad and a high ratio of good nematodes. Higher nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous counts have also been recorded when crops are mixed, bringing different benefits from each species and in some cases balancing out less favourable traits.

HCPSL's **Megan Zahmel**, who is working with the Di Bella family on the Project Catalyst trial, said the sunflower-sunn hemp plot was a good example of this.

"Sunflowers have a lot of good points – they pull up zinc and phosphorous that is down deep in the soil and they have produced good worm counts compared to other fallow crops," she said.

"But we've also seen that our sunflowers have increased root knot nematodes.

"When mixed with sunn hemp we see a decrease in bad nematodes and additional positive results like an increase in nitrogen and biomass levels."

Terrain NRM's Project Catalyst Coordinator **Michael Waring**, who is also a Herbert River grower, said fallow crops would always face more challenges than cane in periods of flooding.

"What we are learning from soil experts is that we need diversity in our fallows to gain the most from them," he said.

"Most Wet Tropics cane farmers who are planting fallow crops are growing legumes like cow peas or lablab, a type of running bean.

"In the Herbert River catchment during usual rain events, growers have had success with cow peas on raised beds, reducing root rot from waterlogged soils.





FLOOD RUN-OFF

"It's about trying new things, something a lot of farmers are continuing to do to improve soil health and, by doing so, improve water quality leaving their farms."

"The challenge is finding beneficial plants that will grow together and survive the rigors of the Wet Tropics.

"To date we have found that some mixed fallow crops have minimised the risk of crop failure because different species are dominant at different times and when climatic conditions change, like dry or wet periods.

"It's about trying new things, something a lot of farmers are continuing to do to improve soil health and, by doing so, improve water quality leaving their farms."

Lawrence said mixed fallow cropping now had a place in his family's farming practices.

"We implemented controlled traffic 14 years ago and we have seen numerous benefits," he said.

"Hayden and I want to continue to improve soil health and carbon levels on farm. We believe that mixed fallow cropping is the next step and is a relatively simple way of achieving some of our goals."

Project Catalyst is a partnership between innovative Queensland cane growers, The Coca Cola Foundation, WWF, Bayer CropScience, the Australian Government, Terrain NRM, Reef Catchments, Catchment Solutions, NQ Dry Tropics, Wilmar and Farmacist. ■

Pictured: (top) Lawrence Di Bella in a mixed fallow plot; (p.14) Ingham cane grower and Terrain NRM's Project Catalyst Coordinator Michael Waring planted tens of thousands of sunflowers on his property as a fallow crop, (below left) Hayden Di Bella inspecting the root-to-shoot ratio difference for a desmanthus plant; (below right) The fallow crop trial site on Di Bella's farm in the Ingham area.



BOAR WAR: GROWERS CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND'S FERAL PIGS

More than 1000 feral pigs have been culled in the Tully District in just seven months as part of a grower-led effort to reduce wide-spread damage to cane crops and halt the spread of the deadly Panama disease TR4 which is threatening Queensland's entire banana industry.

In August 2017, a group of 10 major stakeholders including CANEGROWERS Tully, the Australian Banana Growers Council, Tully Cane Productivity Services and local farmers, enlisted the help of experienced rural helicopter pilot **Peter Liddle** and licensed professional marksman **Trevor Williamson** to carry out an aerial shooting program.

At \$650 per hour, it's a costly exercise.

However, it is also the most rapid and effective means of addressing a problem that is putting one industry in jeopardy and costing another millions in lost income every year.

Sugarcane and banana grower **Leon Collins**, who leads the recently formed *Feral Pig Management Working Group*, said that while the project has been a huge success, the culled pigs are being

replaced by pigs from the surrounding national parks, where they are breeding in large numbers.

"The shooting program is working very well, we've definitely made a dent in the pig population," Leon said.

"In fact, we have cane growers in the area who have been running traps for years, who have told me that for the first time in years it looks like they're going to get a crop off blocks of land that are normally destroyed by pigs.

"But Tully is a bit unique in that it's surrounded on three sides by World Heritage areas and then the other side is coastal wetlands, which is national park as well, and what's happening is about every seven weeks we're getting a new infestation coming out of the national parks."

At the moment the culling program covers about a 30,000 hectare of cane and banana land in the top half of the Tully River valley, where Panama disease was discovered on a number of properties in recent years.





Leon would like to see the cull area expanded.

"Panama disease spores can be moved around by people, equipment and water, but pigs are definitely a vector for the disease because it stays alive in their digestive system, so they have the potential to spread it over a very large area," he said.

"If we really want to control them effectively, we need to target the region as a whole, including the national park areas. But for that we need more funding."

Paul Johnston, who farms bananas, sugarcane and cattle in the Tully Valley, has also spent countless hours, money and effort addressing feral pig management across his properties, trapping or shooting more than 370 of the pests in 2017 alone.

"We've always had pigs and we've always been trapping them, forever and a day, but this is the most we've ever got and we haven't even put a dint in them," he said.

Paul is part of the collective that continues to fund the co-ordinated aerial shooting operation and said it was the only way of winning the war against the menacing pest.

"Before that (the aerial shooting) we weren't even keeping up to them," he said.

"In a couple of weeks you can get 100 pigs from a chopper, you won't get that amount with traps. You'll get a couple here and there, but at the moment they are here in big numbers and we just can't keep up."

Paul runs up to 15 pig traps on his farm, which are checked each day and rebaited when needed. He estimates the cost of his on-farm trapping program and his investment in aerial pig management would exceed \$50,000 for the year.

However, he said there was very little alternative.

"Every morning I look around and you can see where they've been the night before," he said.

Leon, who is also a Director of the Australian Banana Growers Council, said more government, industry and grower funding was needed to maintain and expand the aerial culling initiative.

"From 2001 to 2006 we had the last feral pig management program running here. We took 6000 pigs out of the Tully Valley alone during that program. It worked very well and for three years after that, pigs were not a problem," he said.

"That program was funded by everyone - banana growers, cane growers, mills, council, State Government and Federal Government.

"Right now, it's about more than just TR4, it's about establishing a long-term management plan to address feral pig populations well into the future." ■

Courtesy of the Australian Banana Growers Council.

Pictured: (opposite page) Shooter Trevor Williamson and pilot Peter Liddle with Tully cane and banana grower Leon Collins. (Above) : Peter and Trevor on the hunt for pigs.

Using drone tech to target weeds and cut herbicide application rates

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle technology could soon change the way growers target weeds in sugarcane, saving farming businesses thousands of dollars, while also improving water quality outcomes.

A trial underway in the Innisfail District is examining the potential of UAVs to reduce herbicide inputs, cut on-farm costs and boost environmental outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef.

A collaboration between Queensland's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and CANEGROWERS Innisfail, the trial will use drones to identify weeds in sugarcane paddocks and conduct targeted herbicide applications.

DAF Extension Officer Marcus Bulstrode, who is leading the project, is using a small, consumer grade drone to map cane paddocks and seek out vines, before sending in a heavy-lift commercial drone to spot spray the infested areas.

If successful, it has the potential to dramatically reduce the amount of herbicide growers use in their paddocks, Mr Bulstrode said.

"At the moment, if a grower finds vines he might have to send in a high-rise sprayer or an aircraft to spray the whole paddock, because he can't tell exactly where the weeds are," he said.

"But with these drones we're able to pinpoint the weeds and as long as it's only a relatively small area, we'll put the spray drone in and target that specific area."

"It's all about precision agriculture - instead of doing the whole paddock, you only spray the area that needs it."

DAF and CANEGROWERS Innisfail recently purchased a DJI Agras MG-1S agricultural spray drone, which can carry 10L of mixed herbicide and deliver it precisely to weeds, Mr Bulstrode said.

"I've been working with drones in other aspects of precision farming for a number of years, but this is the first time we've had an opportunity to get one of these spray drones. We're putting it through it's paces, we want to see how it works in sugarcane and where the benefits are."

Local growers Arthur, David and Paul Cecchi of Quartz Hill Ag have signed up for the trial, alongside CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman Joe Marano and MSF Sugar.

Together they farm over 3000 hectares of caneland in the Johnstone River catchment, which flows directly into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

"The area covered by the trial is many hundreds of hectares, but we won't spray hundreds of hectares. The whole purpose of a machine like this is to spot spray weeds," said Mr Bulstrode, who believes drones are quickly becoming an essential tool for farmers, much like a tractor.

"The technology, the mapping side of it at least, is very user friendly and there are a lot of farmers out there who already use drones as part of their everyday operation.

"The sugarcane industry has been a little slower to take up drones, but some of the bigger growers are starting to see the benefits of this technology.

"The spraying side of things is a bit different. You need special licencing to fly the bigger drones and also a licence

to deploy chemicals from the air, so you have to be a fully licenced operator to use the machine.

"I imagine some of the bigger grower groups may end up with a specified person who is licenced, or there will be a contractor that has this equipment that can come in map the paddock and spray any weeds.

"Either way it's going to cost a fraction of what growers currently pay to control these weeds."

Unlike other trials where growers often wait years to see results, the drone-herbicide trial results will be apparent almost immediately.

"We're mapping the three participating farms at the minute and working out the weed load," Mr Bulstrode said.

"I anticipate we'll start spraying early next season, once we've put this new drone through some testing.

"Once we've mapped and sprayed the farms, we'll just go back in a month afterwards and if the weeds are gone, then it's a success.

"It's almost a binary thing, they're either there or they're dead." ■





Pictured: Small, consumer grade drones are used to map farms and pinpoint weed outbreaks before larger commercial drones, like the DJI Agras MG-1S spray drone being trialled by DAF and CANEGROWERS Innisfail (below), are sent in to target spray only the weed-affected area.



Making dreams come true

Some young people have to be bribed and begged into working on the family farm, but not Luke Apap of Tully.

Growing up on a sugarcane and banana farm, the young producer's grandfather was showing him the ropes by the time he was six, and by eight he was starting to pull his weight in the family business – "Not because I had to, but because I wanted to," says Luke.

Now, Luke runs his own cane farm providing 5,000 tonnes annually to the Tully Sugar Mill – the same place he is completing an apprenticeship as a fitter and turner. Still in his teens at the time, he purchased the property in 2015 with the help of a First Start Loan from the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA), and hasn't looked back.

"I have always loved farming, so when the opportunity came up and with plenty of encouragement and support from my parents, I decided to give it a go," he said.

The small parcel of land served as the ideal, manageable launching pad for a staged approach to full-time production, while the close proximity to his parents' well-established farm meant that Luke was able to share their resources, saving him from some of the costly hurdles many new producers face.

"My parents had been looking at the property and it wasn't what they were looking for but being within four kilometres from my parents' farm, it was the perfect location for me as I am able to use their equipment."

Now Luke has his sights set on completing his apprenticeship and gradually expanding his cane farm, continuing in his trade until he has built a profitable, productive enterprise that can support him full time. He recommends that other young people looking to do the same consider a First Start Loan from QRIDA.

"Being focused on agriculture, QRIDA understand the challenges of life on the land. The First Start Loan is great, and provides low interest rates for anyone who wants to begin their career in agriculture," he said.

When putting together his application, Luke took advantage of the assistance from his local QRIDA representative. "Sam Spina was a great help – he took the time to come out to the farm and helped me through the application step by step."

First Start Loans can provide up to \$2 million to assist in the early years of establishing a primary production business, allowing for a staged approach like Luke's. ■

Find out more on Freecall 1800 623 946 or visit www.qrida.qld.gov.au/firststart

Help eradicate yellow crazy ants

Yellow crazy ants are an exotic pest, listed as one of the world's 100 worst invasive species. First detected in the Cairns area in 2001, they currently infest over 1400 hectares in the region, including cane farms around Edmonton, Sawmill Pocket, Bentley Park and Gordonvale.

Yellow crazy ants are adept 'farmers' and can be observed 'husbanding' large numbers of honeydew producing insects. This includes sugarcane pests, such as scale insects, whitefly and aphids.

Excess honeydew from large numbers of these insects often leads to the development of sooty moulds and mildews – causing significant damage to cane crops.

Cane farm worker **Frank Teodo** knows the impact yellow crazy ants can have.

"Farmers are busy people and don't have time for trivial matters, it's not until they have massive numbers of yellow crazy ants that they realise the full financial impact the ants can have," he said.

"In 2012/13, the numbers of yellow crazy ants on neighbouring properties exploded and growers were forced to plough out first ratoon, which simply makes farming economically unviable."

The ants also pose a risk to the nearby Wet Tropics World Heritage Area so with the support from Commonwealth and State funding, the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and its partners are working together to eradicate yellow crazy ant infestations south of Cairns and near Kuranda.

The Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program was established in 2014.

Since then overall ant numbers have declined and the effects on local sugarcane farms has been significantly reduced.

Still, about 40% (592 hectares) of the total yellow crazy ant infestation area is on sugarcane farms.

WTMA Project Manager, **Lucy Karger** and her dedicated team have been working hard to eradicate this pest.

"We have recently declared two outlying sites eradicated, with another site on track to be eradicated later this year—so we know the treatment program is working," she said.

"However, with increased vigilance and greater public awareness of yellow crazy ants, we are finding other areas of infestation, the majority of which are found in sugarcane on the southern edge of the Wet Tropics infestation."

Yellow crazy ants spread in three ways: through colony budding, through human assistance, and by 'rafting' downstream with the flow of water.

People can spread ants by moving materials that harbour a nest or queen ants. This includes farm machinery and vegetation.

With the ants foraging 24 hours a day, there is significant potential during the harvest season for spreading yellow crazy

ants from infested areas to other cane farms.

Yellow crazy ants are a restricted biosecurity matter (Category 3) under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

This means everyone has an obligation to minimise the risk of further infestation by not moving yellow crazy ants or materials infested with them.

The Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program wants to ensure farmers are well informed, know how to identify a yellow crazy ant and who to contact to report yellow crazy ants.

It is also important that farmers are aware of and can follow existing industry biosecurity measures to help stop the expansion and further infestation of the ants.

According to the Biosecurity Manual for Sugarcane Producers – created by Plant Health Australia, CANEGROWERS, Sugar Research Australia and the Australian Sugar Milling Council – there are easy ways to protect your farm, including:

- Manage people movement and the risks posed by vehicles and equipment – this could include erecting biosecurity signs, ensuring farm machinery that travels between properties is washed down prior to moving between sites, or having designated clean parking areas for visitors to your property.
- Adopt industry best management practices – industry schemes like Smartcane BMP have pest management components to assist in risks.
- Monitor your farm and report anything unusual – ongoing vigilance is vital to early detection and control of pests. Report the presence immediately. ■



Pictured: (left) WTMA Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication insignia. (right) Sugarcane with yellow crazy ant farming white fly that has caused sooty mould. Photo: Wet Tropics Images/Lucy Karger.



"Farmers are busy people and don't have time for trivial matters, it's not until they have massive numbers of yellow crazy ants that they realise the full financial impact the ants can have."

The Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program is managed by the Wet Tropics Management Authority, in partnership with the Australian Government National Landcare Program, the Queensland Government, James Cook University, Kuranda Envirocare and the local community.

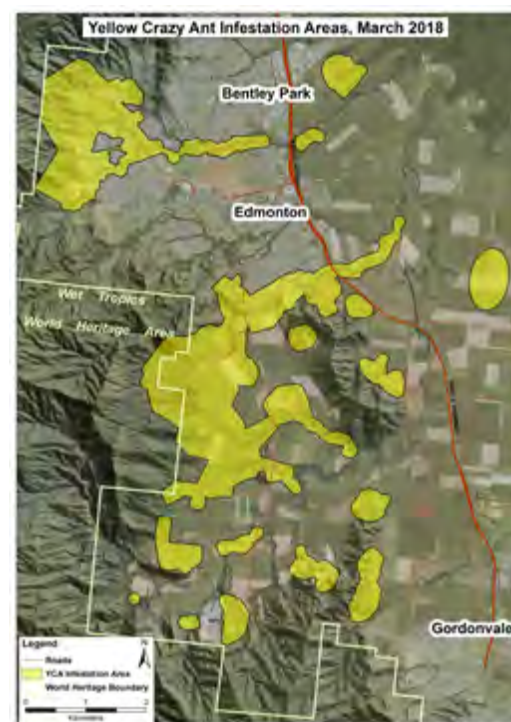
YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND FIELD SESSIONS

Farmers and farm workers who want to find out more about yellow crazy ants, see what they look like and attain sample kits to check if the ants are on their property can call the program on 4241 0525 to register their interest.

THURSDAY APRIL 19
10am and 2.30pm

FRIDAY APRIL 20
2.30pm

Each session will run for approximately 1 hour.



Pictured: (Top) Operations team examining cane for evidence of white fly. Photo: Wet Tropics Images/Rhys Sharry. (Centre) Aerial baiting for yellow crazy ants in and around cane paddocks. Photo: Wet Tropics Images/Chris Clerc. (Bottom) Yellow crazy ant infestation area, southern wet tropics (This map was correct at time of printing).



If you don't try, you'll never know

Less is more for Ingham cane grower Brad Morley who has cut back on fertilisers and tillage in a swag of changes to his farm which are bringing results.

Brad Morley, a third-generation cane farmer, has reduced synthetic fertiliser use by 20% and is now aiming for 30%. He has also abandoned his discs, full-size ripper and rotary hoe.

"We are moving away from some of the traditional farming practices and our crops look better and healthier for it," he said.

Brad started trialling minimum tillage methods seven years ago and has since planted legumes as a fallow crop and begun modifying machinery to suit wider cane rows.

He has been able to modernise his farming system thanks to grant funding from the Australian Government's Reef Trust III program, which is being delivered by the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP).

A new round of grants is now open and Brad is encouraging farmers to get on board.

He is using his grant funding to widen a zonal ripper, high-rise spray tractor and planter as part of a move to controlled traffic by widening crop rows to a minimum of 1.8m to suit the width of modern heavy harvesting equipment.

The change is reducing soil compaction, improving soil and root health and helping him to get maximum benefit from his other fallow and tillage practices.

A whole-of-farm change to crop row widths will take another five years.

"It's worth it. With this change and the others, we are seeing a big improvement in stool size and we're getting longer ratoons," Brad said.

"Our overheads for fuel and machinery wear and tear have reduced and so has erosion. We're also finding we are able to get back on paddocks more quickly after rain because of harder inter-rows.

"And there has been no loss in yield or sugar content in the process."

The latest, and final, round of Reef Trust III water quality grants closes on Friday 27 April. Wet Tropics cane growers can register their interest and find more information at www.wtsip.org.au/reef-trust-3-grants

The grants focus on improving nutrient, herbicide and sediment practices within integrated farming systems.

Eligible project types include advanced nutrient management, controlled-traffic, legume break-cropping, reduced tillage, reduced residual-herbicide use and integrated farm drainage.

Brad said his grant was accelerating change on his farm. "I've been able to do this in stages with the 50-50 funding and extension support from WTSIP.

"There is only one way to find out if different farming methods work on your farm. You've got to try it, even if it's only on a very small portion of the farm initially." ■

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Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Year to date	Average rainfall (mm) January-March
	7 days to 9am 12.03.18	19.03.18		
Mossman	656	0	1279	1371
Mareeba AP	121	3	485	633
Cairns	321	11	1435	1260
Mt Sophia	674	62	2272	1824
Babinda	337	0	1346	2173
Innisfail	497	38	1448	1763
Tully	774	0	1614	2088
Cardwell	275	8	912	1302
Lucinda	180	7	980	1258
Ingham	232	18	1008	1195
Abergowrie	261	7	984	1079
Townsville	24	0	579	747
Ayr DPI	0.8	0	457	594
Proserpine	28	0	435	787
Mirani	12	0	324	902
Mackay	32	0.6	314	849
Sarina (Plane Ck)	28	0	499	1028
Bundaberg	4	0	389	431
Childers South	51	8	494	330
Maryborough	57	5	465	494
Tewantin	59	1	544	691
Eumundi	69	25	648	709
Nambour	86	19	460	715
Woongoolba	81	12	439	491
Murwillumbah	26	9	285	641
Ballina	30	4	397	591
Woodburn	160	0.2	372	491



**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.

Massey Ferguson Cane Harvester 102 \$5,500 neg. Bonel Billet Planter \$5,500 neg. Ph. 07 4959 6197

Hodge/Moller Billet Planter, Toft 6,000 Harvester long chop and 3t tipper bin \$30,000. Hodge whole stick planter & trailer, Bonel whole stick plant cutter Neg. Ph. 0428 186 261 or 0417 393 142

Bonel billet planter in good working order. Ph. 0409 625 982

1996 Acco Crane Truck for sale with 10 Tonne Crane. Lift and Cart your own fertilizer. 323000kms. AC. Tipper Tray. Call 0429839838 for more details

JD Combine harvester with 30ft front and 24ft front & trailer to transport either front. Has been used recently & goes well. 1984 7700 model \$14500ono PH. 0429839838

Confidor applicator, with a 300 litre tank and Hodge coulter assemblies. \$4000 (plus GST) Ph. 0418 710 958 / 4950 3048

Sprayrite Tempo 1200 Spray Tank, Brand New, 1200L Capacity UV resistant, 170LPM PTO driven Pump feeding 5 section electric controlled spray controller, H Duty 3pl carry frame, \$15,200 Inc. Ph. 0428 236 165

Silvan 800l Fire Fighter with Honda pump and hose reel, done little work, \$3600 new asking \$2000 ONO. Ph. 0409 221 601

12T self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder VGC. 6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem GC. Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Howard rotary hoe HR40, 255cm wide - GC. Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler - VGC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay)

Harvester Contract of around 15-20,000 T and equipment of 2 trucks with tippers and flotation tyres, Volvo FM10 8-wheeler with 2x 6T bins, UD auto with 2x 5T bins, Fastrac with Tully elevation bin (12T bin) and Case harvester modified for 2m centres. 1 season since engine rebuild. North Eton area. \$250,000 neg. Ph. 0472 584 477

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Maschio Rotary Hoe G400 4 meter (160 inch) new blades, depth wheels and crumble roller. Photos available. \$16,500 (incl GST) Ph. 0417 798 005

Half-tracks to suit 4000, 5000 or 6000 TOFT harvester. Fair condition. Open to offers. Ph. 0419 717 006

Bonel whole stick harvester with hydraulic topper and trailers. \$2,500 + gst; MASSEY 205 cane harvester \$6,500 + gst. Ph. 4159 3323

Full billet planting outfit: includes Toft 4000 harvester, HBM billet planter and double 3-tonne tractor-hauled tipper bin, 2 bins. \$27,000 + gst, all good condition (farm sold). Ph. 4159 3323

2009 Case 8000 Cane Harvester. 5800 hrs. \$185,000 + gst, Quinco 1 ton Fertilizer incorporator with plastic bin & stainless worm. \$8,000 + gst & Bonel 24 plate offsets. \$10,000 + gst. All in good condition. Ph. 4156 1409 or 0431 044 022

Bonel trash incorporator fertiliser box, plastic bins, stainless steel worm, good condition. \$12,000 + gst; HR40 Howard Rotary Hoe 100inch; Marell trash blower; Marell whole stick plant cutter; Town & Country planter. Ph. 0417 617 084

Machio 6.2 metre double G heavy duty rotary hoe, Ford 5000 with 6 ft slasher, inter row 6 row cultivator (soya beans), 2 BKT 20.8 / 42 tyres 40% left. Call for details all in good condition 0408768489

Wanted

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

Stainless steel sugarcane juice holding tanks of 100lt X2. Ph. 0431 239 984

Wanted: Ripper or grubber in good condition for ripping fallow ground; Also seeking contractor to billet plant 11 hectares of cane this season. Ph. Lui 0448 605 722 (Sarina)

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

Wanted: 35-1 final drive planetary hub or parts to suit Toft 6000. Ph. 02 6646 0207

Positions Vacant

Sugarcane Harvester Drivers required for 2018 season. Experience required. Preseason maintenance work available. Isis Mill cane supply area. Please contact on busmanchl@gmail.com or 0428 798 931

Harvester Operator Wanted for Billet Planting. Hourly Rate. For more information Ph. 0418 784 020

WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS
AND PHOTOS?

Find CANEGROWERS on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/CANEGROWERSAustralia



Work Wanted

Looking for work for 2018 crush in Cairns Mossman areas. Heaps of experience, 8 seasons with all types of haul out gear - elevator, side tippers and trucks, artict. etc. Available to do pre-season work. Repairs and maintenance experience as well as farm work skills. Please phone 0455 215 197 or email gavinpandaw@gmail.com

Looking for a post of cane harvester operator and haul out driver and preseasons mechanic for the crushing season 2018 (Mackay area). Well experienced. From Mauritius. Email: cyrilgilbert1956@yahoo.com Ph. 0011 +230+5752 3057 Mobile: +230-4196071

Property

VICTORIA PLAINS CANE FARM 84ha - average 6000tonne - Kinchant dam allocation and bore water. Irrigation equip, 2 sheds, machinery. Renovated 4 bedroom home. Genuine enquiries 0409 342 123

100ha Victoria plains canefarm for sale, 318ml kinchant dam allocation, this years crop, tractors, irrigation and implements included. 15x9m shed. For more information Ph. 0419 541 372

Cane Farm Cone Creek Rd MT CHRISTIAN. Total area 93.43ha CPA 70.81ha. House, sheds, machinery, irrigator with 2 dams. Genuine offers/enquiries only. Ph. 0428 852 279

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

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

CANE FARM FOR SALE \$750,000. 507 Eton-Homebush Rd, OAKENDEN (Mackay Region, Central Qld). 6brm home and sheds. 65.58ha (162 acres), 2 freehold titles, WIWO. Irrigated, close cart, flat, no rocks, good soil, 25 mins to town. Ph Pauline 0428 575 787 or Kent 0427 877 874

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. More Pics www.horsedeals.com.au/listings/tropical-horse-paradise-b46ffd33-0236-427b-9f3e-ddaad136bb28. Easy farm to maintain. Call 0408 880 724 Mandy



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Used by growers.
Owned by growers**

In recent years how we farm has been dictated by others. As Australian farmers, we would much rather have a system which works for us. A system which is about improving our bottom line and one we can use to market our sugar to the world.

The Australian sugarcane industry has worked together and built just such a system. Smartcane BMP.

Smartcane BMP will help Australia maintain its competitive edge in the increasingly competitive world market. Being able to show we are productive and sustainable producers of quality sugar is becoming increasingly important to our customers, and the Smartcane BMP system is the way we are going to show just that.

Become part of the movement:

**Sign up to
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Contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator. Get recognised for what you are already doing.

www.smartcane.com.au

