

CANE

AUSTRALIAN

GROWER



CANEGROWERS

August 2022 Price \$9.95



CHANGING FACE OF GROWER REPRESENTATION

NEW HERBERT RIVER DIRECTOR DETERMINED TO BE A STRONG VOICE FOR GROWERS

SUGARCANE CENTRAL TO QUEENSLAND'S BIOECONOMY FUTURE



COULD MARYBOROUGH'S CANE INDUSTRY BECOME BIOENERGY TRAILBLAZER?



CALLS TO PROTECT NORTHERN BURDEKIN FARMLAND FROM RISING GROUNDWATER



TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR ENERGY NEEDS

\$0
UPFRONT

- ✓ NO CAPITAL
- ✓ SAVINGS GUARANTEED
- ✓ 100% RISK FREE

We fund, design, build, own and manage the system. You simply get the benefits of purchasing *cheaper energy forever*.



Energy is delivered directly at a fixed rate that is cheaper than the grid.

Lower prices per kWh



Additional savings from "Energy Sharing" & cheaper retail energy available.

Sourcing renewable Energy.



We monitor, maintain and insure the system.

Ensuring system performance.

1300 467 262

www.horanandbird.com.au

Call Paul Horan on 0447 213 885 for a discussion and an assessment of your current energy bill or visit www.horanandbird.com.au/canegrowers to see our offer for CANEGROWERS members.



HORAN & BIRD
EVERYDAY ENERGY SOLUTIONS



GAIN
ACCURACY

GAIN
SAVINGS

GAIN
INSIGHT

THE 400 & 600 SERIES SPRAYERS
TURN TECHNOLOGY INTO
APPLICATION QUALITY.

Reduce overlaps and gain chemical cost savings with the ExactApply™ nozzle-control system that helps you spray with greater accuracy. New boom pressure recirculation and product reclaim save precious product, time and expense when rinsing and priming the boom whilst switching solutions. Plus a cab with enhanced operator comfort means you'll cover more ground per day in maximum comfort.

**TOTAL
SPRAYING
SOLUTIONS**

JohnDeere.com.au/Sprayers



JOHN DEERE

VISIT **LIQUAFORCE.COM.AU**
CALL **07 4776 0882**

LIQUA
FORCE

LIQUAFORCE – COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABLE COASTAL FARMING

LIQUAFORCE BIG SHOT

LIQUID IS...THE FUTURE IN FERTILISING

WANT AN ECONOMICAL & ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS FERTILISER OPTION WITH SOIL SUPPORT AND PLANT STIMULANTS? YOU WANT LIQUAFORCE BIGSHOT!

A one-shot application containing high analysis NPKS, LiquaForce BigShot also includes a super shot of molasses to slow down nitrogen release and help tillering plants absorb nutrients.

Flexible and adaptable, BigShot offers growers the option of adding additional trace elements to support specific soil and crop requirements.

But don't take our word for it. BigShot is backed by independent research by the University of Southern Queensland to reduce nitrogen leaching by 17% to help the microbial slow release of nitrogen.

CALL OUR LIQUAFORCE AREA REPS FOR MORE INFORMATION OR LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

MACKAY REGION:
Don McNichol, 0429 540 066

BURDEKIN REGION:
Robert Woods, 0429 658 318

INGHAM REGION:
Cameron Liddles, 0427 765 711

TULLY & FNQ REGION:
Maurice Shephard, 0457 924 762
Jordan Villaruz 0404 787 144

FEATURES

05 Rain halts harvest

Queensland's crush came to a grinding halt in July as widespread heavy rain made paddocks inaccessible to harvesters.

06 Sugar Plus

Industry stakeholders come together to plan a path to a profitable and sustainable future for the sugar industry.

12 Maryborough Mill

Maryborough could soon become a bioenergy hub, if a proposed deal to sell the mothballed Maryborough Sugar Mill goes ahead.

24 Changing face of reps

She may be new to the industry, but Leah Russo is determined to make a difference since becoming only the second-ever female director on the board of CANEGROWERS Herbert River.

COVER IMAGE: Leah Russo has been on a steep learning curve since joining the CANEGROWERS Herbert River Board.

CONTENTS IMAGE: Jess and Lucas Russo love helping out on the family farm. Read more on page 24.



EVERY ISSUE

- 4 News briefs
- 10 CEO comment
- 14 From the Chair
- 20 QSL report
- 32 Regional round-up
- 39 Policy updates
- 44 Legal update
- 46 Classifieds
- 47 Rainfall report



Editor: Wayne Griffin

Design and classifieds: Angela Linhart

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

Published monthly by

CANEGROWERS
GPO Box 1032, Brisbane,
Queensland 4001 Australia
ABN 94 089 992 969

Telephone: 07 3864 6444

Email: editor@CANEGROWERS.com.au

Website: www.CANEGROWERS.com.au

AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039

Volume 44 Number 8

Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 12 issues (postage included)

Within Australia \$176 inc GST

Overseas (AUD) \$265



CANEGROWERS working to boost Australian sugar access into US

As this edition of *Australian Canegrower* went to print, CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan was in the United States with Australian Sugar Milling Council CEO Rachele Sheard and Economics and Trade Policy Director David Rynne, working to improve access for Australian sugar.

The trio met with senior officials from the US Department of Agriculture and the US Farm Bureau's Policy and Government Relations team. They also attended a roundtable on World Trade Organisation reform with Australian Embassy officials and US commodity representatives from the soy, dairy, wheat, seeds, and rice industries (pictured).

"With the US market so important for Australia, it is important to build relationships that seek to maximise the opportunities for Australian sugar to get access and also to work with the US on reform options at the WTO to bring about a resolution to the case we won against Indian export subsidies," Mr Galligan said. ■

Business Essentials explained in new podcast

More than 90 growers have attended CANEGROWERS Business Essentials workshops this year, the latest in a series of CANEGROWERS services to build skills and profitability among members and ensure growers get the best they can from the 'grower choice' marketing environment.

Uniquely in the world, Queensland sugarcane growers can lock in sugar prices up to several years ahead. It's an ability that was secured through a strong campaign led by CANEGROWERS in 2015.

Want to know more? Episode 5 in the CANEGROWERS podcast series outlines the Business Essentials project and explains the important link between farm budgeting, risk analysis and sugar pricing. Find the CANEGROWERS podcasts on Buzzsprout, Spotify, Google Play and iTunes. ■

Scammers target machinery sales

Australian farmers and agricultural businesses lost over \$1.5 million to scammers in 2021, according to the latest Targeting Scams Report released by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

The most common agriculture scam was fake online sales of machinery such as tractors, backhoes, bobcats and excavators, accounting for reported losses of over \$1.4 million.

Scammers created fake websites to sell new tractors, and operated second hand tractor scams on platforms such as Gumtree and Facebook Marketplace.

To learn more about common scams, how to protect yourself and how to report a scam, visit www.scamwatch.gov.au ■





Season start a wash-out

No sooner had Queensland's 2022 sugarcane harvest begun, than it came to a grinding halt, as heavy rainfall made paddocks inaccessible to harvest crews, forcing mills to shut down until the weather cleared and paddocks dried out.

From Mossman to Isis, harvesting operations were delayed anywhere from a few days to a few weeks depending on the extent of the rainfall.

"It has certainly been a challenging start to the harvest and growers are understandably anxious, especially with more heavy rain forecast in the months ahead," CANEGROWERS Chairman **Owen Menkens** said.

"Despite rising input costs and labour shortages, there had been a lot of optimism amongst growers heading into this year's crush thanks to a big crop and high world sugar prices. But now growers are worried they may not get their crop off if the rain returns.

"The concern is totally understandable as many growers have pricing commitments as well to deal with. The weather is a serious issue, but poor mill performance is also adding to growers concerns about getting their crop off. We need to do whatever we can as an industry to get the cane off by Christmas."

Isis has been one of the worst affected areas, losing nearly an entire month to wet weather since the start of the crush.

"We've lost 24 days to wet weather so far, which includes eight days when the 2022 crushing season was scheduled to start on 7 June but was delayed due to rain. This is way above average for the Isis region," CANEGROWERS Isis manager **Joanne Hall** said.

Many other regions have also lost significant crushing time so far this season, including Mossman (10 days), Cairns (8 days), Mackay (12 days), Plane Creek (17 days) Herbert River (10 days), Burdekin (17 days), and Proserpine (16 days).

In Queensland's most southern district, rain is only one of the factors threatening growers' prospects of crushing their crop. A series of mechanical issues has seen Rocky Point Mill push its prospective start date back from 1 June to the first week in September.

"Between the mill issues and wet weather, we don't know how much of the crop we'll get harvested this season," CANEGROWERS Rocky Point Director **Michelle Fischer** said. "We only got 70% off last year. It's very disappointing and frustrating for growers." ■

Pictured: Heavy rain put the brakes on Queensland's sugarcane harvest in July.



ROADMAP POINTS TO BIOECONOMY FUTURE FOR SUGARCANE

A document which sets out measures to strengthen and build the Australian sugarcane industry, whilst charting a path to a bigger, bolder future has been launched.

Called Sugar Plus, it was developed with whole-of-industry support through a process that started with a Leaders' Forum that CANEGROWERS initiated in 2020.

The aim is to position the industry to make the most of bioeconomy opportunities.

"It is exciting as a cane grower to be at the starting point of a new chapter in our sugarcane industry's story," CANEGROWERS Chairman **Owen Menkens** said.

"We are ready to lead the transition, working with existing and new investors."

Sugarcane is one of the most resilient and adaptable agricultural crops on Earth, making it perfect to fuel future:

"By working together, we can increase profitability and keep the industry growing."

- **Food** - raw sugar will continue to be important in feeding the world and sugar is a feedstock for a new generation of animal-free foods;
- **Energy** - building on co-generated power and ethanol production to provide the next frontier of sustainable mobility and power; and
- **Fabrication** – making products that enable a more sustainable way of life, including replacements for plastics.

Mr Menkens said the industry organisations involved in drawing up the document were committed to ongoing collaboration to implement the roadmap and realise the Sugar Plus vision.

"By working together, we can increase profitability and keep the industry growing. Just as we have been involved in the process so far, CANEGROWERS will continue to represent growers in this important process as working groups are formed," Mr Menkens said.

"We can be an industry that the state and nation are proud of, that communities want to support, and young people want to start their career with."



"We can be an industry that the state and nation are proud of, that communities want to support, and young people want to start their career with."

The roadmap was developed through a nine-month process jointly funded and supported by the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia, Sugar Research Australia, CANEGROWERS, the Australian Sugar Milling Council, AgForce, Australian Cane Farmers Association and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Read more and watch the video: sugarcane-research.com.au/resources-and-media/sugarcane-industry-roadmap ■

Sugar Plus

Fuelling the Future of Food, Energy and Fabrication

Our vision is to become a vibrant, transforming industry, sustainably producing sugar and bioproducts at the heart of regional communities.

FOOD

- Plant-based foods
- Cellular fermentation
- Other sources

ENERGY

- Biofuels for heavy transport
- Energy from waste biomass

FABRICATION

- Bioplastics and biochemicals
- Biomaterials for packaging

Proudly supported by:



The CRCNA is funded as part of the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centre Program (CRC-P)



MAPPING SUCCESS

The CANEGROWERS campaign to stop motorists inadvertently driving onto farms is gaining ground, with a growing number of members seeing their private tracks removed from Google's mapping system.

From Rocky Point to the Tablelands, growers have been confronted by members of the public travelling through, or even lost on, their farms while following Google Maps.

For over a year, CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor **Chris Cooper** has been working closely with members to have their private farm tracks removed from Google's system.

While it was slow going at first, the constant reporting of mapping issues via Google's complaint system and the subsequent follow-up with the company's legal team is now paying dividends.

That is good news not just for growers, but also for members of the public who are being put in harm's way while travelling.

"Errors in Google Maps are causing tourists and travellers alike to unintentionally enter private farming lands. The risk of injury or damage arising from unexpected vehicles traversing cane farms where heavy machinery is operated is very real, especially during the current harvest season," Mr Cooper said.

Earlier this year, a Tableland grower discovered a courier truck transporting five live crocodiles had become stuck on his farm after following Google Maps directions through the private property.

"Whilst in some cases it sounds comical, the consequences can be dramatic."

"Whilst in some cases it sounds comical, the consequences can be dramatic," Mr Cooper said.

Recently, a number of CANEGROWERS Mackay members were successful in having their farm tracks removed from Google's mapping system following prompt action by the CANEGROWERS Mackay office and Mr Cooper.

"The mapping errors were reported via the Google Maps reporting system and shortly after Google's Australian legal team was contacted about the issue. After discussion and representation, Google has now corrected the errors," Mr Cooper said.

"This was a good outcome for those growers, but no doubt there are many other growers facing similar problems who have not had a resolution.

"If any other growers are aware of issues, they can contact their local CANEGROWERS office which can provide advice and assistance." ■



REPORT YELLOW CRAZY ANTS

CALL: **1800 CRAZY ANT**

P: (07) 4241 0525 | E: yca@wtma.qld.gov.au
W: www.wettropics.gov.au/yellow-crazy-ant | Facebook: @ycawettropics



WE'LL GO THE DISTANCE WITH YOU

We're here today and we're here to stay.

All things change. And we've built Smartcane BMP to ensure it's here for the long haul.

Glenn, Proserpine



SMARTCANE BMP

Contact your district facilitator to find out more.

CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

MEETING OUR POTENTIAL YEAR ON YEAR

As growers geared up for this year's harvest, a sense of optimism abounded. A bumper crop and sky-high sugar prices looked set to give growers' bottom lines a boost. With price and crop size on our side, we had secured two critical drivers for success. Unfortunately, the third critical driver – the weather – hasn't been so kind.

Rain has delayed harvesting operations across the industry and at one point in July, brought all mills in Queensland to a standstill. While most are up and running again, harvesting is still slow going in sodden paddocks in many districts.

Add to this headache the rising cost of inputs, poor mill availability in many areas, difficulty employing harvesting and haulout crews, and the forecast of above average rainfall in the months ahead, and it's understandable that the sense of optimism has been dampened.

There's no doubt that it's going to be a challenging season, but it is at times like this that it's important to remember our industry has faced such challenges before and come through together.

It is by acting together to manage challenges that we will embrace the opportunities of the season ahead.

In fact, it is this cooperation that is required to deliver on the opportunities not just of the 2022 season, but of the decades ahead.

The recently released sugar industry roadmap – Sugar Plus – lays out a plan for the industry to deliver on the significant potential for us to grow. To grow in production, grow as an economic contributor, and grow in our communities.

Just like the season ahead, the Sugar Plus plan is a story of risks and opportunities. The plan depicts the global need for renewable energy, plastics, fibre and fuel.

These are all things that, at the moment, may seem unreal to us in the Australian industry. However, they are already a reality for many of our global competitors, where government policy and forward planning have delivered diversification opportunities for sugar industries.

Across the world, where other industries have seen opportunities to expand their options for revenue beyond the world sugar price, it has been on the back of two important pillars.

Firstly, an industry that is working together to develop a plan for the future, and secondly, government policy that supports the implementation of that plan. In Australia, we have ticked box number 1.

Reminiscent of the some of the grand old days of industry collaboration which delivered our sugar cooperatives and world class sugar terminals, over the past two years, current leaders have looked to deliver the foundations of what our industry needs in the future.

Instead of pillars of infrastructure and logistics, the plan looks for incentives for investment and favourable government policy around niche fuels and renewable energy regional planning priorities.

The Sugar Plus roadmap is ambitious, particularly when we look at the challenges to meet the potential of the current season. But CANEGROWERS is convinced that as an industry we need to work together to deal with the challenges of the now, while setting us up to meet the potential of the future. ■



Maximise your nitrogen investment.

Minimise your environmental impact



eNtrench[®]

NXTGEN

Optinyte[®] technology

NITROGEN STABILISER

eNtrench[®] NXTGEN with Optinyte[®] technology works by keeping your nitrogen in the crop root zone for longer. To do this eNtrench NXTGEN inhibits the activity of the specific soil bacteria responsible for converting nitrogen into forms that can be rapidly lost from your soil.

To find out more contact your local territory manager or call **1800 700 096**.



Visit us at corteva.com.au

[®]/_™Trademark of Corteva Agriscience and its affiliated companies
Always follow the label as directed. ©Copyright 2022 Corteva.

Mill deal raises hope of industry renewal in Maryborough

Two years after it was mothballed by MSF, there's new hope that the Maryborough Mill may soon be crushing the region's sugarcane again, as part of Queensland's emerging bioenergy economy.

In a statement released late last month, Australian-Japanese joint venture Advanced Energy Group (AEG) announced it was close to finalising a deal to purchase the mill from MSF.

"AEG are currently in negotiation with MSF Pty Ltd for the acquisition of the Maryborough Sugar Mill with the purpose of creating a bio-energy hub," the statement said.

"This will only serve to advance the region by strengthening further investment into current farming practices, bringing back jobs and increasing the economic outputs of the region.

"These new varieties, they're high producing ... and they will grow with less water and on poorer soil."

"AEG have identified that greater opportunity exists to deliver continuous growth and value within the sugar industry and that is to diversify the capabilities of the mill."

If the purchase goes ahead in August as planned, work is expected to begin immediately to prepare the mill for next year's crush.

According to AEG, cane supplied to the mill would be used in the production of biofuels and the mill owners would seek to establish new "energy cane varieties" in the region.

Former CANEGROWERS Maryborough Chairman **Jeff Atkinson**, who has continued to work on the project for CANEGROWERS since retiring from his position earlier this year, said growers were hopeful the deal could reinvigorate the local industry.

"Growers are excited. Obviously, a sugar mill in your local area is an advantage to growers," he told ABC Radio's Rural Report.

"I think it's a first for a mill to close and reopen. It'll be the first time ever in Queensland, probably in Australia."

Continues next page ▶

LEADERS IN CANE GRUB CONTROL.



AUSTRALIAN THROUGH & THROUGH

Get the most out of Nufarm's suSCon maxi intel, Australia's No.1 cane grub control option. Simply scan to discover the best application method, hints, tips and grower feedback.



- Sustained release grub control**
 - Up to 4 years protection
- Improve efficiency through less labour**
 - Apply once at planting
- Controlled release**
 - Reduced leaching or off target run off



nufarm.com/au/sugarindustry/

For more information, contact your local Nufarm Business Development Manager

Mr Atkinson said the switch to biofuels would open up the possibility of value-adding and perhaps even expanding the region's cane industry.

"There will be a change of varieties, and there's work taking place at the moment looking at varieties that are more suitable for what AEG want to do.

"These new varieties, they're high producing, so the tonnes will be there. And, from the feedback we're getting, they will grow with less water and on poorer soil.

"Obviously, if there's a better return, it'll allow growers to go even further west than where we are currently growing.

"The big advantage we see as growers is the renewable diesel and the ethanol ... there will be added income for growers.

"I mean, there's been a lot of talk about how we value-add and (the industry) is



looking at all these opportunities. This could be the start of it, and I hope it is, because I think it's something the whole of the sugar industry needs." ■

Pictured: Maryborough Mill, photo credit Graeme Wilson.



Structure

Outstanding phosphorus availability.

Structure has been specifically developed to provide significantly more available phosphate in the soil. Relative to other formulations, Structure can effectively supply higher amounts of plant-available phosphorous to the root zone.

Benefits

- Phosphorous from applied Structure is highly resistant to tie up in soil.
 - By Calcium & Magnesium in high pH soils.
 - Iron & Aluminium in low pH soils.
- Increases Phosphorous uptake in root zone.
- Compatible liquid formulation.
- Contains complex Zinc.

Contact your local Nutrien Ag Solutions branch for more information or visit lovelandagriproducts.com.au

www.NutrienAgSolutions.com.au

**Loveland**
AGRI PRODUCTS

**Nutrien**
Ag Solutions®



FROM THE CHAIR

By Owen Menkens, Chairman CANEGROWERS

RAIN CAN'T STOP YOUR GROWER REPS

We've had a challenging start to the 2022 crush due to wet weather across all growing regions. In fact, for a period last month every Queensland mill ceased crushing because paddocks were inaccessible. But while the harvesters were idle, your CANEGROWERS representatives have been busy.

The widespread heavy rain was highly unusual for this time of year and hopefully it was a one-off. We need the skies to stay clear now.

But while the crush may have temporarily slowed down, the work on behalf of growers did not.

We had district crushing issues to negotiate, the CANEGROWERS policy committees got together, and we also held the first QCGO Board and Policy Council meetings of the new three-year term.

The CANEGROWERS Policy Council is made up of one grower representative for each sugar mill area in Queensland. Policy Council members also sit on the policy committees.

These committees prioritise the issues facing the industry from a grower perspective and establish strategies to deal with them. The Chair of each committee is also a member of the QCGO Board.

The CANEGROWERS policy committees are:

Farm Inputs and Research

Chaired by **Kevin Borg** (Plane Creek) this committee deals with Sugar Research Australia issues, transport, farm business management, productivity, and input prices.

Economics and Trade

This committee is chaired by **Joseph Borg** (Mackay) and it deals with water, electricity, sugar marketing, and trade issues.

Environment and Sustainability

Chaired by **Joe Marano** (Innisfail), this committee deals with environmental policy, Smartcane BMP, sustainable sugar, biosecurity, and social licence to operate.

Membership Reference Group

This group is chaired by **Stephen Calcagno** (Cairns Region) and deals with value for members, engagement with districts and growers, as well as bringing a membership focus to the issues examined by the policy committees.

Each of the committees is connected to a policy staff member, who helps carry out the direction of the growers.

If growers want to discuss any issues facing the industry, they should feel free to contact the chair of the relevant committee or their local Policy Council representative.

At the end of the day, we are one organisation with a policy platform to represent all of our members.

We are a grower-driven organisation with directors that deal with issues at a local, district, state and national level.

Board

The board looks after the financials and governance of the organisation, as well as looking at strategic direction.

Our board has a strong connection with the Queensland Farmers' Federation, with QCGO Director **Mark Mammino** (Iris) being a current director of QFF, while former CANEGROWERS director **Allan Dingle** (Bundaberg) is QFF president.

ACGC

We also had the first meeting of Australian Cane Growers Council (ACGC), which includes NSW grower groups.

As a founding member of the National Farmers' Federation, ACGC has a strong relationship with, and influence over the policy direction of that organisation.

ACGC also has membership in the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG). This organisation is very important for trade policy as it gives us a connection to governments in member countries. ■



Is Your Fertiliser Application Costing More Than It Should?

Apply The Right Amount Of Product, In The Right Place, At The Right Time

Optimise fertiliser application for your operation using Trimble Agriculture's Flow and Application Control systems.

Automatically control your variable-rate application and section control to:

- ✓ Minimise overlap and underlap
- ✓ Optimise input application
- ✓ Increase yield

Try the Section Control Savings Calculator to find out how much Trimble's Flow and Application Control systems can save you!

1300 TRIMBLE
vantage-bms.com



Call for changes to **PROTECT FARMLAND**

by Neroli Roocke

Sugarcane growers in the most northern area of the Burdekin are calling for a review of the way irrigation water is managed and billed, fearing the current regime will create a rising groundwater problem.

“While other areas of the Burdekin are trying to manage a rising groundwater issue, we want to prevent one,” Steve Pilla, a CANEGROWERS Burdekin director said.

The area he’s talking about is the Giru Benefit Area (GBA), and particularly the farms on the inland side of the highway.

“Up until the 1990s, all the water for this area came from natural yields – rainfall flows through the Haughton River and the creeks fed by runoff from the nearby mountains into the natural aquifer,” he explained.

“When the Burdekin Dam was built, that natural water supply started being supplemented through the drain network into the Haughton River and by pump assist into that northern creek system.

“When I was a kid, the Haughton River and the creeks would dry up some years which affected crop growth so the supplemented supply meant we had secure water.”

But Mr Pilla now fears the current management approach of keeping the water system constantly topped up is starting to put productive cane fields at risk while also limiting the amount of natural yield that is captured because it flows over the top of the weirs.

“Up until a few years ago, the pricing structure in the GBA took account of natural yields plus the supplement from Sunwater, meaning we paid 51% of the cost of the water that we pumped from the river, creeks and aquifer making extraction from bores economic,” he said.

“But we now have a water system that’s constantly full and face a price path which would take us to the same pricing structure as channel customers with no consideration for the natural flows.

“We could have rising groundwater issues in the future because growers will seek a cost saving by pumping more straight from open water, like rivers and creeks, and only use the bores when absolutely needed due to the high electricity costs.”

CANEGROWERS Burdekin is sounding the alarm and will be seeking meetings with Sunwater and the Department of Natural Resources.

continues page 18 ►

Pictured: Steve Pilla wants to protect his farmland from rising groundwater.





"Having Sunwater continuously releasing surface water into the system, keeping it full, is accelerating groundwater rises over time," CANEGROWERS Burdekin manager **Greg Watson** says.

"Obviously, an ongoing supplemented supply from Sunwater is required to meet irrigation needs, but there has to be a review to incorporate a solution to manage the rising groundwater issue."

"There needs to be encouragement and price incentives for growers to use their bores in conjunction with open water pumps to manage the water levels."

"We need the Queensland Government and Sunwater to again acknowledge a component for the natural yield as it has been for the previous 30 years and maintain a pricing structure that gives growers an incentive to use their bores as part of the management of the area's groundwater levels."

Steve Pilla says the groundwater is only 1.3m below the surface of his mother's farm, which is on a slight ridge, while a neighbour slightly downhill has water at 300mm.

"This will become a very serious issue very quickly if it's not addressed," he said. "We could lose farmland."

"We need something to change with the pricing path, an acknowledgement of the natural yield which is being ignored and a rethink of water supply management in the GBA." ■

"We need something to change with the pricing path, an acknowledgement of the natural yield which is being ignored and a rethink of water supply management."

Pictured: In some parts of the Burdekin, rising salinity can be localised, with healthy crops growing just metres from severely impacted sugarcane.

WE'LL 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 on your own.

Get in touch with your district facilitator to see how easy it can be. We're here to help.



Greg, Mackay



Contact your district facilitator to find out more.

QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

Current as of 22 July 2022.

Sugar Market & Currency



Influence	Commentary	Outlook
Brazil	The 2022 Season continues to lag the 2021 Season, with almost 10 million tonnes of sugar produced and 187 million tonnes of cane harvested to date. Of the cane harvested, 42.54% has gone to sugar production. Analysts' forecasts remain around 32 million tonnes for the final crop figure.	Neutral
India	The Indian Government has expanded the export cap from 10 million tonnes to 11.5 million tonnes, despite food security concerns. The monsoon is now in place across most of India and is providing average rainfall.	
Thailand	Thailand experienced torrential rain and flash flooding across many regions in mid-July. The impact on their cane crop is yet to be seen.	
Speculators	Rising global inflation rates and risk of a recession lead to a weak macroeconomic picture which caused speculators to liquidate their position in the ICE 11 market and move into a net short position for the first time in over two years.	
Currency	The Aussie Dollar came under the heavy pressure of a rising US currency for the majority of July as US inflation reached a 40-year-high of 9.1% and the Federal Reserve scrambled to raise interest rates.	

The outlook ratings above are in relation to AUD/tonne sugar prices.  A bullish outlook is considered positive.  A bearish outlook is considered negative.

KEY INDICATORS

	22/07/2022	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (Jul22)	18.35 USc/lb	-0.03 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.50 BRL	+0.26 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US103.86/barrel	-\$US6.19
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	16.50 USc/lb	-4.10 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	10,000 (net long)	-61,000

	22/07/2022	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.6910	+\$US0.0013
\$US Index	106.91	+2.48
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.77 CNY	+0.07 CNY
S+P 500 Index	3,998.95	+203.22
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	1.35%	+0.50%

RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 22.07.22, based on a current 3:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2022 Season, and 1:2:2:1 ratio for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 Seasons.

Disclaimer: This report contains information of a general or summary nature and is based on information available to QSL from many sources. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial or investment advice. You should seek your own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms, which are contained on QSL's website. Nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters or that a particular outcome will be achieved. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance. The information in the report is current as at the time of publication and is subject to change, as the information is based on many assumptions and is subject to uncertainties inherent in any market. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this report.



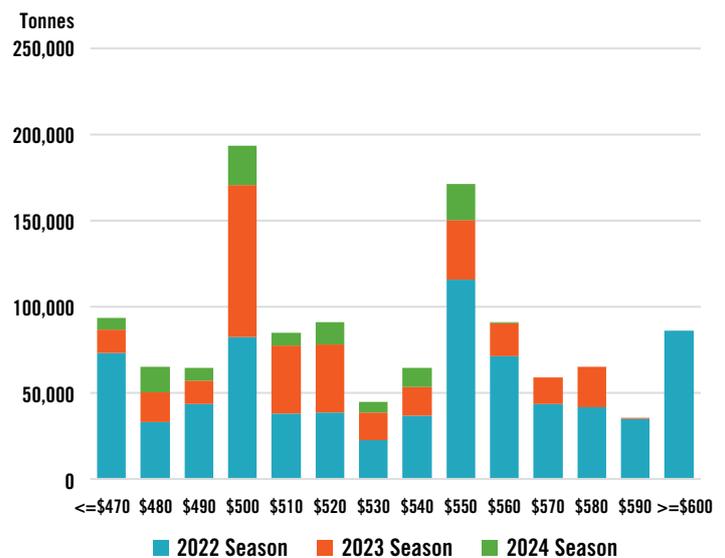
Your Trusted Partner

Grower Pricing



- > The highest grower-managed pricing levels achieved as of 22 July 2022 (all gross price actual/tonne) are:
 - 2022 Target Price = \$630 / IFC \$635 (Mar23)
 - 2023 Target Price = \$585 / IFC \$595 (Jul23)
 - 2024 Target Price = \$555 / IFC \$560 (Jul24)
- > **New app features:** The QSL App has recently been expanded to include a new range of personalised reporting tools, enabling QSL Direct growers to:
 - See their current Weighted Average Price and a snapshot of their pricing results
 - Track their sugar deliveries against their committed pricing and sugar production estimate
 - See their scheduled Advance payments for the current season
 - Access a handy cashflow forecasting tool
- > **Balancing Orders:** Self-Managed Harvest Contract users are reminded they can price the remainder of their unpriced tonnage against individual contracts by using our new 'Balancing Order' feature on the portal and QSL App. This enables you to place an order for all of the remaining unpriced tonnage against that contract – down to the last tonne – rather than limiting the order size to a multiple of 10 tonnes.

QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2022, 2023 & 2024 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 22.07.22 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

2021-Season pricing results at a glance

QSL's 2021-Season results have now been finalised. Here's a quick pricing snapshot:

<p>+\$37/t (weighted average) Record QSL Shared Pool return inclusive of Loyalty Bonus</p> 	<p>Grower-managed pricing results improved on 2020</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Target Price Contract</td> <td>Individual Futures Contract</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$472/t</td> <td>\$500/t</td> </tr> <tr> <td>gross actual weighted average</td> <td>gross actual weighted average</td> </tr> </table> 	Target Price Contract	Individual Futures Contract	\$472/t	\$500/t	gross actual weighted average	gross actual weighted average
Target Price Contract	Individual Futures Contract						
\$472/t	\$500/t						
gross actual weighted average	gross actual weighted average						
<p>Self-Managed Harvest growers outperformed the Harvest Pool by a weighted average of</p> <p>+\$14/t IPS</p> 	<p>Best Performing Pools</p> <p>Best 2021 result = \$797/t IPS net – US Quota</p> <p>Best ICE 11 Pool = \$591/t IPS net – QSL Actively Managed Pool</p> 						

All results have been rounded to their nearest whole dollar amount.

CANEGROWERS community news

Sugar town school celebrates centenary

Past students and teachers of El Arish State School are invited to a day of celebration on 24 September to mark 100 years of education in the town.

El Arish was established as a soldier settlement in 1917 for returned servicemen from World War I. The school was opened in May 1922 with an initial enrolment of five students.

At its peak the school had 160 students as farms and two sawmills were established. Presently the school has a population of around 40.

The centenary celebration will begin at 9am with activities including the unveiling a History Walk and commemorative bricks at the school, a roll call for the past 100 years, school tours and the opportunity to share stories.

Food stalls will provide lunch before a Dinner Dance in the evening at the RSL Memorial Hall. Register for the roll call and purchase a commemorative shirt at www.elarishss100.com.au

Tickets for the dinner dance will be \$30 and on sale from 10 August and will not be available at the door. To secure a ticket contact mayperger@yahoo.com.au ■



DICKEY-john®
A DIVISION OF TSI®

CAMBUT
AG ELECTRONICS

REDUCE YOUR FERTILISER USAGE TODAY AND SAVE

7" COLOUR SCREEN | ISOBUS CONTROLLER | DICKEY-john HYDRADRIVE | APPLICATION RATE SENSOR
www.cambut.com.au | 07 3391 8766 | info@cambut.com.au

Remembering a great innovator and engineer

Mackay sugarcane grower, contractor and well-known builder of cane elevating bins, **Charles Galea** (Charlie) lost his battle with brain cancer in July. Charlie, 68, was best known for his great love of anything to do with the sugar industry.

Charlie worked with his son **Darren** and grandson **Jayden** designing and modifying harvest machinery aimed at solving on farm problems, reducing maintenance downtime and improving efficiency.

His path into the sugar industry started when his family arrived from Malta when he was 12. At 15 Charlie left school to work with his father and extended family on farm.

"His cane cutting days extended over 50 years, from the days of cane knife cutting, moving up from a Mizzi to a Massey 305 to his beloved modified 1996 7700," Darren Galea said.

"His journey started at Brightly on the family farm, a stint up the Valley then on to Farleigh in the little shed on the highway before moving onto bigger things in Pleystowe.

"He built cane elevating bins, his first in the late 80's, and side tippers, modified chopper drums, hydraulics repairs. His accomplishments were immense and this list doesn't do justice to what he achieved. He was taken too early."

"The sugar industry has lost a great man. Charlie's capacity to innovate and understand how things work is legendary. More importantly Charlie will always be remembered for his willingness to pass on his knowledge and help people out," Mackay grower and former CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said.

Darren, Jayden and Charlie's family would like to personally thank everyone for their messages, calls, thoughts and prayers, the show of support was deeply appreciated. ■

Pictured: L-R Three generations Darren Galea (Charlie's son), Charlie Galea and Jayden Galea (Charlie's grandson). Not pictured Jayden has a son Carta Charlie (3 months old) so Charlie saw four generations of his name.



Knockdown and residual weed control that stays where you put it

VALOR® 500WG is the herbicide for cane and bean growers that stays where you put it. It can be used with knockdown herbicides for improved control of emerged weeds, or at higher rates for extended residual control in-crop.

VALOR
500 WG HERBICIDE



Scan here to see
more information about
Valor 500WG Herbicide

 **SUMITOMO CHEMICAL**
AgroSolutions Division

www.sumitomo-chem.com.au

© Valor is the registered trademark of Sumitomo Chemical Company, Japan.



Steep learning curve

She may be a relative newcomer to the sugarcane industry, but Leah Russo is determined to be a strong advocate for her fellow Herbert River growers. Earlier this year, Leah became just the second woman ever elected to a director role on the board of CANEGROWERS Herbert River, and while it's been a steep learning curve, the 39-year-old is drawing on her passion and experience in the travel industry to provide a strong voice for growers.

BY ROBYN DEVINE

Tucked away off the main highway about 20kms south of Ingham is the picturesque area of Yuruga. It's here that Leah and Santo Russo's young family embarked on their cane-growing journey in 2018, following in the footsteps of Santo's family, which has been farming in the area for three generations.

The couple bought 60 hectares of the Russo family farm in 2018 and the remaining 60 hectares from her father-in-law Frank when he retired two years ago. The young Russos decided to embrace the farming lifestyle and moved the family onto the Yuruga farm after living in town since returning to the Herbert River district.

"This farm is part of the original family farm. My husband's grandparents came over from Sicily and bought the property in 1959, so our children are growing up where their father and grandfather grew

"My husband grew up on the farm, his family are growers and have been contract harvesters, but it's been brand new for me."

up. It's keeping our family history alive," Leah said.

"My husband grew up on the farm, his family are growers and have been contract harvesters, but it's been brand new for me. I did grow up in Ingham, with farms around us, but my parents didn't own a farm, so I wasn't involved in a farming experience."

Their three children, Jessica (9), Lucas (7), and Benjamin (5), now enjoy farm life in their little piece of paradise, where the mountains frame the long green rows of sugarcane in the fields.

Like many growers, Santo also works off farm, holding down a full-time job at the local mill.

Balancing full time employment while running a farm - doing the necessary maintenance and growing tasks - requires some adept juggling.

“To be honest I wasn’t sure what to expect, but the growers on the Board have all been so supportive. I have never ever felt that I don’t belong in that room or that I shouldn’t be there.”

At times everyone is required to pitch in but it’s a dedicated family affair and Leah is enjoying the learning experience first-hand. Overall, the family says the positives definitely outweigh the challenges.

“The kids love running about on the farm and helping with the different jobs we do. Since moving here we have the added benefit of seeing Santo on his days off when he’s working on farm, even if it’s just at lunchtime, but often he takes the kids on the tractor for a few hours,” Leah said.

Leah said the assistance from her father-in-law, Frank, was invaluable and even though he lived in town he was always available and helped regularly at the farm, sharing his wealth of experience.

“He’s been working on the farm since he was about eight or nine and he knows everything about growing cane, which is a great help. He’s taught me so much about spraying and I’ve even helped him calibrate a fertiliser box,” Leah said.

With the children at school, Leah found she had more time to be involved in the industry. So when a call went out from CANEGROWERS Herbert River for new Board members, Leah was interested in taking on a new challenge.

“I read the email from the district office seeking Directors. They were looking for diversity and asking for young farmers and women to apply. I rang CANEGROWERS Herbert River manager Frank Scardamaglia, he was very supportive, explained the role and encouraged me to apply,” Leah said.

“I also phoned Zenan Reinaudo, as she was already on the Herbert River Board. She was also encouraging and said it would be good to have more than one woman on the Board to get a full range of views, so in the end I applied and here I am.

“To be honest I wasn’t sure what to expect, but the growers on the Board have all been so supportive. I didn’t know many of them going into the role, but they have been very welcoming and willing to take the time to explain things, it’s been a pleasant surprise.

“I feel very supported, I have never ever felt that I don’t belong in that room or that I shouldn’t be there.”

With Santo’s work at the mill, including shift work during the crushing season, Leah tries to help wherever possible.

“Mainly I do the bookwork, sugar pricing, Smartcane BMP and that side of things, but like all farming families, sometimes it’s all hands-on deck, so if we’re planting or the like, I’ll jump in the tractor and help out as I can,” Leah said.

“I really enjoy driving a tractor, I never thought I’d say that, but it’s great to be outside.”

Santo started in the industry driving haulouts after leaving school, then left town to work in Townsville at Queensland Nickel for 11 years.

Continues next page ►

Pictured: (main) The Russo family loves growing sugarcane - taking up the gauntlet on the family farm, (below) the impressive entrance to the farm in Bambaroo, (below right) Benjamin, Jess and Lucas enjoy helping out on the farm.



"I hope in my new role I can help people. If I can pass on what I have learnt or resources to help growers, that's ultimately my goal."



After moving back to Ingham with the family, he began working at the Macknade Mill as a points boy and now has a permanent job in the crushing and boiler console. Off-season he works in the maintenance area.

"One day I hope that we can get to the stage where Santo can stop working at the mill and we can work the farm together, full time," Leah said.

Santo agrees, saying the family goal is to buy more farmland and grow more cane in the future. However, he admitted the struggles of raising a young family on the farm without any off-farm income are very real.

He has advice for young growers or families wanting to come into the industry.

"Do a couple of years working for someone else or on a haulout to find out if you like it," Santo said.

"If you try before you buy, it'll help you understand the industry more, because every year is a different year and you have to be across the differences."

Leah is keen to gather as much understanding as she can about the industry and last year participated in the CANEGROWERS-TAFE Pricing Essentials course to help gain a better knowledge of the nuances of the sugarcane growing business.

"Before children, I worked in the travel industry, initially as a leisure travel agent and finally in corporate travel. This provided me with transferrable skills that I now use in our business, especially understanding the financial input, working with spreadsheets and

the customer service training might help me with my role on the Board and talking with members," Leah said.

"I attended the second CANEGROWERS Business Essentials workshop from a different viewpoint. Now that I'm on the Board I'm thinking about what support a grower needs and what's available for them.

"Now I'm more experienced with my own bookwork, my thoughts have moved to things like workplace health and safety, risk management and those sorts of things. I haven't thought about so much before, so I got a lot out of both the courses, even though they appeared to be similar."

Leah's goals for being a Board member is to learn as much as possible about CANEGROWERS and encourage other growers, especially women, young people and small farmers to step up and take on roles within the organisations.

In the meantime, its business as usual for Leah, getting ready for harvest, running the business financials, helping with the chores on farm, raising her children and wondering how the long-term weather forecast will affect them.

"As a grower on a small farm you look at things differently than someone with a big farm or a big debt," Leah said.

"Like all growers we're hopeful for a good crop this year but the weather affected the cane early and everything is soggy.

"We haven't irrigated since last year. Traditionally Yuruga is drier than the rest of the district, so in previous years we would irrigate. It's a bit of a process to irrigate and expensive.

"I've learnt some of the frustrations of being a grower first hand, like trying to find a leak in the irrigation hoses in the dark, because it's cheaper to irrigate at night-time. I have found myself at times up to my knees in water in the dark."

Leah said she understood another challenge for families wanting to buy a farm, or start in the industry, can be the ability to source initial funds. She recognised her husband's frugal habits assisted their family's financial journey, but not everyone is in the same position.

"QRIDA was amazingly good. They helped us with our business plan, and our cash flow projections and sent us to the Rural Financial Counselling Service, who were super helpful as well. There are good resources out there, but sometimes you just need to know who to ask and where to find them," Leah said.

"I hope in my new role I can help people and be a support, obviously it's a learning curve in the beginning, but if I can pass on what I have learnt or resources to help growers, that's ultimately my goal." ■

Pictured: (above) It's a family affair for Santo (left) Benjamin, Leah and Lucas (centre) and Jessica (right) as the family works and plays together. (Right top) Lucas and Benjamin are always happy to help out with the chores especially if the tractor is involved. (Right bottom) The mountains surround the Russo family farm providing an idyllic location for the family farm.



Sunsuper joined QSuper.



QSuper joined Sunsuper.



To form Australian Retirement Trust.

It's a big moment. Sunsuper and QSuper have merged to create one of Australia's largest super funds.

We've brought together over 140 years' combined experience to support over two million members, and received Canstar's Outstanding Value Award 2022 for Australian Retirement Trust's *Super Savings*.

We're also proud to have returned 9.0% p.a. over 10 years for Australian Retirement Trust's *Super Savings* Balanced option to June 2022.

Best of all, we continue to work for members, not shareholders. Now that's super.

australianretirementtrust.com.au



Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The Australian Retirement Trust *Super Savings* Balanced option has adopted the pre-merger investment strategy of the Sunsuper Balanced option. Returns prior to 28 February 2022 are for the former Sunsuper Balanced option. The *Super Savings* Balanced option has identical investments to the Balanced Pool in the Lifecycle Investment Strategy. Members invested in the Lifecycle Investment Strategy are invested 100% in the Balanced Pool until age 55. *Super Savings* products issued by Australian Retirement Trust Pty Ltd (ABN 88 010 720 840, AFSL No. 228975) as trustee for Australian Retirement Trust (ABN 60 905 115 063). Consider the Super Savings PDS before deciding and TMD at australianretirementtrust.com.au/pds See award information at australianretirementtrust.com.au/awards Member number and funds include both *Super Savings* and QSuper account holders with Australian Retirement Trust as at June 2022.

CANEGROWERS FAREWELLS TIRELESS CONTRIBUTOR

After more than six years at the helm of CANEGROWERS communications department, advocating for growers through the promotion of positive news stories about Queensland's sugarcane industry, communications manager **Neroli Roocke** stepped down from her role with the organisation on 29 July.

Already a well-known figure within Queensland's regional communities when she joined CANEGROWERS, having hosted ABC Radio's Queensland Country Hour for many years, Neroli took on the editor role with *Australian Canegrower* magazine in 2013.

Within three years she had been appointed communications manager and set about creating a clear and positive voice for the organisation.

During her time with CANEGROWERS, Neroli travelled throughout every sugarcane growing region in Queensland, visiting countless farms as she gathered grower stories to share with wider community.

She modernised the organisation's communications strategy and ensured CANEGROWERS messaging featured prominently in local and national media.

Neroli also voiced the popular Virtual Bus Tour video series and more recently launched the CANEGROWERS podcast and led the implementation of successful television advertising campaigns.

"Neroli has made a significant impact on our organisation during her nine years as magazine editor and communications manager," CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan**.

"Through her commitment to communication she has amplified the voice of the organisation, always focusing on ensuring our messages are crafted and delivered by growers about growers, and in doing so she has positively impacted our culture and the way in which CANEGROWERS interacts with the industry.

"Neroli has been a tireless contributor and we wish her well as she leaves to find

new stories to tell in her career, knowing that she has made many friends from across the industry." ■

Pictured: CANEGROWERS Communications Manager Neroli Roocke attended the recent Women in Sugar Australia conference in Ayr, alongside CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens.



**More resilience,
more productivity,
powered by biology**

EndoFuse™ from Sumitomo Chemical is a plant and soil enhancement product that contains arbuscular mycorrhizae fungi (AMF). Mycorrhizae are beneficial fungi that naturally exist in soils colonising the root systems of plants. EndoFuse includes 4 high performing endo-mycorrhizae species that have been proven to increase crop resilience, productivity and overall plant and soil health.

KEY AREAS ENDOFUSE HAS BEEN SHOWN TO IMPACT:

- Crop resilience under plant stress conditions
- Increased yield in cane and bean crops
- Root and shoot biomass
- N, P, K and trace mineral uptake
- Water uptake during moisture stress
- Soil health
- Re-populate mycorrhizae following cultivation
- Reduced leaching of applied fertiliser
- Highly complimentary with rhizobium inoculants on beans



www.sumitomo-chem.com.au

™ EndoFuse is the trademark of Sumitomo Chemical Australia.

Smartcane BMP

How well do you know the Smartcane BMP core modules?

MODULE 1 - Soil Health and Nutrient Management

What is this about?

The way you manage soil and nutrients has changed significantly in the past 20 years. One of these changes is retaining trash to conserve soil, improve soil health, and help keep weeds at bay.

Better use of ameliorants like gypsum, lime and mill by-products have improved soil chemistry and soil structure. Following land helps break weed and disease cycles while improving soil health.

Not every option for managing soils and nutrients is equally suited to all situations. For example, legume fallows benefit the subsequent cane crop but can be harder to implement and profit from.

Using the Smartcane BMP program, you can describe your farming practices and see how these relate to current recommendations. The result is two-fold: you help to set the record straight about how we farm, showing how industry has changed and adapted over time, and you can explore options that will suit your farm and your goals.

Why is it important?

Soil health and nutrient management are bread and butter issues for your productivity. They also have a big impact on the risk of soil, nutrients and applied chemicals leaving the farm.

Optimising soil health and nutrient management is therefore a win-win situation. Having your practices documented in BMP also helps your industry secure its environmental reputation.

What's next?

REVIEW AND DISCUSS

If you'd like to document or review the way you manage soil health and nutrients, you can access Module 1 at smartcane.com.au. The module records your current practices, and the checklist format helps to identify options for further improvement.

Your district facilitator or productivity officer can help you follow-up on additional information, training or expert advice.

GET INVOLVED IN SMARTCANE BMP

Smartcane BMP has modules that cover different aspects of your cane farming business. It includes the option to become accredited in the farming practice modules (Modules 1, 2 and 3). Participation is entirely voluntary, and your facilitator can talk with you about what's involved and put you in touch with local growers who are also part of the program.

Contact your district facilitator to get involved.

What's in the module?

INDUSTRY STANDARD	ABOVE INDUSTRY STANDARD
MANAGING COMPACTION	
Where possible, delaying machinery operations in wet field conditions and matching row spacing and wheel spacing	Not operating machinery in wet field conditions and using GPS for all field operations—bed forming, planting, spraying and harvesting
TRASH MANAGEMENT	
Retaining green trash blanket on suitable soils or burning cane before harvest in areas prone to waterlogging	Retaining the green trash blanket throughout the crop cycle and after the final ratoon as a fallow cover
FALLOW MANAGEMENT	
Breaking pest and disease cycles by not growing cane during fallow seasons and spraying weeds before they seed	Growing rotational crops on fallow land to break weed and pest cycles and keeping residues from rotational crops on the soil surface
PREPARING LAND FOR PLANTING	
Using zonal tillage or reducing the number of passes—typically less than six—to reduce the impact on soil structure	Using zonal tillage and reducing the number of passes—typically less than three—to reduce the impact on soil structure, or using minimum tillage into preformed beds on a controlled traffic configuration
TILLAGE MANAGEMENT IN-CROP	
Keeping tillage in plant cane to the minimum necessary to establish row profiles and irrigation furrows, and for GCTB. Not using tillage ratoons other than applying of fertiliser and pesticide	Keeping permanent beds, strategically cultivating as required, and limiting cultivating plant and ratoon crops to coulters-applied fertilisers and pesticides
MANAGING SALINITY AND SODICITY	
Monitoring salinity and sodicity through soil tests and on-farm management practices, and reducing salinity to be in line with regulations	Monitoring root zone soil and groundwater conditions where you have identified salinity or sodicity
SOIL SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS	
Collecting appropriate soil samples from blocks to be planted and sent for analysis, and keeping records to refine nutritional programs	Mapping soil types, developing management zones and collecting soil samples for each management zone
CALCULATING OPTIMUM NUTRIENT RATE	
Using the SIX EASY STEPS™ method to build nutrient recommendations derived from soil test results and making deductions for other sources of nitrogen	Developing a whole-farm nutrient plan using the SIX EASY STEPS™ method
CALIBRATION OF APPLICATION EQUIPMENT	
Calibrating application equipment prior to the season and at each product batch change	Correctly using calibrated automatic controllers and variable rate application equipment
RECORD KEEPING	
Keeping records of soil tests, application rates, products, placement, and using records to make improvements to future nutrient management	Keeping records in digital form linked by GPS and using them to monitor and modify future nutrient management

We will showcase Module 2 and Module 3 in the subsequent editions of the magazine.

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN



Harvest week - 4



CCS to date - 11.42



Tonnes to date - 65,666 (8.64%)

Mill factory issues and wet weather have hampered the first few weeks of crushing.

Failure of the major turbine in the shredder occurred in Week 1. It is unlikely to be back online for some time and running on a smaller turbine restricts the crushing rate. The poor quality of cane supplied, with more mud after the wet weather, is also hampering crushing.

FNM Pty Ltd has been having difficulty completing required maintenance to get trucks and trailers reregistered, recruiting drivers, and undertaking training which has also impacted cane supply availability.

The wet weather in early July forced a halt to crushing for Week 3, resulting in 168 hours of lost time. The mill resumed on 10 July.

As of 16 July, Mossman Mill processed a total of 65,666 tonnes, for a mill average of 11.42CCS.

Coastal growers had supplied 46,422 tonnes, for a mill average of 10.91CCS. Tableland growers supplied 19,244 tonnes, for a mill average of 12.64CCS.

Our local district show (*pictured*) was held on 17-18 July. CANEGROWERS Mossman sponsored the Mossman Next Gen Group Show Cane Display again this year.

We congratulate the winners: M & K Bruyn, D'Addona Electrical and Farming, Puglisi Farming, and J & R Shepherdson.

Congratulations to Anthony from D'Addona Electrical & Farming Pty Ltd for taking out the Champion Exhibit and Most Successful Exhibitor.

We thank everyone involved for making it such a success.

Pictured: Champion Exhibitor award winner, Anthony D'Addona, from D'Addona Electrical & Farming Pty Ltd being presented by Kate Scullard from Mossman Ag Services.



TABLELAND



Harvest week - 5



CCS to date - 13.28



Tonnes to date - 79,780 (14.25%)

Tableland Mill stopped crushing on 4 July due to wet weather and was scheduled to recommence during the week ending 24 July 2022. As at 14 July, 74,061 tonnes had been crushed, equating to 13.2% of the total crop, for an average CCS of 13.26.

The crop is currently cutting 15% above estimate but this is expected to reduce as the season progresses. The current expectation is for a season finish of 20 November.

Tableland Mill's co-gen plant is running and supplying energy to the grid.

Mossman Mill commenced crushing on 20 June. Mechanical, logistical and staffing issues have contributed to a slower than expected crush rate of 220-230 tonnes per hour, with a short break due to the wet weather.

The expected combined crush for both mills in the Tableland District is 830,000 tonnes.

Representatives of CANEGROWERS Tableland attended a meeting held by the Tinaroo Water Committee. With water such an important commodity, there are several reviews on different water systems being carried out in the district. The Barron River Water Review is due for submission 19 August and will be carried out in conjunction with the Tinaroo Water Committee. The Regional Water Assessment (Tablelands) has had feedback from this office and other agricultural sectors. Agriculture has been proven as the underpinning economic driver for the region by this study.

CAIRNS

 Harvest week - 5

 CCS to date - 11.20

 Tonnes to date - 219,623 (17.86%)

Cold nights, sunshine and intermittent rain continues across the region. There have been delays to harvesting due to wet weather for growers supplying both Mulgrave and South Johnstone factories. Planting is well underway, when conditions allow.

Congratulations to those growers who exhibited cane in the local agricultural shows. A great opportunity to showcase sugarcane to the community. Members wanting to use the CANEGROWERS mud spreader now or into the future are encouraged to contact the office.

INNISFAIL

 Harvest week - 5

 CCS to date - 10.83

 Tonnes to date - 185,751 (12.55%)

Wet weather has caused some delays to harvesting and planting in the region, which is not uncommon for this time of year. Up to the week ending 10 July, the factory had crushed 120,702 tonnes of the anticipated 1.48m tonne forecast. CCS results to date are somewhat underwhelming at approximately 10.6. Current projections indicate a finish date of 30 November, including wet weather allowances.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail staff once again supported MSF to host the Annual Show Cane Competition. Congratulations to the participating growers and their families, as well as the volunteers and staff who ensured the competition was such a success.

Local initiatives focusing on productivity improvement continue to gain traction with the district's technical advisory group identifying some key opportunities. Short, medium and long-term action plans are currently being developed for the district. Locally, this work is supported by the Cassowary Coast Reef Smart Farming project funded by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation through various on-ground activities.

*Pictured: Annual Show Cane Competition winners.
Photo by Maria Girgenti.*



TULLY

 Harvest week - 7

 CCS to date - 11.97

 Tonnes to date - 597,399 (20.96%)

As of 19 July, 667,000 tonnes had been crushed since the start on 25 May, with an average CCS of 12 and a current mill area yield of 100.2 tonnes/hectare. Tully Sugar Ltd will continue to crush through the upcoming Tully Show Holiday. This decision was made with support from the CANEGROWERS Tully Board and was aimed at minimising lost time over the Tully Show. Even with the great start to the season, it is estimated that crushing will extend into December. There have been some wet weather impediments with 217mm falling within the first week of July. Total rainfall for 2022 currently sits at 2,768mm. This figure is down on last year's rainfall for the same period, which was 4,268mm.

SRA facilitated a well-attended Greyback Canegrub Management Workshop for growers and industry members at Murray Upper. The workshop outlined the life cycle of the Greyback canegrub, the factors that contribute to population numbers and provided details for optimum application for both suSCon maxi intel and liquid imidacloprid to achieve maximum efficacy of the insecticide.



Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

HERBERT RIVER

 Harvest week - 5

 CCS to date - 11.16

 Tonnes to date - 574,615 (13.06%)

As of 20 July, the Herbert River district had crushed over 600,000 tonnes at a CCS 11.2. We are looking at a crop upwards of 4.8 million tonnes at this stage. The recent rain event saw approximately 100mm fall across the district which has slowed down the crush.

Last year we had constraints around milling capacity. However, the mill has made 150 new big bins before the start of the season and has brought forward next year's program.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River is working closely with the SRA district manager to address district specific priorities. It's felt that SRA locally has a good handle on this.

The first round of the Major Grants Project was well received, with grants to a total value of \$530,500 going to growers to help improve their nutrient management practices by purchasing equipment such as GPS rate control systems, stool splitter fertiliser boxes and bed renovators. All Round 1 growers have collectively committed a cash contribution of approximately \$600,000 towards their projects and most projects will purchase their equipment in Ingham. The second Round will open mid-August.

The Herbert River district had a couple of keystone events last month, which were well attended, including the Australian Italian festival and the Ingham Sugar City Rodeo.

Pictured: Ingham Australian Italian Festival 2022 in full swing with Attori singing a classic to locals and visitors to the district.



BURDEKIN

 Harvest week - 5

 CCS to date - 12.77

 Tonnes to date - 808,544 (10.18%)

Like most cane growing regions, the Burdekin experienced a slow start to the season due to approximately 80mm – 110mm of rain across the district, which brought crushing to a halt on 3 July. We were staring down the barrel of a two-week stoppage as the cane had already previously lodged from a prior rain event and we experienced a cold winter for a change which affected drying out times.

At the time of writing, the Burdekin district had only crushed approximately 11% of the crop due to the wet weather. After a 16 day stop, crushing resumed on 19 July and all four mills were back underway on 20 July. It was challenging at times to get sufficient supply to restart, particularly in the face of more forecast rain, but sufficient dry ground was found to get going again with tracked machines being used where available.

Growers who have recently delivered cane have advised that some blocks have yielded above estimate, so it will be interesting to see what the crop size ends up being as the rain has triggered growth in most of the mill areas.

Unfortunately, due to the delayed start and possibly increased crop size we are now looking at a December finish. Wilmar will need to consider trigger points on when to initiate a cane transfer process to maximise throughput

at their various factories to try and get the crop off in the shortest possible time.

Growers are getting more nervous by the day about delivering their committed sugar and should talk to their marketers to gain an understanding of their position and the options available.

The wet weather stop did enable Wilmar to complete maintenance as well as address other problems. The North Bank mills continue to perform well, but unfortunately Inkerman Mill did not have the good start Inkerman growers were hoping for due to issues with the new B Side feeder station, which had not been successfully commissioned before the latest rain stop.

CBL toured of Inkerman Mill to inspect the B Side feeder station and learn first-hand of the issues and also other sections of the factory which were being worked on and what is planned for the 2023 season.

SRA held its first field day in the Burdekin for some time on 15 July at the Brandon research station. 60 growers attended and gave good feedback. A range of information sessions on new technologies and farm practices were presented to demonstrate the incremental gains in

BURDEKIN (CONTINUED)

productivity that are available from adoption of new practices. We are fortunate in the Burdekin that SRA has excellent and dedicated staff on-hand and we would encourage SRA to make this field day an annual event as it is a good way to transfer knowledge.

Members are reminded that from 1 December 2021 growers are required to have a Nitrogen and Phosphorus Budget before they apply nutrients to their crop. CBL has employed Mindi Lennon to offer an in-house service to members to prepare this. We would encourage members to make contact with Mindi.

While we are all pleased that the crushing has recommenced, we need to be realistic about a late finish due to wet weather and how we manage this. We have a decent crop which will only grow more as the season extends. It is a crop that has been well priced, so it is critical that we get a good run at getting the crop off as soon as possible, which means being prepared to cut in less-than-ideal conditions. We may now be looking at a crop above eight million tonnes, which could take until mid to late December to harvest, depending on weather and mill performance. A district wide cane transfer process may be required to manage a late finish to the season end.



PROSERPINE

 Harvest week - 3

 CCS to date - 13.11

 Tonnes to date - 17,156 (1.05%)

The Proserpine crush was due to commence on 21 June, however the start had to be delayed by a week due to some supply chain issues which impacted the maintenance program.

Crushing eventually got underway on 28 June, although mill performance was less than desirable with the poor performance attributed to an inability to thoroughly commission the plant.

Production was restricted to 17,000 tonnes in the first week, before wet weather halted crushing.

The district ultimately received 200mm of rain, which suspended harvesting for almost two weeks.

Crushing eventually recommenced on 18 July, although performance continues to be disrupted by a variety of minor issues.

Further rain is forecast before the end of July, which will place further pressure on harvesting crews.

Fortunately, the early concerns about harvesting capacity was alleviated to some extent by the formation of two new groups.

There has been no change to the original estimate of 1.64 million tonnes, however the July rain event will undoubtedly increase the size of 2022 crop.

Given the rain disruptions and an expected increase in crop size, the anticipated completion date will need to be extended beyond the mid-November plan.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine will meet with mill representatives to review the crushing plan and establish a revised finish date.

Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

MACKAY

 Harvest week - 5

 CCS to date - 11.60

 Tonnes to date - 475,631 (9.33%)

PLANE CREEK

 Harvest week - 5

 CCS to date - 11.57

 Tonnes to date - 141,125 (10.86%)

July brought a significant rainfall anomaly, drenching paddocks across the Mackay and Plane Creek milling areas with totals up to 171.2mm in the official rain gauge network and bringing the crush to a grinding halt at all four mills.

With 10% of the crop harvested, the rain event had brought harvesting to a stop between seven to 14 days depending on mill.

Marian Mill was the quickest to resume, after a seven-day halt, while Plane Creek suffered from a low stockpile of bagasse and wet paddocks and was not able to resume crushing until confident of continuous supply from farms, with growers enduring a two-week stoppage.

It means that the crush will extend well into December again in 2022, with milling performance still vitally needed to improve.

After a dry summer, widespread rainfall in May across the area catchments between 100-200mm followed by sporadic localised falls across June had brought a beneficial boost to the crop, raising crop estimates across Mackay and Plane Creek by upwards of 10%. Mackay area CCS was averaging YTD at 11.54 and Plane Creek at 11.57 in the week prior to the rain event, and it is hoped that the dip in CCS brought on by high rainfall will be offset by fine, cool winter conditions boosting CCS going forward.

Any growers still requiring assistance to source harvest labour are welcome to call 4944 2600, or post positions vacant direct to www.mackaycane growers.com.au/farmers-notice-board



BUNDABERG

 Harvest week - 5

 CCS to date - 12.08

 Tonnes to date - 76,679 (7.16%)

Bundaberg commenced crushing grower cane at 8am on Monday 27 June. Approximately 1,538 tonnes were processed for the week ending 10 July, bringing the season-to-date total to 88,318 tonnes. The average CCS for Bundaberg Sugar Mills for Week 4 was 11.56CCS and the season CCS average to date is 11.82CCS.

The highest individual CCS for the week was 13.40 units for KQ228 OR cane. The four major varieties supplied for Week 4 to Millaquin were KQ228A with 44.9 % of supply and an average CCS of 11.90 units, Q240 with 35.1 % and a CCS average of 10.93 units, followed by Q252A with 8.8% of supply and a CCS average of 12.22 units, and Q183 with 7.42% of supply and a CCS average of 11.63 units.

Wet weather delayed crushing during the second week and re-commenced on Monday 11 July. Aside from wet weather, mill stoppages have been minimal and average weekly crush rates are at a level where we would expect them to be.

The soy harvest is complete with wet weather hampering harvesting throughout the season. A total of 342.32 tonnes was harvested by the Grain in Cane Co-operative for 2022

Season. If you are interested in growing soybeans in 2023, please contact **Matthew Leighton** on 0437 084 035.



The wet weather has continued across our district, creating significant issues between both Isis and Maryborough areas as well as within the Isis district itself. At the time of writing, Week 6 of the crush has been completed and some growers are yet to harvest any cane. At this stage our finishing date is looking to be very close to Christmas or beyond, even if we have no further wet weather delays. CANEGROWERS Isis is working closely with Isis Mill to develop a plan to ensure every stick of cane is harvested across the district. For this plan to work, we will need the support of all parties.

Our core work activities for members this month have included:

- **CSA Review and Negotiations** – the 2023 CSA review is now complete with a number of significant changes made.

- **Disaster Recovery** – continuing to assist growers lodge Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants and have commenced advocating for further time extensions to the program due accessibility issues and a high demand for earthmoving contractors.
- **Tariff Reviews** – assisting growers to review their electricity tariffs since the revocation of drought assistance to ensure they are on the best tariff for their business.
- **End of Financial Year** – preparing end of financial year reports in preparation for the auditing of our accounts



Wet weather has hampered harvesting operations and is causing frustration amongst growers.

As of 19 July, 65,333 tonnes of cane had been supplied by Maryborough growers. The combined supply with Isis growers was 121,407 tonnes.

The pressure remains for the rest of the season to harvest as much of the crop as possible and Isis Central Mill has made it clear they can't operate on Maryborough Cane supply alone at the end of the season. This means testing conditions as early as possible to resume harvesting after delays for rain. Safety will always remain a priority in any decisions.

Isis Central Mill has presented a revised offer for transport costs within its Cane Supply Agreement. At time of writing, distances for each designated loading area weren't to hand and these charges will be advised to growers via a special meeting very soon. If unable to attend, please call the office for clarification.

A company expressing interest in purchasing the Maryborough Mill from MSF Sugar, AEG, has been in contact with CANEGROWERS Maryborough to also prepare a Cane Supply Agreement. The two offers are very different and will need to be presented to everyone for an informed decision on future arrangements.

Continues next page ►

ROCKY POINT

The 2022 crop for Rocky Point is estimated at around 350,000 tonnes, however, this may need to be revisited as many believe the cane is not out there.

The cogeneration plant and mill are currently conducting substantial maintenance, and as a result will not be ready to start crushing until early August. We are currently trying to get confirmation from the miller to determine if this is still on track.

For us to be able to start in August, we will need no further rain events to occur so that it will be dry enough to harvest.

Rocky Point has lodged valuation objections to the most recent round of increases and are engaging with the Valuer

General's office to discuss removing the premium which is attached to the Gold Coast area, and which makes our cane land valued higher than anywhere else in Queensland.

Following requests, Biosecurity Queensland has supplied more fire ant bait in small quantities for growers to start applying in advance of something more formal being arranged.

We are in the process of arranging our next CANEGROWERS/SRA Productivity workshop dealing with weed management in August. This will be the last event until after the season. We have also commenced an RSD Research Project in the District over the next three months.



CC WELD SOLUTIONS

We solve your welding and wear problems

Phone today: 0413 700 175 | E: mick@ccwelds.com | www.ccwelds.com



Availability :
Brisbane / Rockhampton /
Townsville / Mt Isa

CORODUR WIRE 151-0A

New High Performance
Chrome Carbide Hard Facing Wire
Excellent abrasion resistance and
medium impact
Up to 40% better wearing than
standard chrome carbide wires

See us at the
Mackay Sugar Ag Trade Expo
Fri 13 - Sat 14
Aug 22

\$450 + GST
(1.6mm)



15kg spool
Made in Germany

TRAINING AND SAFETY THIS SEASON

There are some workplace health and safety (WH&S) issues in the sugarcane industry which have the attention of authorities as this season progresses - so its important growers have them in mind too.

A labour shortage in Australia's agricultural sector and, more specifically, the difficulty in engaging harvester and haulout drivers in the sugarcane industry, is behind some of these issues.

The pressure to take on less experienced workers, many of whom are completely new to harvester and haulout driving, increases the risk of workplace accidents, even where adequate training has been provided (training should always be recorded).

Added to this, a desire to get the harvest completed given the current high sugar prices, reasonable crop, wet start and concerns about poor mill performance in some areas, could lead to longer hours of work and fatigue issues.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) has made it clear that it is aware of these issues.

One of the areas clearly in WHSQ's sights is operations around sidings. This is a somewhat complex area as sidings are mill worksites, used by mill staff and locos. However, they are also used by harvesting and haulout workers. Clearly there are shared responsibilities, as there have been for many years.

While siding inductions should cover much of what is required when on the siding, a lack of experience increases the risks to workers.

The message filtering down from WHSQ is that it intends to pay closer attention to the harvesting contractor's WH&S obligations, not only on the siding but also in-field. This will include the safety requirements not only of the haulouts but also of the harvester and the harvesting operations.

This increases the responsibility of growers, as they are either doing their own harvesting (and are totally responsible for safe operations) or they have a harvest contract whereby the chain of responsibility means growers need to ensure as far as reasonably practicable that their contractors are operating safely.

The kinds of things WHSQ inspectors will be looking at are maintenance records, roadworthiness, signage, lights, powerline awareness, safety procedures for refueling and maintenance, traffic management plans and people and plant separation.

Given that nearly all harvesting contracts are verbal, it may be difficult for a grower to show what they have done to meet the reasonably practicable requirement.

However, as with many things these days, a clear record of the agreement on WH&S requirements from your contractor would be of assistance if the WHSQ inspectors have any issues with your contractor or there is an incident.

It is recommended that members access the CANEGROWERS Workplace Health and Safety Guide for Sugarcane Farms, from the Member Resources section of the website, and consider using the Example Policy: Contractors - Occupational Health and Safety Provisions on page 41.

www.canegrowers.com.au/page/membership/member-resources

Please use this resource and stay safe this crush. ■



INDUSTRY AND FARM INPUTS BURN ASHBURNER

KEY POINTS:

- ▶ The difficulty in engaging harvester and haulout drivers this season has raised some potential safety issues.
- ▶ Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) intends to pay close attention to harvesting contractors WH&S obligations.
- ▶ WHSQ inspectors will be looking at areas including maintenance records, roadworthiness, signage, lights, powerline awareness, safety procedures for refueling and maintenance, traffic management plans and people and plant separation.

POSITIONING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The new Federal Government's intent to adopt a more ambitious 2030 emissions target, in combination with the pre-existing 2050 Net Zero target, will have significant implications for highly emission-intensive industries such as transportation, electricity generation and manufacturing but the direct impacts on much of agriculture will be low to modest.

The new 2030 target is for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 43% below 2005 levels, which is a 15-percentage point increase on Australia's previous 2030 target.

Most agricultural sectors are relatively small contributors to Australia's total annual emissions so while the direct impacts may be low, indirect impacts on cropping and horticulture may occur if the transition to a lower-emissions economy increases the costs of farm inputs.

Red meat is the most likely sector to be under direct pressure from climate policies, given methane emissions from ruminants account for 70% of the ag sector's greenhouse gas footprint.

However, we consistently hear from government, markets and the community that all parts of the economy are expected to contribute to emission reductions. So each ag industry needs to have a well-founded position on climate and the 'carbon economy' so that it can manage the risks to farmers while also pursuing any substantive opportunities.

This is especially important given the oversupply of information, sometimes poorly informed, on websites and in the media touting agriculture's potential to either sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or reduce its own emissions of greenhouse gases.

The National Farmers' Federation has led the way with a realistic and logical policy on climate change that supports an economy-wide aspiration of net zero emissions by 2050 provided:

- there are identifiable and economically viable pathways to net neutrality, including impacts from inputs such as energy; and
- Commonwealth and State legislation is effective, equitable and helps deliver on-ground programs that benefit agricultural interests and do not create unnecessary regulatory impediments.

During 2020, GrainGrowers developed its climate change policy which seeks to maintain its growers' domestic and global competitiveness while reducing net emissions.

Like the NFF, it supports an aspiration for Australia to be net zero carbon by 2050. However, grain industry targets were only included in the policy once the industry had identified emission-reduction pathways that are practical to implement in the shorter term as well as potential pathways for further reductions that require R&D investment to realise.

This policy is a good example for the sugarcane industry to consider. It recognises the direct risks of a hotter and more variable climate on the grains industry and the need to assist farmers to do what they do best – to adapt and innovate. ►

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

MICK QUIRK

KEY POINTS:

- New 2030 target is for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 43% below 2005 levels.
- Direct impacts on agriculture will be low to modest given relatively small contribution to emissions.
- Ag industry needs to have a well-founded position on climate and the 'carbon economy'.
- The carbon economy is often portrayed as a huge opportunity for additional farm income but evidence to date suggests this has been exaggerated.



"This policy is a good example for the sugarcane industry to consider. It recognises the direct risks of a hotter and more variable climate ... and the need to assist farmers to do what they do best – to adapt and innovate. "

It also considers the less direct but still significant risks to growers' bottom lines as the expectations and needs of customers change.

Evidence of efforts to reduce emissions will be increasingly important for all industries to maintain market access, market share, and their social licence to operate.

Such a policy position requires R&D resources to both assess net emissions over time and to identify new technologies for reducing these.

Interestingly, the grains policy also identifies the need for a consistent approach to carbon accounting and measurement across agricultural sectors.

The carbon economy is often portrayed as a huge opportunity for additional farm income, but evidence to date suggests this has been exaggerated.

For example, there are no shortage of soil carbon projects registered with the Emissions Reduction Fund but few if any appear to have received any income from this fund.

The recently announced review of the Emissions Reduction Fund is timely. While this has arisen around concerns on vegetation projects, it will hopefully look at the real potential for all of the approved carbon accounting methods. ■



Town Planning Services

Providing approvals and regulatory management advices to agri-business and rural landowners throughout Queensland. Our team are actively engaged in sugarcane, horticulture and cattle industry sectors.

Contact us today for assistance

Vegetation Management
Staff Accommodation
Boundary Reconfigurations
Development Approvals for Rural Industry



www.gilvearplanning.com.au
Kristy: 0448 897 991
kristy@gilvearplanning.com.au

Cane Harvester Parts

Neil's Parts Australia
1800 463 457
AH 0417 662 137
neils.com.au

Defining member value

I've had three insightful conversations with growers over the past few weeks all at different points of their involvement with CANEGROWERS. All were looking to understand what is it that a grower gets from their membership.

One grower was looking to join CANEGROWERS, another had been a member for a while and the third was leaving the organisation. They all essentially asked the same question; what is the value of being a member of CANEGROWERS?

The short answer: To ensure a secure and profitable future for growers.

The longer answer depends entirely on what is most important to you about your cane farming business.

CANEGROWERS is built around the value that growers distinguish from our actions, products, services and influence. CANEGROWERS' core purpose is to lead a strong, profitable and innovative cane-growing industry, support growers and their communities with passion, professionalism and be a unifying voice.

The member asking what they get for their membership asked a legitimate question. What's in it for me?

To answer, we need to understand what is most important to the grower. Member value can be tangible, such as legal advice, or intangible, such as engaging with government on road access to ensure you can move your farm equipment. It is fluid as members have varying needs and expectations at different times.

In my recent conversation, diversification and making more money was important. To help with profitability, CANEGROWERS has created a Cost of Production Tool and developed an education program on budgeting, risk assessment and sugar pricing called Business Essentials.

CANEGROWERS has been collaborating with industry to develop Sugar Plus, a roadmap to secure and grow value which will require advocacy to government, industry and stakeholders to implement.

The potential new member wanted to know what CANEGROWERS offered in terms of benefits and outcomes that they can't get elsewhere. So the value was identified through Cane Supply Agreement negotiations, crop insurance and assurance of payment from auditors. They also saw value in strong advocacy and representation, as well as the access to influential organisations on a national and world stage.

Once the most important issues for their business were supported through CANEGROWERS membership, the value was clear and it was an easy decision for the grower to join.

Members also leave for various reasons. They are no longer growing cane, the business structure has changed, or the cost is too high.

In my discussion with the departing grower, they had been a member for many years and were retiring, hoping that the land would remain in production. The family appreciated the work CANEGROWERS did for them over the years and even though they were leaving, they still want to subscribe to this magazine to remain part of the cane growing community.

For some, it's about growing a business, for others it's a place to belong. Whatever your reason, thank you for your membership. ■



MEMBERSHIP
ENGAGEMENT &
INNOVATION
MATT KEALLEY

KEY POINTS:

- ▶ What is the value of being a member of CANEGROWERS? The short answer: To ensure a secure and profitable future for growers. The longer answer depends entirely on what is most important to you about your cane farming business.
- ▶ Member value can be tangible, such as legal advice, or intangible, such as engaging with government on road access to ensure you can move your farm equipment.
- ▶ For some, it's about growing a business, for others it's a place to belong.

Optimising Farm Inputs & Boosting Profitability With VRA



It's been found that approximately 10-20% of a field under-performs. So, how are you ensuring that you don't waste your inputs in these 'high-risk' zones?

With input costs on the up and up, many farmers are exploring opportunities to minimise expenses with precision farming technology such as Variable Rate Application (VRA).

VRA is when the rate of farm inputs, such as fertiliser, chemicals, and ameliorant, is continuously adjusted during application to match the predetermined target rate for specific field areas. VRA can apply to select areas, rows, and even single plants within a field.

VRA can be done in two ways; pre-planned mapping, which enables growers to see how each field will be approached before operations start, and real-time VRA, which relies on in-field sensor data and makes automatic adjustments on the fly based on real-time field data.

By using precise targeting and controlling the optimal amount of input at the correct location, VRA manages field variability by eliminating the time-consuming, human-error factor that can occur when these tasks are done

manually, boosting input efficacy and minimising environmental impact.

Before implementing VRA, growers should undertake an evidence-based process to find the impact and cause of variability. The greatest benefits of VRA occur where there is high variability of crop growth conditions. Reviewing yield maps and working with trained consultants who have access to the appropriate data layers, computer software, and equipment is a great way to understand your variability.

Vantage BMS, your locally authorised precision ag dealer, offer several data collection, yield and profit mapping, and Soil Information System (SIS) services to help you understand your variability and factors that impact yield.

By using systems such as Field-IQ, Trimble's crop input control system, which guides farm equipment to automatically apply the right rate of input at the right place at the right time, Vantage BMS helps growers to

automatically manage and control the flow and application of their farm inputs with ease.

Other solutions, such as Trimble's WeedSeeker 2, precision spot spray system, make real-time decisions based on optical sensor technology, identifying the presence of individual weeds on each pass, minimising chemical application and boosting profit.

By using variable rate technology, you can ensure that your fields get what they need when they need it. VRA enables growers to lower input costs, improve crop yield, and reduce environmental impact, while helping to better manage and control their overall farming operation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

To understand how VRA can boost your profit and yield, contact your local Vantage BMS representative on 1300 TRIMBLE or visit www.vantage-bms.com.au to learn more. ■

Employee record keeping



Record keeping is something many small businesses, including cane growers, are sick of hearing about. Paperwork overload and administrative burdens are unfortunately a necessary evil of carrying out a business undertaking. My purpose in this article is to provide some information on employee records. In summary, inaccurate, inadequate, or misleading employment records expose the employer to very substantial risks in terms of prosecution, fines, penalties and other adverse consequences.

Proper and accurate employee records are legally required under numerous government (both State and Federal) laws. The following are the more obvious requirements:

1. **FAIR WORK ACT** – This Federal Act requires accurate and complete employee records to be maintained. These records include time worked, wages paid and provision of pay slips.

The records must be:

- In a form able to be inspected.
- Kept for seven years.
- Not be false or misleading to the employer's knowledge.

The records must cover all issues relating to the employee including:

- General details relating to the employee such as name, commencement date and nature of employment whether full time, part time or casual.
- Pay records such as rates of pay, gross and net amounts paid and any bonuses, allowances and penalties.
- Hours of work details including overtime, and any side or special arrangements.
- Leave and superannuation details.
- Termination of employment particulars.



By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS
Legal Advisor



Of particular importance is the giving of pay slips with accurate information. These pay slips must be given within one day of pay day and must include accurate details about the work/pay arrangements for the relevant pay period, such as hours worked, gross and net amount of pay and any loadings.

Non-compliance with these records and pay slip obligations is a breach of the Fair Work Act. Significant penalties can be imposed for non-compliance. Maintaining records that are false or misleading is treated even more seriously and higher penalties can apply.

Another consequence of an employer not maintaining accurate and complete records is that if an employee makes a claim against an employer (such as for underpayment of wages) as is happening more frequently, the court will apply a presumption in favour of the employee's claim which makes it much more difficult for the employer to defend any claim.

2. TAX LAWS - The ATO also has a variety of business record keeping obligations that it enforces. The requirements under the tax laws relating to employees are similar to the Fair Work requirements. Accurate and complete records relating to employees such as:

- Wages and entitlements must be kept up to date.
- Superannuation entitlements and payments.
- PAYG payments.

Under the tax legislation these records generally need to be maintained for five years. Significant penalties can be imposed by the ATO if business tax related records keeping concerning employees are not properly kept and maintained.

3. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY/WORKCOVER QLD – The Queensland work health and safety laws also require detailed record keeping relating to employees. These laws include an obligation to fully disclose full details relating to all employees to ensure employers are not under-insured or uninsured. WorkCover has quite sophisticated data matching processes with other state and federal agencies, so any non or inadequate compliance can likely be discovered.

WorkCover can recover any unpaid premium and can impose penalties on top. Of even greater concern is that if WorkCover pays out a worker for any WorkCover claim, the amount of the payment made plus substantial penalties can be recovered from the employer.

4. SUGAR INDUSTRY AWARD – The Award requires detailed information relating to employees work including taking time off instead of overtime.

Growers who engage workers should be careful to ensure they use their best endeavours to comply with employee record keeping obligations. The consequences of not doing so are real.

In some districts CANEGROWERS offices can provide payroll assistance.

(This article contains general advice only. The particular facts and circumstances of each case always need to be taken into account).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any CANEGROWERS member wishing to discuss any aspect of legal matters should contact their local CANEGROWERS district office or call me on Free Call 1800 177 159, for free initial legal advice. ■

Classifieds

FIRST 5 LINES FREE* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

Book online 24/7 at www.canegrowers.com.au or email us at ads@canegrowers.com.au

Next deadline is **22 August 2022**.

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

Mossman-Tully

7ft slasher good condition, new PTO shaft, dual wheels \$4500. Plant Cane trailer \$400. All + GST. Ph: 0408770054.

JD3140 \$9,000. 100" Howard rotary hoe & 7 Tyne Ripper \$10,000. Single fert box \$300. 3.8M Savage Dingy & trailer + Extras \$1,300. Tully Area. Ph after 6pm: 0428681617.

JD4455 coupled to Newton 6T Side-Tipper \$30,000+GST; Fiat M100 coupled to Newton 6T Side Tipper \$30,000+GST. Will separate Tippers for \$10,000+GST each. Ph: 0429652235.

12" Land Plane \$4,000, Rotor Cult 1 Shot Cultivator \$8,000. Both + GST. Ph: 0417 720 764 or 0419 988 158.

2 x 11-2-24 Tyres 55% tread \$150 each. 2 x 16-9-30 Tyres 60% tread \$250 each. Prices are plus GST. Ph: 0427665757.

International tractor 766D rear tyres 18-4-38. A good reliable worker. \$6,000 + GST. Also implements to suit. Ph: 0412797006.

2x Ian Ritchie 6t side tippers. VGC. Ph: 0740562063.

Herbert River-Burdekin

Full track infield buggy. 7tn high lift tipper (4.3metre tip). Air conditioned cab. V8 Mercedes motor. Good condition for age. Always kept in shed. Ph: 0417767826.

Tractor - 1988 Ford 7700 6720hrs, 2WD single remotes GC \$12,000 plus GST. Ph: 0407154250.

Mackay-Proserpine

Two international 766 tractor rear axles. Ph: 0749597207.

BSM side tipper 12 tonne. Work ready. Ph: 0427595774.

Case full track harvester 7700, new fronts, 3000 hours on new engine. All maintenance and services up to date. Ph: 0427595774.

Tipper bin 6t high and low tip, own hydraulics, electric over hydraulic controls \$16,500 incl; Ripper HD 3m, long shank 9-tyne with crumble roller \$7,700 incl; Bonel 2t rear tipper bin \$2,200 incl. Ph: 0427593848.

7000 Westhill Halftrack, \$3500 ONO. Ph: 0448055047.

Massey Ferguson 102 harvester, fair condition \$5,000. Moller billet planter, fair condition \$5,000. Ph: 0407130004.

BSM Side Tipper 12 Tonne, work ready. Ph: 0427595774.

CASE Full Track Harvester 7700, new fronts, 3000 Hrs on new engine, all maintenance and service up to date. Ph: 0427595774.

Bonel PTO Drive Plantcutter and 2 fan Trash Blower for sale always shedded inspect make an offer. Ph: 0428782202.

New holland 8360 130hp 4WD Cab, Electric shift, new tyres, new air conditioning compressor, reconditioned alternator, upgraded air seat 8600hrs, 11 months registration, always serviced, well looked after, selling due to upgrading \$37,000+ GST. Ph: 0427577071.

Billet planter - hodge front, Moller sorter bin with double chain, double disc openers, liquid fert tanks \$20,000. McLeod 3 row double disc opener stool splitter, 1-1.5 tonne fert bin \$8000. Ph: 0429134174.

Terranova TG350 Rotary Hoe with crumble roller and oil cooler \$8,000; Set of Toft half tracks \$2,000; International 434 Hi-clear tractor with new tyres \$8,000. All + GST. Ph: 0407969883.

Fiat 1000 tractor or similar model and HP. Good condition with working remotes, PTO and 3-point linkage. Ph: 0448742983.

Massey Ferguson 8110 4-wheel drive with cab, 135hp, only 2,636 hours in good condition. \$55,000 incl. GST. Ph: 0438606578.

12t self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

6t side tipper on Leyland tandem. GC. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

6t side tipper Ian Ritchie, Excellent condition \$15,000 + GST. Ph: 0478719294.

Wanted

Fiat 980DT tractor with cabin and creeper gear box. Ph Damian: 0413013790.

SNG

MACHINERY SALES

USED MACHINERY FOR SALE

SECONDHAND 2017 8810
CASE IH AUSTOFT HARVESTERS
Good Condition with many added extras

SECONDHAND JX11100U CASE IH
TRACTOR

SECONDHAND 6920 JOHN DEERE
TRACTOR

All machines located in Ingham
Contact us via phone or email
for further information

SNG Machinery Sales
90 Origlasso St, Ingham
07 4776 6003 (Parts)
07 4776 1066 (Sales)
admin@sngmachinerysales.com
www.sngromano.net.au

New Hydraulic Heavy Duty

OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,
Oil bath bearings
\$12,500 plus GST (\$13,750 incl GST)
Other size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m,
2.5m, 3m & 3.4metres.



New Heavy Duty

SLASHERS

2.1 metres width
Other sizes available are 1.2m & 1.8m

Johnny Farming Company

Importers of tyres, plant & equipment, sheds and more..
Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 533 887
133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740

Work Wanted

Motivated worker looking for work on farm as cane carter or learn the ropes for cane farming caretaker. Located Calen but can travel to surrounds. Ph Natalie: 0409195057. Seeking truck work, farm hand or haul-out work in the Innisfail area. Holds HC, forklift & loader licences with 6 years' experience and own transport. Ph: Paul 0423455989.

Property - For Sale

Cane farm 87 hectares - 215 acres at Como Road on Trebonne Creek, 5 minutes from the Ingham CBD. Includes a two-bedroom cottage and farm shed. Contact Felix Reitano Real Estate on (07) 47765007 or felix@reitano.com.au

70ha Cane Farm with 61.5ha under cane. Located 8 km from town centre and 1 km from Victoria Mill. Property is flood free with town water supply running along property front. Paddocks have all been lasered and are well maintained and up to date with new varieties. Ph: 0427912277.

Cane farm to lease Munburra, Sunnyside or Oakenden areas. Have own equipment. Ph: 0408011983.

840 meters opposite Moore Park Beach. Coastal Cane Farm 93 Acres and 146 megalitres of ground water. Large storage Shed. 1 x Diesel Irrigation pump for the underground irrigation. There are 2 fenced off areas, currently used for horses and cattle. No house on this property. Comes with crop. Ph Larry: 0418496864.

DEERAL Cane Farm for Sale. 52.9ha on 2 titles. Only 45mins to CBD. Peaceful location, close to panoramic river, boat ramp & mountain views. 186 Ross Road, Deeral. Ph: 0412968434.

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres all up. Teemburra water, 2 pumps & licences, plus 32,000 gallons an hour underground bore. Machinery/irrigation shed. 2x 4" soft hose irrigators, farm lasered, underground main throughout. 2 sidings adjoin farms. Access to farm from Pleystowe School Rd & Formosa's Rd. Does not include 2021 crop. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.

Property - Wanted

Wanting to buy/lease cane farm. Close to Racecourse mill, Tekowai, Alexandra areas. Ph: 0438545251.

Want to buy farm in the Mackay or Proserpine area. Must have two good condition houses and irrigation. Ph Paul: 0447545550.

WTB: Grazing & Irrigation Property. Grazing to run 300-500 head. 100 - 200acres irrigation. Located Sarina-Proserpine Regions. Ph James: 0429621145.

Wanting to lease - cane farm in the Walkerston/Eton/Pleystowe areas and surrounds. Ph: 0421520331.

Young grower wanting to expand. Looking for farms to lease. Mulgrave Area. Ph: 0431036229.



Rainfall Report

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Jun 2022)	Month to date (1 Jul-26 Jul)	Year to date	Jan-Jul
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	53.2	212.4	2425.8	2284.8
Mareeba Airport	11.2	94.4	730	666.8
Cairns Aero	5.6	141	1561	1627.4
Mt Sophia	37	208	3192	2682.5
Babinda Post Office	171.1	307.5	3395.8	3406.7
Innisfail	140.6	233.6	2765.8	2838.4
Tully Sugar Mill	114	274	2825.3	3290.2
Cardwell Marine Pde	28.5	97.5	1387	1684.3
Lucinda Township	29.2	115.4	1680.2	1717.3
Ingham Composite	9.8	110.6	1480.5	1664.4
Abergowie Alert	0	0	324	1115.7
Townsville Aero	24	50	1018.4	899.7
Ayr DPI Research Stn	35.6	94	809.2	739.1
Proserpine Airport	1.6	63.6	1047.2	1103
Mirani Mary Street	3.2	142.8	747.7	1088
Mackay MO	11.2	171.8	885.8	1213.2
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	0.2	80.8	913.6	1326.7
Bundaberg Aero	18.6	82.6	921.2	647.2
Childers South	31	98.4	998.6	556.6
Maryborough	24.6	109.2	952	772.3
Tewantin RSL Park	25.4	171	2084	1104.9
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	0	0	1943.8	1185.4
Nambour DPI - Hillside	11.6	237	2396.2	1292.1
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	16.8	108.2	1250.7	734.2
Murwillumbah Bray Park	3.1	171.2	1542.4	1106.4
Ballina Airport	27.8	154.4	2237.4	1270.7
New Italy (Woodburn)	21	70.2	2098.2	946.9

Brought to you by Australian Retirement Trust



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 sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology Recent Rainfall Tables.

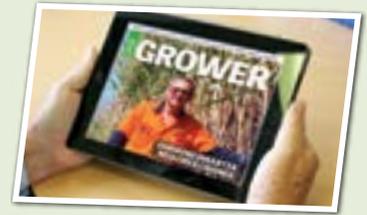
WANT THE LATEST NEWS AND PHOTOS?

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



Are you a CANEGROWERS member and want a **FREE** electronic version of *Australian Canegrower* delivered to your email inbox every month?

To receive your free electronic copy, email:
editor@canegrowers.com.au



BUYERS BEWARE

Buyers please be aware of scam emails when buying online. Scammers may try to intercept emails between genuine buyers and sellers by sending the buyer a fake invoice with different account details for the payment. Buyers should check with the seller by phone for accurate account details before making payment.



CANEGROWERS polo shirts now available

Combed cotton and polyester CoolDry® knit polo shirts complete with embroidered CANEGROWERS logo

\$35.00
(+ GST & delivery)

Sizes XS to 5XL for men and 8-20 for women

ORDER YOUR SHIRT TODAY!

www.canegrowersshirts.com



Want to sweeten your sugar profits?



CANEGROWERS
MARKETING INFORMATION SERVICE



Information & education
Workshops, videos and newsletter updates



Expert insight
Price and production forecasting



Independent service
Does not favour one marketer over another

Sugar Market Updates now available

CANEGROWERS members can use their member number to access exclusive monthly video market updates and supporting documents online now. Visit: www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service



CANEGROWERS
INSURANCE

CANE COUNTRY WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

CANEGROWERS Crop Insurance

CANEGROWERS members automatically have access to crop insurance cover as part of their membership. The policy can provide cover for loss of crop due to accidental fire, transit and hail incidents.



Accidental Fire



Hail Damage



Transit Damage

We are here to help with more than just crop insurance so why not ask us about:

✓ Farm

✓ Business

✓ Liability

✓ Motor &
Fleet

✓ Home &
Contents

✓ Landlord
& more...

WWW.CANEGROWERS.COM.AU/INSURANCE



Think Outside the Circle

THINK LAYFLAT HOSE

Australian farmers have been in need of reliable locally made irrigation and bore water retrieval hose that never fails the quality test.



Flexidrag® - The new force in irrigation

Flexidrag® is manufactured to withstand tough in-field conditions. This smooth, flexible layflat hose can be easily stored when not in use and is available in diameters ranging from 40 mm to 152 mm and lengths up to 350 m.

FEATURES

- ✓ Very flexible at low pressures
- ✓ Tight bend radius
- ✓ ≈ 20% Lighter than rubber hose
- ✓ Abrasion resistant
- ✓ Low coil volume for easy handling
- ✓ UV treated
- ✓ 10-Year pro-rata warranty
- ✓ Custom lengths



Flexibore100® - For every bore, think Flexibore®

Flexibore® 100 is a high-quality layflat hose made to suit most lower-flow bore water pumping applications including solar powered bore water pumps.

FEATURES

- ✓ Available in 32 mm & 51 mm diameters.
- ✓ Boreholes up to 100 m deep.
- ✓ Elastomeric swelling, No iron bacteria build-up.
- ✓ Low coil volume for easy handling.
- ✓ High-tensile textile reinforcement; no safety cable required.
- ✓ Extremely efficient in reducing friction loss & pumping costs.



So, if you're in need of an irrigation or bore pump hose solution that is tough, robust, cost-effective and supports Australian manufacturing, choose Flexidrag® or Flexibore100®

Contact us today on +61 3 9720 1100 or email sales@crusaderhose.com.au to learn more or request a quote!
www.crusaderhose.com.au

FULLY
BACKED-UP BY
WARRANTY

follow us

