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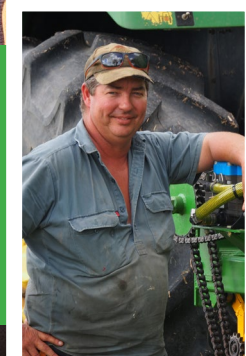
How Smartcane BMP
is helping growers set
the record straight



Scholarships
for future
cane grower
leaders



Irrigation
and energy
audits
help find
efficiencies



Tully grower
breaking
new ground
in planting



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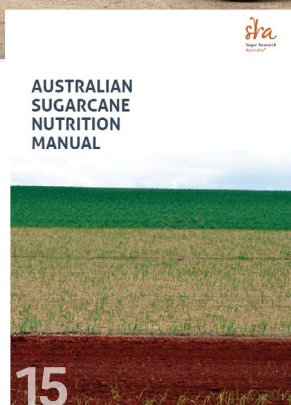


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COVER IMAGE: Proserpine grower Bill Lade was surprised by how easy it was to achieve Smartcane BMP accreditation. Find out why on page 14.

Editor / Design: Wayne Griffin

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Adapting and improving - our only path to sustainability

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

The concept of continuous improvement can be daunting at first. At the industry level, having a philosophy of being informed and educated by our past but not letting it dictate our future requires us to look across the horizon at the next challenges, all the while dealing with the here and now.

The disastrous state of the sugar market and a deepening drought, coupled with crippling electricity prices, cannot be ignored. We are working every day to understand and address these issues.

However, we must also continue to pursue more efficient, cost-effective and sustainable ways of operating if we want our industry to not just survive but thrive into the future.

The re-launch of Smartcane BMP (see page 11 of this magazine) is just one example of how we are listening, evolving and improving our approaches to critical issues for our industry.

With more than 70% of Queensland's cane land now registered and benchmarked in Smartcane BMP and almost 20% of the area accredited, it cannot be disputed that growers have shown faith in the program.

Balancing a profitable farming enterprise with environmental sustainability is something that most farmers have always done.

Adoption of Smartcane BMP simply provides us with opportunity to prove that this is the case to the wider community.

BMP is often not about change but about demonstrating, verifying and providing assurances around what many of us already know about farming and its necessary connection to the sustainable management of natural resources.

This next evolution of Smartcane BMP is simply an adjustment. The program has always had a strong foundation of being voluntary and this will continue.

Growers must see and receive the benefits of involvement in the BMP program.

Benefits such as marketplace recognition through the supply chain, public policy acknowledgement via relief from regulation, and funding and project support

for delivering environmental services that reach beyond the farm gate.

Growers should never be forced to adopt an industry program. Instead, that program should be designed by them and for them.

This evolution of Smartcane BMP looks towards focusing on flexibility in adoption, design, delivery and communication.

We want growers to be able to access the program at the point most relevant to them, with the support driven at the district level and with a focus on being able to dynamically demonstrate the vast amount of on-farm practice change that has occurred in the past, while supporting anything that is desired for the future.

The strong foundation of support for the program has been driven by growers and because of this work, this leadership, the industry is well placed to turn the tide on long held debates and set the record straight.

We have a responsibility to deliver not only on the promises that adoption of the program embodied, but also on the promise of making the program focused on growers.

My hope is that the improved flexibility in delivery and reporting will do just that. ■

"BMP is often not about change but about demonstrating, verifying and providing assurances around what many of us already know about farming and its necessary connection to the sustainable management of natural resources."



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hop on board!

The CANEGROWERS Virtual Bus Tour is back on the road for 2018. This is the seventh season for this video series of sugarcane farm visits.

A new video will be added to the CANEGROWERS YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/1XtDUWM> each week for the next six weeks.

"With our industry spread along 2,000 kilometres of the Queensland coast, these videos are a way of our members sharing their experiences with each other without having to travel vast distances," CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** said.

The first stop this year is **Drew Watson's** Mossman district farm to see how he manages water in this high rainfall region. Watch the video here <https://youtu.be/rGb64uyaGNc>

"We want anyone who is curious to take a look at how our modern industry operates."

He also talks with local Smartcane BMP facilitator **Rebecca Stone** about his nutrient management plan, a tool to efficiently target his fertiliser applications for financial as well as environmental benefits.

"While there's been a lot of debate and campaigns around the future of the Reef, our members have been working hard on their farms, investing their time and money over many years to reduce any impacts on water quality," Mr Galligan said. "We want anyone who is curious to take a look at how our modern industry operates."

Over previous seasons, videos of farms from Mossman to Maryborough featured measures to prevent water runoff, minimise fertiliser use, care for creek and river banks and improve soil health. All are available on the YouTube channel.

The 2018 season will include growers using drones to monitor crop health, composting, landscape rehabilitation projects and automated irrigation.

WORKERS FLEE AS FIRE RIPS THROUGH MILL

More than a dozen workers were forced to evacuate when a fire ripped through diesel burners attached to the steam boiler at MSF Sugar's Maryborough Mill on Sunday, 19 August.

The fire started just before 11pm and was discovered soon after by the shift supervisor, who immediately dialled triple zero before safely leading the site through emergency factory shutdown procedures, an MSF spokesperson said.

A total of 13 people were onsite at the time of the fire and within 15 minutes of the fire being discovered the factory had been shut down, the diesel and power supply to the boiler had been isolated, and all personnel had left safely.

Thanks to the quick response of staff and emergency crews, the fire was extinguished before midnight.

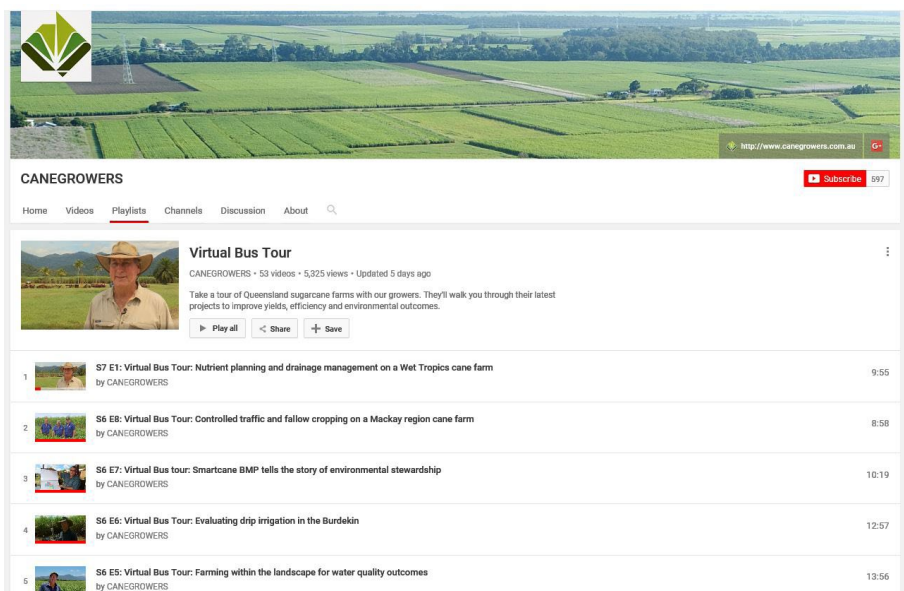


Inspector for North Coast Region **John Pappas** told local media that fire crews faced a "dynamic and difficult fire".

"Running fuel fires are very difficult to contain because it can be moving towards you or away from you," he said.

"Plus the vertical challenges of the fire through three levels of gantries."

MSF Sugar's general manager Maryborough **Stewart Norton** said the combined damage to the lighting and control wiring, air rams and air lines rendered the boiler inoperable until repair. ■



Scholarships for cane growers

CANEGROWERS has six scholarships available to growers wanting to help build a strong and sustainable sugarcane farming future.

The scholarships are for programs run by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF).

CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said the programs aim to develop courageous and influential grower leaders.

"These scholarships are an important investment in one of our industry's most valuable resources – the men and women of Australia's sugarcane industry," Mr Galligan said.

Three scholarships are available for the Training Rural Australians in Leadership (TRAIL) program which runs from 7 to 15 October in Canberra. Applications close Friday 31 August.

Three scholarships are also available for the Agribusiness Leadership Program which will take place in 2019, with three sessions over a 12-week period including two face-to-face sessions and one online.

"Both programs are fantastic opportunities for our next leaders to grow and learn, and then bring that knowledge and expertise back to their communities and local industries in order

to build a stronger and more sustainable farming future for all of us," Mr Galligan said.

"These scholarships are an important investment in one of our industry's most valuable resources – the men and women of Australia's sugarcane industry."

CANEGROWERS Bundaberg director Kelvin Griffin, who has participated in an ARLF program, said the opportunities to share information across industry sectors and the networks he established with other leaders were invaluable.

"The TRAIL program is an opportunity for the emerging leaders and younger people in our industry to broaden their perspectives, learn from other industries and understand the importance of leadership for the future of our industry," Mr Griffin said.

More information and a link to the application form is in the Latest News section on the CANEGROWERS website <http://www.canegrowers.com.au/page/media/latest-news/scholarships-for-cane-growers>

The scholarships are being made available with assistance from the Federal Government's Agricultural Industries Fund which supports national agricultural industry organisations to develop leadership capability. ■

Pictured: CANEGROWERS Bundaberg director Kelvin Griffin has previously participated in the ARLF program.



CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Mossman

Mill factory mechanical issues during Week 11 (ending 18/8) saw throughput down and 9,061 tonnes of delayed cane.

Mossman Mill crushed 31,241 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 13.60 CCS. Coastal growers supplied 20,576 tonnes for a mill average of 13.64 CCS, while Mareeba growers supplied 10,664 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 14.06 CCS.

To-date Mossman Mill has crushed a total of 377,891 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 12.67 CCS.

Innisfail

Fine weather has allowed harvesting operations to continue smoothly, however there have been a number of significant stoppages at South Johnstone Mill over the past two weeks.

The South Johnstone Mill Supply estimate has levelled out at around 95% of pre-season estimate, but there is an indication that once late cut cane in 2017 is harvested there will be a significant fall in the current estimate.

The average seasonal CCS, although better than in previous years, is still ordinary compared with other mills in the northern region, with daily mill average CCS struggling to remain over 13.0.

With the recent Cane Payment Advance, the opportunity was taken to increase the Delivery CCS from 12.0411 (5-year average) to 12.30.

Planting operations across the district are in full swing with 25% of expected plantings now completed.

Cairns region

Fine days and cool nights have been favourable to farming across the region, with the CCS responding accordingly. The adjustments to the base CCS will be welcomed by growers.

Planting is ahead of schedule with many growers wrapped up for the year.

Last week, at a well-attended growers meeting, members gave a unanimous and vocal message to the Board of CANEGROWERS Cairns Region regarding ongoing issues with their milling company MSF Sugar. These matters are being progressed.

Burdekin

Since the last report there have been another two weeks of fantastic harvesting weather. Mills have generally been performing well, although as this report is being prepared (20 August), Inkerman Mill is about to go into an extended stop of around 20 hours to attend to a few pump issues and a fairly significant boiler repair.

Just over 396,000 tonnes of cane were crushed across the Burdekin's four mills in Week 10 bringing the total crushed so far for 2018 to 3,676,478, which is around 46% of the estimated cane available for harvest.

CCS levels have continued to rise, with both Invicta and Pioneer mills averaging over 15 units for the past two weeks. The Burdekin season to date average now sitting at 14.39.

The highest CCS sample for the week was 17.7 from a rake of Q240 plant cane, recorded in the Kalamia area.

Best performing variety in week ten on a regional basis was again Q183 with 18% of supply and 15.25 CCS, followed by Q240 at 35% - 15.19 CCS and Q208 at 16% - 15.11 CCS. KQ228 is still up there at 14.95 CCS.

Herbert River

Fine mild weather prevailed for the past fortnight with just a sniff of a passing shower in a few parts, but generally it has been another ideal period for the harvest. CCS levels continue to build on the back of mild sunny days.

Planting activity continues in the Abergowrie and Lannercost areas where the transition between the wet and the dry tropics occurs.

Crushing performance at the mills has been consistent, even if a little behind the average daily throughput needed to reach the performance target under the

Collective CSA with the budget level of mill availability.

At the end of Week 10, 1,909,153 tonnes of cane had been processed. This is almost 40% of the revised estimate of 4.81 million tonnes.

CCS to date is 13.15, which is nicely ahead of the five yearly average profile.

The most recent forecast finish, with the latest available crushing profile and lost time forecast, has the mills on track to finish before the end of November.

The dry areas of the district especially

south of Cattle Creek are seeing severe moisture deficiency impacting the crop which may well see some falling away of the crop in the more severe droughted cases.

On the Smartcane BMP front, CANEGROWERS Herbert River has entered a contract to deliver a new phase of the program to all Herbert growers with facilitator **Maria Battoraro** assisted by **Ray Cervellin**, who will be an added resource to provide support for growers in the field.

Proserpine

Since our last fortnightly update, Proserpine mill has crushed another 184,000 tonnes of cane.

After nine weeks of crushing, the mill has processed just over 793,000 tonnes which is around 48% of the adjusted crop estimate.

As we approach the half-way mark, CCS levels continue to increase – the season-to-date average now sits at 14.20.

Mill performance has been strong during the first half, although an approaching maintenance stop will need to be extended to undertake some significant issues with No: 3 Boiler.

The dry weather remains ideal for harvesting operations, however the new plantings are in dire need of some moisture.



Pictured: A chilly start to the day on Mark Cameron's cane farm at Camilla West, south of Mackay. (Photo: Matt Boyd)

Plane Creek

In the week ending 18 August, Plane Creek Mill crushed 61,316 tonnes bringing the season total to 536,465 tonnes. Average bin weight for the week was 4.13 tonnes, with the season average at 4 tonnes.

CCS for the week was 15.35 units, with the season to date average at 13.87 units. CCS continues to rise with the cool dry conditions. The highest CCS for week recorded was 17.10 from a rake of Q183 replant from the Plane Creek productivity district and also from a rake of Q228 plant cane from the Koumala productivity district.

Factory availability was good, although the crush rate was below budget due to excessive scaling in the evaporators.

Mackay

For the week ending 19 August, Mackay Sugar crushed a total of 229,709 tonnes at its three mills with individual mills throughput being:

Farleigh 71,748 tonnes
Marian 102,743 tonnes
Racecourse 55,218 tonnes.

The year to date total throughput is at 2,337,034 tonnes.

PRS for the week was 14.99 while the average PRS to date for the season is 13.08.



Bundaberg

Dry conditions continue across the region and it doesn't look like changing this month, with most 28-day forecasts predicting a few showers at best. The estimate is continuing to drop across the district with, it seems, no chance of increasing. Both mills are cutting at about 90% of the original estimate with some fluctuations occurring.

The cold snap about a month ago frosted some cane in the district. Some blocks were just hearted and are starting to side shoot, while others are frosted right down the stick.

Both mills have performed well over the past few weeks with very little lost time. Millaquin seems to have sorted many of the gremlins that plagued it earlier in the season and is continuing to improve week-on-week. Bingera is as reliable as ever and continues to get the job done. If the dry conditions continue and the mills continue to crush at the current rate, it looks as though both mills will finish around 20 October.

The base CCS has been lifted from 13.6 to 13.9 for the week commencing 13 August. We are continually monitoring the weekly average and adjusting as necessary. If the dry continues another adjustment will be just around the corner.

The Lock the Gate organisation has brought to our attention the existence of gas exploration licenses that cover around 3,000 hectares in our area.

A number of farmers and industry bodies met with Tom Crothers (Stellar Advisory Services Pty Ltd) and Vicki Perrin (Lock the Gate) on Thursday 28 June and agreed to engage Mr Crothers to provide a report to identify the potential impacts of unconventional gas development on the agricultural industries in the Wide Bay Region.

This report will be presented by Mr Crothers at a meeting to be held in Bundaberg on 31 August at 2.00 pm at the Bundaberg Multiplex, 1 Civic Street.

Continues page 8 ►

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Isis

Harvesting of the 2018 crop continues with the dry weather making for ideal harvesting conditions, although it is a little dusty at times and rain would be very welcome. Cane quality continues to impress even under the current weather conditions with Week 8 seeing fibre values at 13.41% and ash levels at 1.15%.

One of the region's largest harvesting contractors who supplies more than 500 tonnes every day recorded weekly cane quality figures well below the mill average with figures of 12.41% for fibre and 0.82% for ash.

The Isis Mill has now crushed 595,890 tonnes for the 2018 season (as at 20/08). Crop re-estimating is now occurring with most growers forecasting a downward trend of around 10% on the original pre-season forecast of 1,315,000 tonnes of cane available for harvest.

The highest individual CCS for Week 8 came from a Burnett River supplier at Wallaville, who recorded 17.56 units of CCS from Q240 Autumn plant. This supplier now holds the title for the highest CCS for the 2018 season to date.

Cane planting preparations are well advanced across the Isis Mill supply region. Plant inspections are nearing completion and maintenance activities associated with planting equipment is being finalised.

Soil temperature is being monitored with an expectation that cane planting will get underway in the coming weeks. Variety selection for individual soil types and specific field conditions is critical to a successful germination and growers are reminded to contact the team at Isis Productivity Limited who are available to give recommendations for your individual circumstances.

Maryborough

Mill performance has been maintained through the past couple of weeks at over 46,000 tonnes per week, with the season to date supply now at 46% of estimate and totalling 435,265 tonnes.

With the dry and cool conditions CCS has climbed in the past seven days to 14.14, giving a season average of 12.68.

At around 10:40pm Sunday 19 August, MSF Sugar's Maryborough Mill experienced a fire down one of its boilers.

The other topical item at present is gas exploration rights.

We have arranged with GasFields Commission Queensland for a presentation on 6 September at Maryborough's CANEGROWERS Hall, commencing 10am, which will clarify points on impacts of activity and rights of property owners. All are welcome to attend.



Rocky Point

The Rocky Point crush is going well, with minimal downtime and the area cutting 6% over estimate on standover.

The mill had crushed a total of 84,554 tonnes of cane as at 19 August 2018, with at an average season-to-date CCS of 13.20.

Conditions are very dry.

The area is sending significant amounts of baled trash out west for cattle feed. ■

Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

ON THE ROAD WITH AUSTSAFE SUPER

Ever wondered what it's like to be an AustSafe Super Regional Manager? In this latest column, our Regional Manager for North Queensland, Daniel Kinnane, shares what he gets up to on a typical work day.

What's the most rewarding part of your role?

Meeting our members and employers to find out how I can help them. I strive to be open and available, so I can be there for them whenever they need me.

What's day-to-day for you?

Mostly, I'm on the road visiting members and employers based in North Queensland, checking if they'd like any help with their super, whether that's how to make super contributions for new staff or talking with staff on what they could do to boost their super.

I also host shed meetings for employers. Super is the main topic too, but I also talk about financial literacy and focus on mental health awareness.

These are done in a casual manner, usually with a cup of coffee around the smoko table.

We always try to be as involved as possible in helping to create the best future for working Australians.

Find out more

Our local Regional Managers can help AustSafe Super members and employers with anything super related. Visit austsafe.com.au/regional-managers to find out how they can help you.



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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.

Sibelco® Aglime

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High quality agricultural limestone to help improve soil quality and grow better crops.

Policy Update

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Economics with Warren Males

Reef Extension Practitioners Forum

Recently I attended the Reef Extension Practitioners Forum in Townsville. Its purpose was to provide professional development for extension staff whose positions are funded by Reef-related funding.

Around 70 of the attendees were directly associated with sugarcane extension - 20 were industry staff from SRA, productivity services organisations and CANEGROWERS while 50 were from government or natural resource management groups.

It was a pleasure to meet many experienced and talented people who are at the coal face. However, in my view, despite the depth of resources available in terms of dollars and people, there are issues around the whole area of Reef-related extension.

I think it was a misnomer that the forum was labelled 'Reef extension' as it was not about extension of Great Barrier Reef knowledge whatsoever (unless you count an evening trip to the Townsville aquarium).

Instead, the forum focused on best management practice extension, something which has been happening in our industry for many, many years and just happens now to be largely funded by Reef-related grants.

The final session of the forum saw six experienced extension practitioners offer their perspectives on what does and does not work when engaging with growers.

The overriding consensus was that building relationships, earning trust, honesty, being yourself, learning about and from the grower, and not pushing for results were the ingredients for successful engagement.

What does not work, they pointed out, is pretending to know everything, telling growers what to do because you know best and expecting growers to listen to you.

The issue I have is that implementing these successful strategies takes time and often reef funding is short term, with a high level of grower adoption expected.

Extension staff may feel limited in their ability to implement the strategies that work and as a result possibly lean towards those that have limited success.

With the current level of reef extension funding available and the implementation of SRA's new industry adoption strategy, we must look for opportunities to build an enduring extension capability in the sugarcane industry. ■



Sugar Industry Code of Conduct

The Sugar Industry Code of Conduct is currently being reviewed by the Commonwealth Government.

CANEGROWERS has joined with Australian Cane Farmers Association in recommending to the review team that the Code remains in place for the long term, with a further review after 10 years.

The Code provides necessary light-handed regulatory intervention to address the abuses of market power that would otherwise arise from mill-marketers assuming control of the marketing of Grower Economic Interest (GEI) sugar.

The Code:

- enables competition in the provision of raw sugar marketing services by guaranteeing a growers' choice of marketing entity for the grower economic interest sugar;
- places an obligation on all parties to an existing or prospective cane supply or an existing or prospective on-supply agreement to act in good faith; and
- provides arbitration as a process to resolve any deadlocks that may emerge in the negotiation of cane supply and on-supply agreements.

The Code represents the final step in the deregulation of the industry because it enables competition in part of the supply chain where previously competition did not exist. The results are now apparent - growers are making decisions around marketing services and are making choices from an extended range of price offerings, including pooling and direct pricing and marketers have expanded the advance payment options available.

The benefits of the Code flow from the fact that it:

1. Balances market power between mills and growers;
2. Ensures transactional transparency and accountability in marketing;
3. Drives innovation and the development of new marketing products that improve growers' ability to manage risk;
4. Avoids industry disruption arising from tension between millers and growers;
5. Offers growers an opportunity to build their marketing knowledge and commercial skill;
6. Instils greater confidence in marketing outcomes for growers and improves the economic climate for cane production;
7. Establishes a foundation for growth in industry production and productivity, enabling scale economies in milling; and
8. Avoids the adverse effects on communities arising from the conflict of interest millers face when marketing GEI sugar in the absence of competition.

These benefits are significant and will continue to accrue to the whole industry for so long as the Code is in place. ■



YOUR FARM, YOUR WAY

Smartcane BMP
helps you document
and celebrate the
way you farm.



Joe, grower, Innisfail





WE'RE GROWING, TOO

Since 2014, Smartcane BMP has been working with cane farmers across Queensland to record and verify their practice improvements. This has helped set the record straight and secure growers' reputation as stewards of the land.

We've focused on the three core modules of BMP so growers can become accredited and be independently recognised for their management of soil health and nutrients, irrigation and drainage, and weeds, pests and diseases.

Becoming accredited in these modules remains the gold standard for Smartcane BMP. And we'll continue to focus on supporting growers to assess their practices, and collect and collate farm records and other required evidence to achieve accreditation.

However, you've told us you're looking for ways to improve your business—both in the paddock and beyond. So we have refined how we deliver BMP to better meet your needs.

No matter your involvement in BMP to date, we want to help you with the farming issues that matter to you right now.

We will help you identify and evaluate practice improvements that suit your farm and your goals, whether it's crop management, workplace health and safety, or other aspects of the farm business.

To do this, we're more closely integrating BMP with advisors and services already available in your district. And we'll bring in expertise from outside the district to work with growers when needed.

Our experienced BMP facilitators are part of your local cane industry. Their job is to help you improve things on your farm—whatever you'd like a hand with, they'll point you in the direction of the right advice or specialised training.

We're the same Smartcane BMP—just more focused on what you want to achieve for your farm.

Becoming accredited in the three core modules is still the gold standard for Smartcane BMP.

To find out more about how we can help, talk to your district facilitator.

Get what you want from your farm

Your experienced Smartcane BMP facilitator specialises in your district.

Their job is to help you achieve what you want from your farming business. Whatever you'd like a hand with, they'll either help you themselves—or point you in the direction of an expert who can.

Module 1

Soil health and nutrient management

Look at ways to improve soil health and overcome constraints to yield.

Module 2

Irrigation and drainage management

Increased efficiency means power savings, water savings, and reduced risk of chemicals and nutrients leaking from paddocks.

Module 3

Weed, pest and disease management

This module covers selecting the right products for your farm, understanding regulations and label requirements, and methods of applying chemicals.

Module 4

Planting and harvesting

Looking at the bookends of crop management, this module covers best practices for planting and harvesting.

Module 5

Farm business management

Understand how your business is performing by looking at cost of production, cashflow and profits, and make plans for the future.

Module 6

Natural systems management

Protect the wetlands, waterways, riparian zones and native vegetation on your land to conserve native species.

Module 7

Workplace health and safety

Take advantage of useful resources that clearly describe your responsibility for workers, contractors and visitors, and help you take appropriate actions to meet your obligations.

Module 8

Pathway to sustainable sugar

For accredited growers, this module covers the additional criteria required for global sustainability standards.

WE WALK YOU THROUGH IT

Smartcane BMP recognises and celebrates the way you farm. And it's not as hard as you think.

You're always looking for ways to improve your farm. So chances are you're already doing BMP.

We're here to help you every step of the way. Get in touch with your local facilitator to see how easy it can be.



SMARTCANE BMP

Mark and Andrew, Burdekin

smartcane.com.au



SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT TAKES LITTLE EXTRA EFFORT

With so much to do on the farm every day, the last thing on Bill and Keith Lade's minds is record-keeping.

But as third-generation growers in the Proserpine district, they know the true value of record-keeping and have been reaping its benefits for the past 20 years.

"You can look back and say, 'Oh yeah, we did spray that paddock at that time with this,'" Bill said.

Bill and Keith were already doing most of what they needed to do for BMP and were surprised at how little extra they needed to do to get accredited.

"What we've been doing, we've been doing for years," Keith said.

Writing their records on whatever bits of paper lying around, doing the extra 10 per cent to gain BMP accreditation wasn't without challenges.

District Smartcane BMP facilitator Christine Peterson worked with Bill, Keith and his wife, Gail, to create a system to keep everything together.

"When we first started, it did take up a bit of time," Keith said. "Christine had a good laugh at us, but she helped us out a lot."

While Keith and Bill work on the farm, Gail makes record-keeping easy for them by keeping a spreadsheet up to date.

"All their little diaries, bits of envelope and everything they write on get filed away now so we've got it on record," Gail said.

"It's nearly down pat to what my father did, what his father did," Keith said.

"We're not reinventing the wheel, we're just greasing it so it goes 'round easier.'"

New sugarcane nutrition manual provides **THE A-Z OF GROWING A HEALTHY CROP**

A brand new manual released by Sugar Research Australia (SRA) provides sugarcane growers, millers, and advisors with a complete run-down on the latest research and information for growing a healthy sugarcane crop.

Called the *Australian Sugarcane Nutrition Manual*, it is available free to growers, millers and stakeholders through SRA, in both hardcopy and electronic formats.

SRA CEO Mr Neil Fisher said good crop nutrition is fundamental to the industry's productivity, profitability, and sustainability.

"This new manual arms the Australian sugarcane industry with valuable information to gain a better understanding of their crop's nutrition, which is underpinned by the SIX EASY STEPS® nutrient management program for fertiliser guidelines," Mr Fisher said.

"SIX EASY STEPS is a science-based nutrient management tool that enables the adoption of best practice nutrient management on-farm.

"It is acknowledged as industry best-practice for nutrient management to optimise productivity and profitability without adversely influencing soil fertility or causing off-farm impacts."

Mr Fisher said the Australian sugarcane industry had already made huge improvements to its nutrient management, which was delivering positive environmental outcomes and improved profitability.

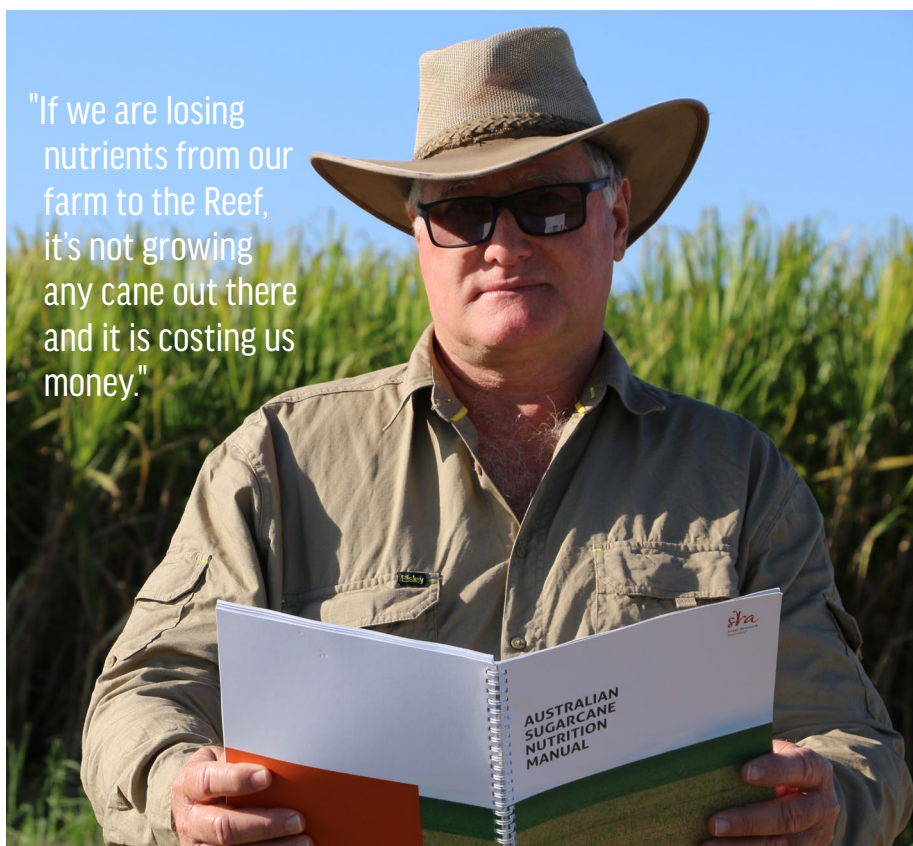
"SRA continues to provide robust and independent research in this field and we assist our industry investors to optimise productivity and profitability while also moving towards meeting water quality targets," he said.

"The Nutrition Manual is another valuable tool in the toolbox to help growers and advisors access this information.

"It is an example of SRA's commitment to ensuring that research is translated into practical outcomes in the paddock and at the mill.

"Looking ahead, and beyond this manual, SRA has exciting research projects

"If we are losing nutrients from our farm to the Reef, it's not growing any cane out there and it is costing us money."



underway, looking at important topics such as the nitrogen use efficiency of sugarcane varieties and the viability of enhanced efficiency fertilisers.

"Growers, millers, and industry will hear more about these projects as results are gathered in the months and years ahead."

Herbert region grower Mr Chris Bosworth welcomed the publication of the manual and said marrying profitability and sustainability was crucial.

"The Great Barrier Reef is right off our coast. We want to protect the Reef as we have already been doing," Mr Bosworth said.

"If we are losing nutrients from our farm to the Reef, it's not growing any cane out there and it is costing us money.

"I don't want nutrients leaving my paddock, and this manual is a tool that can help with that. The least amount of nutrient that I can put on to grow a good crop, the better."

To access a copy of the manual visit www.sugarresearch.com.au or contact Samantha Ryalls on (07) 3331 3308 or email sryalls@sugarresearch.com.au. ■

Pictured: Herbert Region grower Chris Bosworth says the new nutrition manual is a tool that can help him manage nutrient inputs for his farm.

Grower-managed pricing deadlines fast approaching



By Matthew Page
QSL Trading Manager

As we approach the October 2018 contract expiry, growers who are yet to finalise their grower-managed pricing for the 2018 Season are facing some important decisions which could have substantial implications for their final pricing outcomes.

THE INDIVIDUAL FUTURES CONTRACT POOL

The Pricing Completion Date for the October 2018 contract is 14 September 2018. Any tonnes remaining unpriced beyond this date will be priced by QSL at the next market opportunity.

THE QSL TARGET PRICE POOL

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.

It is important that growers note that while the previous Jul18-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.

While we are in the midst of a record global surplus and a likely lower price environment for at least the next 12 months, it is important that growers consider their pricing targets and the ability of the market to rally sufficiently to cover this potential roll cost AND achieve their current target levels.

You can find an estimate of the Oct18-Mar19 roll cost on the bottom of the Indicative ICE 11 Prices table published on the QSL website each day (www.qsl.com.au) 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**.

Please note however, that QSL does not provide any financial or investment advice

and growers should therefore seek their own financial advice before making any sugar pricing decisions.

For more information about the QSL Target Price Pool, including key pricing deadlines, please refer to the full Pricing Pool Terms available from your local QSL representative or on the QSL website at www.qsl.com.au. ■

DISCLAIMER:

This article contains information of a general or summary nature only and therefore does not purport to be comprehensive on this topic. Nothing in this article should be relied on to make any sugar pricing or pool selection decisions. This information does not constitute financial or investment advice, and growers should seek their own independent advice before making any such decisions, in addition to reading the full Pricing Pool Terms which are available on QSL's website. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance, nor should anything in relation to this article be taken to include representations as to future matters. The information in this article is only current as at date of printing.

WHAT IS ROLLING AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

The QSL Target Price Pool now extends the amount of time a grower has to achieve their targeted price past the traditional June deadline in the season of delivery by transferring the exposure for any unfilled orders or open nominations from one closing contract to the next in a process known as 'rolling'.

This transfer from one closing contract to the next begins in June and continues automatically for any applicable orders and nominations until the Pricing Completion Date after the harvest each year.

While QSL does not charge a fee for this process, the cost of establishing the new positions against the next contract is passed on to participating growers as a roll cost.

The first roll for 2018-Season Target Price Pool orders occurred on 21 June 2018 at a cost \$1.49/tonne. ►



Greg joins the QSL team

The QSL Grower Services Team has welcomed a new member, with **Greg Watson** joining the business as Grower Relationship Manager for QSL's Burdekin and Herbert River offices.

Greg has strong roots in the sugar industry and originally hails from Home Hill where his family were cane harvesting contractors.

He is a qualified Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) and most recently was a partner and financial planner with Carey Financial in Ingham and Townsville.

"It's great to be back working with growers and I think my previous experience is a great fit for the challenges of my new role."

Prior to this he held various agribusiness banking roles with the Queensland Industry Development Corporation (QIDC) and ANZ, and was Executive Officer of the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Sugar Production for three years.

Greg said he was looking forward to catching up with some familiar faces from his previous work with North Queensland's farming communities.

"It's great to be back working with growers and I think my previous experience is a great fit for the challenges of my new role," he said.

Greg will be based in QSL's Ayr and Ingham offices, and can be contacted on 0409 372 305 or email Gregory.Watson@qsl.com.au. ■



Pictured: Greg Watson has joined the QSL Grower Services Team in the Burdekin and Herbert River.

Growers using QSL Direct who have orders that rolled can see this roll cost noted as 'Roll Amount' on any applicable open orders within their account.

This roll cost has also been incorporated into the new 'Adjusted Target Price' for these orders and will be added to

any additional roll costs incurred as a result of the coming Oct18-Mar19 roll on 21 September 2018.

The remaining QSL Target Price Pool roll dates and Pricing Completion deadlines for the 2018-Season are:

QSL TARGET PRICE POOL	
20 September 2018	Any unfilled orders beyond this date will be rolled to the March 2019 Contract. Costs may apply.
15 January 2019	2018-Season Pricing Completion Date for MSF Sugar Growers only. Any unfilled orders for MSF Sugar Growers beyond this date will be filled by QSL at the next market opportunity.
20 February 2019	Any unfilled orders beyond this date will be rolled to the May 2019 Contract. Costs may apply.
19 April 2019	Pricing Completion Date for the 2018 Season. Any unfilled orders beyond this date will be priced by QSL at the next market opportunity. (As noted above, MSF Sugar Growers have an earlier 2018-Season Pricing Completion Date of 15 January 2019)

Irrigation and energy audits

HELPING GROWERS PLAN FOR LONGTERM EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY GAINS

By Tiffany Tento

Like many farms in the Isis region, **Peter McLennan's** mixed farming enterprise relies on irrigation to boost yields and reduce the risks associated with limited local rainfall.

Peter and wife **Leanne**, together with his parents **Gavan** and **Jenny**, run the Wallaville farms which include 187.5 ha of sugarcane supplying to the Isis Central Sugar Mill, 50 ha of macadamias, 100 head of cattle, as well as melon, peanuts and soybeans in rotation.

The McLennans have a long history of farming in the district, with Peter now the fourth-generation to pursue a career and life on the land.

"Our family started out in sugarcane and dairy in the beginning, slowly transitioning to a number of different crops for different reasons over the years," Peter said.

"When I joined the farm, I was interested in looking for some extra income, so I introduced rockmelons and then we progressed to macadamias about 15 years ago.

"Water or a lack of it has always been an issue and I would debate whether you could classify the Bundaberg / Isis region as supplementary irrigation areas these days.

"In the dry times, which seem to be more often than not, you need water to survive not just because it would be nice. Having a good, cost effective irrigation system that delivers water efficiently and effectively isn't just a want, it's a need."

Irrigation methods on the McLennan farm are as varied as the crops and cattle they support. Irrigation types include: overhead high-pressure winch systems, surface and underground trickle systems, second-year flooding (to reduce energy costs), a mixture of electric and diesel energy sources drawing on a combination of river water allocation and underground bores, as well as trickle and under tree sprinklers.

Peter says thanks to a rather complicated farm layout, their irrigation systems had been modified over the years to be able to shift and change to irrigate whenever and wherever, but it was obvious these methods were inefficient both in terms of water usage and cost.

Skyrocketing electricity prices combined with increasing farm operating costs and a softening of sugar prices led Peter to jump at the chance to participate in an irrigation and energy audit as part of the Queensland Government's Rural Water Use Efficiency – Irrigation Futures (RWUE-IF) program and Energy Savers program, both of which have finished.

The programs involved on-farm audits by irrigation and energy experts designed to identify where energy or irrigation practices could be changed or improved in order to reduce water usage and bring down electricity bills.



"We really wanted to get a complete on-farm analysis of all our irrigation systems and pumps in order to do a few things – identify the best irrigation system for our farms, reduce energy consumption, maximise crop productivity and increase our water efficiency," Peter said.

"Seeing it all laid out for us at the end – the cost to run our traveller guns with diesel verses electricity or accessing water from one source compared to another, really showed us in black and white where we needed to make changes and where we could save some money.

"At the end of the day the cost of water per megalitre is the guiding force in everything we do.

"I know now where I need to change my practices, or my equipment, to get the best out of my crops and get the best bang for my buck.



Pictured: Isis grower Peter McLennan uses a range of irrigation systems on his Wallaville farm, including overhead high-pressure winches, surface and underground trickle, and second-year flooding systems. He says the on-farm assessments will help him make better decisions to deliver positive economic benefits.

"The energy and irrigation assessments have given me a 10 to 15-year plan for the future – there are things we can and will implement straight away, and there are things that we will do in years to come when we have the funds to do it."

The McLennan's audit revealed the significant variation in cost for different irrigation methods and sources.

The most expensive option currently being used comes in at \$136.90 per megalitre (@80c/L) to run a diesel travelling gun irrigator fed from a bore, compared to \$48.97 per megalitre for furrow irrigation fed from the river by a new electric pump fitted with a variable speed booster.

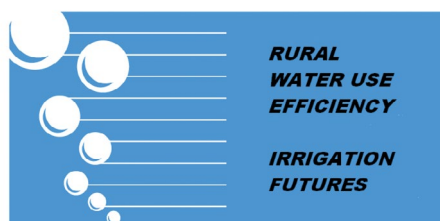
The audit does clarify that furrow systems can have a lower application efficiency meaning more water is needed to get the same yield response.

Recommendations being considered by the McLennan's include converting more area to furrow or trickle where bore water is used, conducting soil tests on blocks with the potential for furrow irrigation, and consideration of a portable booster pump to utilise dam water and boost low pressure mainline water for travellers.

Peter says the audit helped to identify several key focus areas, such as improving irrigation managed system capacity, use of monitoring and scheduling tools to better match crop production targets, and long-term monitoring of water and whole-of-farm energy efficiencies.

Proving their commitment to using best management practices on-farm, the McLennan's are proud to be one of 11 growers or businesses in the Isis district who are Smartcane BMP accredited.

Continues page 20 ►



Improving irrigation management
for a profitable and sustainable future



Of the approximately 200 sugarcane growers or associated businesses in the district, 92 have been benchmarked in Smartcane BMP, and together with the 11 accredited growers, 72% of the farmland is involved.

One of the local Smartcane BMP facilitators **Juliette Greenway** said the program underpinned much of the work being done by Isis Productivity Services and CANEGROWERS Isis, providing a strong, coordinated framework for everyone.

"Smartcane BMP is a voluntary program, developed and owned by growers for growers," Juliette said. "Everyone's business is different, and everyone manages their farm business differently.

"Smartcane BMP recognises those differences while encouraging farmers to see that they can and often do still fit within the framework. In the Isis District we see BMP as the way we do business.

"So often I hear farmers say that they need to get on to that BMP and ask will it be a lot of work. I let them know that nine times out of 10 they are so much closer than they think. With a little help, support and encouragement they can get across the line and get themselves that industry tick of approval."

Juliette said a recent irrigation field day held at the McLennan farm attracted many growers, all keen to learn more about best management practices in the areas of irrigation and drainage, one of the core modules of Smartcane BMP.

"Everyone in the Isis district knows how careful they need to be with the water they do receive, especially those growers who don't have access to the irrigation scheme and have to rely on their own on-farm storage, groundwater or accessing water directly from the Burnett River or its tributaries," she said.

"The irrigation field day at Peter's place was really well-attended and was a great way to show other growers in the area the benefits of whole of farm irrigation and energy assessments that can identify ways to save them time and money, improve their productivity and limit their impact on the environment." ■

Pictured above: Peter McLennan (second from left) was happy to share with local growers his experience of having a whole-of-farm irrigation assessment at a recent field day on his property.

Watch out: Survey teams about!

This crushing season the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program is asking the industry to keep an eye out in cane fields for survey teams.



Teams will survey areas south of Cairns for new yellow crazy ant infestations, particularly in farms neighbouring known infestations and along the Mulgrave Mill cane train network.

The Authority is working with MSF Sugar's Mulgrave Mill, farmers and contractors to notify them before surveying, and will avoid farms during active harvesting.

Hand treatments around any infested cane paddocks will follow completion of surveying in September, while aerial treatment by helicopter will take place on 4-6 September, weather permitting.

Growers in affected areas will be contacted directly to ensure they are fully informed and able to plan harvesting around biosecurity obligations.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority thanks contractors, growers, workers and MSF Sugar's Mulgrave Mill for their vigilance to ensure the safety of our survey teams.

We also thank the sugar industry for your help to eradicate this invasive pest and halt its spread on cane farms and further afield into the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. ■

For more information or to report ants, contact **Wesley Moller**:

Telephone: 0436 613 383

Email: wesley.moller@wtma.qld.gov.au

www.wettropics.gov.au/yellow-crazy-ants





BREAKING NEW GROUND IN CANE PLANTING

Tully district cane grower **Ray Zamora** is breaking new ground this cane-planting season, using modified machinery and leaving his cover crop in place.

In an industry-first, the Euramo grower has modified a dual row double disc planter to include a crimp roller and other componentry so he can achieve zero-till planting on his family's 110ha property.

Ray finished planting last week and says he had "a smile like a split watermelon" to see his mixed species cover crop still in the ground with the cane planted underneath it.

"We planted through the cover crop – that way we can keep living roots in the earth as long as possible and there is only one pass, for the cover crop, and then the planting," he said.

The Zamoras received funding from the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership, through the Australian Government's Reef Trust III Water Quality Incentives Grants program, to buy a second-hand planter – already a 'special' used for zero-till in the Burdekin – and make modifications to it.

They were among 55 Wet Tropics cane growers who secured funding for projects that help improve the quality

of water flowing off farms to the Great Barrier Reef.

Living in a wet part of the world and with cane on Murray River flood plain land, Ray wanted to extend the amount of time his fallow crops could be in the ground.

He also wanted to reduce soil compaction and cut back on fertilisers.

Modifications to the planter included adding a crimp roller and changing the rolling and soil-cover components, disc-opener angles and the planter's width to suit the Zamora's farming system which has 1.9m row spacings and dual rows 500mm apart.

"With the extended season length it's not viable sometimes to plant a cover crop at Christmas time," Ray said.

"This system allows me to come back in April when the wet season is over to plant a mixed species cover crop.

"The crimp roller lays the cover crop down as I plant but it is acting as an armour for the soil surface for longer, while also suppressing weeds and

providing a slow-release of nutrients for the new cane crop.

"It's also reducing the costs of preparing the ground for planting."

Ray's current fallow crop is a mixture of tillage radish, field brassica, Japanese millet, Rhodes grass and triticale.

The mix is the result of years of trialling cover crops at the farm with support from Project Catalyst – a partnership between innovative Queensland cane growers, The Coca Cola Foundation, WWF, Bayer CropScience, the Australian Government, Terrain NRM, Reef Catchments, Catchment Solutions and NQ Dry Tropics.

"These crops are breaking the sugarcane and fallow monocultures and they're also improving the soil's health and structure because each of these plants brings different benefits to the soil," Ray said.

"I don't think it's sustainable to keep adding more and more artificial fertilisers to compensate for poor soil health."

Supplied by WTSIP

Harvesting contractor agreements

By Chris Cooper, CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor



Although some growers harvest their own cane, it is common in the sugarcane industry for growers to engage harvesting contractors. What is less common is for growers and contractors to have a written and signed agreement in place. This can lead to problems if something goes wrong.

Written or verbal agreements

Whenever a grower engages a harvest contractor there is a contract or agreement made between the parties.

This contract may be written or verbal, or a bit of both.

But while verbal or handshake agreements are just as binding as written agreements, they are not without problems.

For a start, with a verbal agreement some important terms that govern the relationship may not be discussed.

Also, the grower and contractor may each have a different understanding or recollection of what was agreed.

It is for these reasons that CANEGROWERS strongly recommends that growers and harvesting contractors document in writing the agreement they propose to enter into.

The written agreement should cover the essential and important terms of the arrangement.

Whilst oral agreements are binding and enforceable, there is considerably more scope for dispute and disagreement if there is not a written record of what has been agreed.

A written agreement can clearly set out the expectations of the grower and the contractor.

Harvesting the crop is a major component of sugarcane farming and one of the biggest costs. An efficient and cost effective harvesting operation is important for grower viability.

Similarly, a contract harvesting operation is a significant business investment with large sums of money tied up in expensive machinery.

A reliable harvesting sector is essential for growers to operate their own farming business.

Co-operation between the grower and the contractor can help minimise harvesting losses and improve efficiency

and profitability of the growing and harvesting sectors.

Sample agreements

A sample Contractor Harvesting Agreement is available from all local CANEGROWERS offices.

If a full written agreement seems too involved, consider using at least a basic Contractor Acknowledgment, a sample of which is also available from your local CANEGROWERS office.

Even if only a verbal agreement is being entered into, usually by a discussion in person or over the phone, the grower should still make a diary note after the discussions of what was agreed and the essential terms.

Sending a note or email after the discussions to confirm the basic terms of the agreement is also recommended. ■

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John Deere 6630, 3,720hrs, 18.4.38 Rears, Quick hitch & Hyd. Third arm - \$78k. 10 x 25mm Spring Tyne Toolbar - \$400. ALL O.N.O Plus GST. Ph. 0419 988 158

J D 6300 good order \$25000 + GST, M F 188 multi power \$5000 + GST, Plus offsets, grubbers, pig, 5 disc reversible plough, multiweeder, bump discs and more
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John Deere 7700, 8400 Hrs, good rubber and recent mechanical upgrades, \$30,000 + GST. Case Magnum 7210, 10,000 Hrs, transmission rebuild 100 Hrs ago, \$25,000 + GST. Tully area Ph: Jamie 0427089009

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Classifieds

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HBM Billet Planter, new chains and flights with 3 ton side tipper bin \$4,500. Southern Cross model 100 irrigator nelson P200 gun - no hose. \$1,500. All prices include GST. Ph 0428 221 850 Maryborough Area

1994 Bonel - Pupulin Style Billet Planter \$4,000 + GST Ph: 0432635857

Clearing Sale: All used but working. 7 and 5 tonne Tippers and full track TOFT 6000 with 7000 roller train and 6 blade rotary chop. Trailed 1200 liter 12 mete boom spray. Napier Ripper, min till fert spreader frame with bag crane, etc all smaller implements. Ph or text 0403012501 ask for Tiny or email randomdudesfarming@hotmail.com

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Bonel Folding Multi-Weeder \$3,500 + GST, Farmall AV Tractor \$5,000 + GST John Deer A Tractor \$9,000 + GST Ph: 0419 577 110

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Wanted

Wanted STL Shares. Ph. 0419 717 006

Tractors and all types farm and earthmoving equipment. Any condition. Ph: 3201 5099

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

125/400 or 140/400 or bigger hard hose. Ph: 0419 771 504

Wanted Two row ratooning disc Ph 0478228375

Wanted Small farm tractor up to 80 hp. 2 wheel drive; 6 ft. 3 point linkage back blade, medium to heavy duty; 6 ft. Howard slasher Ph:0429182192

Positions Vacant

Two Level2 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

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GLEN ISLA Cane Farms - Tightly Held Area. 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. Please ph. Gary Johns 0427 241 250

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Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm)	
	7 days to 9am		January–August	
	13.08.18	20.08.18		
Mossman	0	0	2117	1795
Mareeba AP	0	0	652	731
Cairns	0	1	1967	1655
Mt Sophia	0	2	3245	2725
Babinda	0	0	1667	3517
Innisfail	1	10	2891	2967
Tully	0	1	3178	3433
Cardwell	0	0	1604	1716
Lucinda	0	0.2	1454	1753
Ingham	0	Tce/8	1628	1631
Abergowrie	0	0	1684	1488
Townsville	0	0	753	898
Ayr DPI	0	0	574	743
Proserpine	0	0	816	1077
Mirani	0	0	617	1183
Mackay	0.2	0.4	663	1240
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0	773	1344
Bundaberg	0.8	0.2	445	686
Childers South	1	0	589	585
Maryborough	0.4	0.4	606	822
Tewantin	0.2	0	908	1270
Eumundi	0	0	972	1231
Nambour	0	0	814	1222
Woongoolba	2	0	675	960
Murwillumbah	0	0	532	1154
Ballina	0	0	995	1350
Woodburn	0.2	0	654	1035



**AustSafe
Super**



The industry super
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regional Australia

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



9% ORGANIC CARBON

LIQUAFORCE BIG SHOT

LIQUID IS...THE FUTURE IN FERTILISING

Reduced N leaching • Faster application • Easier application • Safer application • Placement accuracy • Trace element consistency

BIG SHOT RANGE

Big Shot is a one application high analysis N.P.K.S fertilizer. The inclusion of molasses in BigShot, aids the microbial slow release of fertiliser nitrogen. The molasses used in Big Shot has not only been proven to slow down the release of nitrogen, it also increases the capacity of tillering plant cane to absorb nutrients.

LiquaForce BigShot gives you the ability to add trace elements more consistently in your fertiliser program. This offers farmers the flexibility to create unique mixes specific for their requirements, meeting their nutritional needs to the very last drop, including trace elements of zinc, copper, boron, or molybdenum.

VALU RANGE

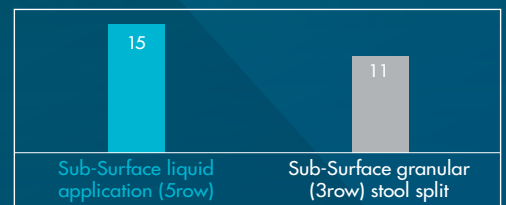
Liquaforce had developed its Valu range to work in synergy with BigShot. Demand for the Valu range is growing as farmers become more conscious that plants not only need N, P, K and S but also micro nutrients.

The LiquaForce advantage over granular is that trace elements are mixed evenly through a blend and not shuffled out of consistency when blended in a one ton bag.

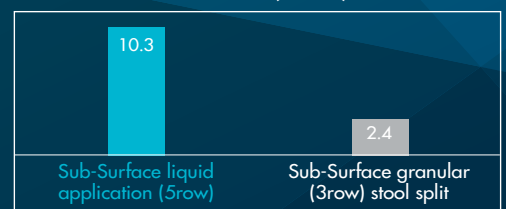
A FEAT analysis was undertaken to calculate estimated variable costs associated with fertiliser application. The estimated variable costs were based upon information supplied by fertiliser contractors surveyed, within the Herbert cane growing region (2012). The analysis considered the various fertiliser placement options and various options for the number of rows treated during an application. These figures are indicative of costs associated with fertiliser application methods found within the Australian cane industry.

Estimated variable costs associated with fertiliser application.

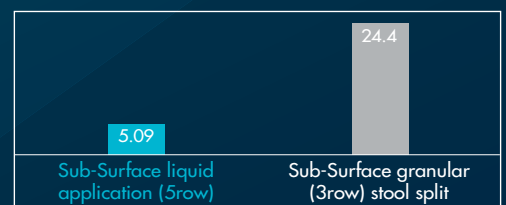
Average speed of application (km/hr)



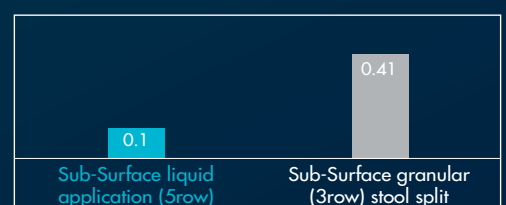
Work rate (ha/hr)



Variable cost + labour (\$/ha)



Labour (hrs/ha)



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CANEGROWERS Insurance brokers will visit you on farm to talk over your insurance needs.

Help to lodge claims

If something goes wrong and you need to report a claim, we are here to assist you during the claims process.

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