



**FEBRUARY 2019**

Welcome to the February edition of the newsletter. In this edition:-

Productivity Services updates, Election update, Far north Growers trip and more....

## **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

Hi All,



Here we are in the peak growing period and unfortunately the weather isn't playing it's part. While irrigation access is going well the dry land crops are looking very dry. We certainly have had to deal with a lot more heat this year and as a result the crop is really looking for a good drink. At present there is cyclone OMA making it's way from Vanuatu but it is now unlikely to bring much rain to the coast, just big swells. With the strong

winds our battle is keeping the moisture up to the crops.

The nominations for the executive board have now closed as at the 18<sup>th</sup> February and we can confirm that Allen Birt is standing down from the board and his role as vice Chairman. Fellow director Alan Otto is also calling time on his work on the board.

I have agreed to start another term with the intent of handing over the reigns in a year or two to a new chairman from within the board and presenting an opportunity for one of our younger generation to represent our district as a board member.

Jeff Atkinson, Chairman



## **MANAGER'S UPDATE**

Weather is always a major factor in our lives. Prior to Christmas the regularity of showers across the district was making for a promising run through summer but this year has brought on a genuinely hot summer with low rainfall in our southern areas. The latest CANEGROWERS magazine dated 11/02/19 has devoted numerous pages to the flooding experienced in the north and while **some** of the water would be appreciated, I'm wary of ending up with our own floods....

Of course Cyclone Oma has now gone and still no rain!



“Last Rain in December 2018”

### **Pilot/Escort training.**

For anyone who completed the course with Transqual Logistics Training, they have now become insolvent and cannot validate your logged trips towards obtaining your Escort Licence.

There are now only 2 training providers who offer the Pilot/Escort course:- one is in Brisbane and the other in South Johnstone.

Both companies are prepared to validate your training via a refresher course – for a fee.

If we have a sufficient number of people ready to obtain their Escort Licence, Motor School; the Brisbane based training provider; will come to Maryborough.

As MSF Sugar has a number of people ready to do this refresher -We would only need approximately 5 more people to make it worthwhile.

Please let Cameron Waterson know if you would like to complete this course as we would like to book training for late March if possible.

### **Grower trip to Far north Qld**

At our last board meeting the topic of a grower trip to far north Queensland was discussed and is gradually taking shape. Initial concept is a 4 day trip involving bus to Brisbane & flight to Cairns for overnight stay at start of the week in Mid June,

- Day 1 travel to Mareeba and visit Tablelands mill to look at MSF Sugar's new co- generation plant in operation. Also inspect harvesting operations as they will be commenced by Mid June.
- Travel to Atherton for overnight stay,
- Day 2 travel to Mulgrave to visit MSF Sugar Office and Mill, travel to Tully or Herbert



- Day 3 Babinda and berdekin areas for farm visits. Overnight stay in Ayr /Home Hill.
  - Day 4 travel to Townsville for return flight from Townsville to Brisbane and bus home.
- If this sounds interesting we need to gather potential numbers with a limit of 35.

Cost is the big question and we will be working on an accurate cost over the coming weeks. Initial estimate is all travel & accommodation will be under\$1000 per person.

## **Gas exploration**

On my return from Christmas break we had an update on the gas exploration licenses. At the time it was advised all licenses had been cancelled however, only two had actually finished as at the end of December. The third license (covering Hervey Bay to Maryborough) is due to expire 31<sup>st</sup> March. We still need to stay vocal and vigilant to make sure this is cancelled.

Contact your local State Member of Parliament to ensure there is no gas on the Fraser Coast.

## **Activities from the Office**

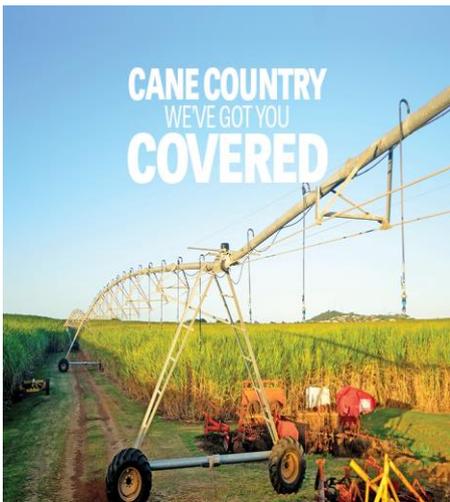
Meetings continue to happen with impacts on the industry.

1. GRDC council board members conducted a series of meetings across the state finishing here in Maryborough. Members of our Canegrowers board and myself were able to meet and update on the use of break crops in the area and developments ahead for different grain species.
2. The Lower Mary Irrigation Advisory Board has been reviewing figures on the operation of the scheme & in particular with regards to the impacts of the QCA recommendations currently being proposed for all levels of water users.
3. SRA southern region update- Attended the event held at Waves Sports club in Bundaberg 26<sup>th</sup> February. Another busy day of presentations covering energy innovation for pumps, Cane variety developing and processing improvements, updates on the harvester loss trials and pest and disease updates. Copies information sheets are available from the office.



## Upcoming Events

- 26<sup>th</sup> February SRA Souther Districts Update in Bundaberg- see enclosed invitation
- 
- 15<sup>th</sup> March- MSF sugar Sugar Markets update- Maryborough & Sunshine Coast. Details to come.
- 31<sup>st</sup> March expiry date for last gas exploration license in the district- let your local state member know you don't want it here.
- 
- Easter holidays- 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April
- 
- Mid June- Growers trip to Far North Queensland. Interested? Contact Cam



### **ACCESS THE BEST CANE-SPECIFIC COVER ON THE MARKET**

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**"I'd like to see young faces and hear new voices involved in CANEGROWERS. We need our eyes firmly on the future of our industry in the decisions we make."**

*Jeff Atkinson, Maryborough*

**CANEGROWERS Elections 2019**

**Nominations now closed**



CANEGROWERS



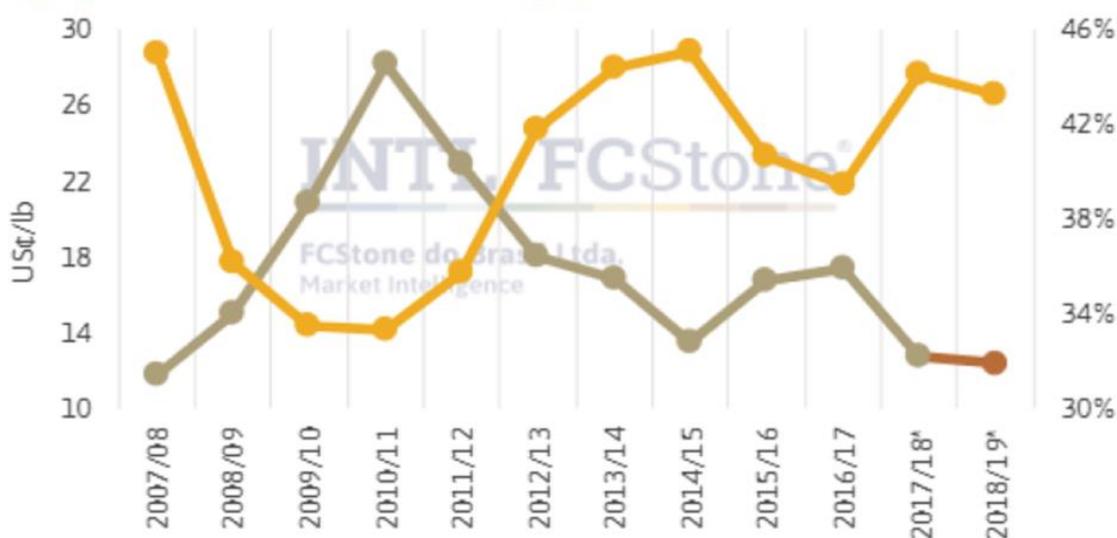
# MSF Sugar

## MSF SUGAR MARKET UPDATE

The pinnacle of global sugar conferences the Dubai Sugar Conference has just concluded and as can be expected at such events more questions than answers were raised. At the commencements of the conference the sentiment was one of mild optimism as many in the market were forecasting a modest deficit (0 to 3 mmt) for the coming season. Whilst even the thought of a deficit is welcomed the overarching fact is that global stocks are forecasted to remain at historical highs.

With a background of ample stocks (see graph below) and the absence of a major production event it is hard to argue for any sustained price rally for the foreseeable future. With the knowledge that a deficit is probable but stocks are ample it would seem that the outside influences of currency and energy prices may play a major role in near to midterm.

**Sugar global stocks/use ratio and average price on ICE/NY**



Whilst the amount of cane produced forms the basis of price the macro impact of oil and currencies will impact the ethanol sugar mix and the price competitiveness of specific exporting nations. If oil prices rise as many are forecasting then a swing in the ethanol mix is to be expected and # 11 prices supported. Likewise if the Brazilian Real strengthens then Brazilian origin sugar becomes less competitive also supporting the #11 price. The caveat to all this is the converse is also true.

In all it seems the market is well balanced and seemingly heading for more of the same. Market consensus is gravitating towards a 12-15 cents range for the foreseeable future



Whilst the US 12-15 cents projections maybe far from encouraging all is not lost as the Aussie dollar may do a lot of the required heavy lifting. The AUD has started the year on the defensive as the outlook for interest rates has softened. Past RBA commentary suggested that the next rate move would be higher. The sentiment is now more balanced with a suggestion the next move could go either way. The financial markets are pricing in a small chance of a rate cuts by year end placing modest downward pressure on the AUD. The currency markets will also look to other macro factors such as the China US trade negotiations as well as the US own interest rate trajectory. AUD range seen as 0.6800 – 0.7500

**Table 1 Sugar Price A\$/mt Matrix**

NY#11 Forecast	AUD Forecast Range							
	0.6800	0.6900	0.7000	0.7100	0.7200	0.7300	0.7400	0.7500
12.00	389	383	378	373	367	362	358	353
12.50	405	399	394	388	383	378	372	367
13.00	421	415	409	404	398	393	387	382
13.50	438	431	425	419	413	408	402	397
14.00	454	447	441	435	429	423	417	412
14.50	470	463	457	450	444	438	432	426
15.00	486	479	472	466	459	453	447	441

**Terry Allom**

Commodity Services Manager

**MSF Sugar Pty Ltd**

Mob +61 (0)423829371

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# Maryborough Cane Productivity Services

## February Newsletter

**YCS-** To date not a lot has been seen so far in 2019- although it appears some may be present. YCS was quite evident in January 2018. Isis region has also reported very little so far this year also. Most of the yellow bottom leaves seen are very likely from dry conditions (early senescence)

**Autumn tissue culture:** For those growers who have ordered plants these are not due for delivery from the nursery until late March. Growers will be advised as soon as we have a delivery date

**Cane Grubs:** While it is still too early to begin monitoring activities for cane grubs, (the shovel) late March early April is usually the time to have a dig in blocks with a history of grub populations- grey forest/light soils for Southern One Year and red volcanics for the Negatoria (two-year life cycle). If growers are uncertain of numbers or yield limiting numbers, please use the attached monitoring sheet. Dig a hole at each corner of the block, recording the number per hole OR if there are suspect patches/areas noticed when driving along winch paths etc (yellowing, weaker patches. Please call if assistance with identification of grub species is required. Treatment options can also be discussed



**(MANUFACTURERS NAME) FARMERS FRIEND**

**RSD** testing for autumn has been completed (small autumn plant) however from April on MCPS will begin testing for Spring plant, if growers can please consider which blocks they would like inspected. The 2018 season resulted in a detection rate of 4.8%, on par with previous years when using juice extraction methods- 2019 will initially see some slight change in methodology, with the PCR leaf sheath disc collection method possibly again up for discussion and evaluation by SRA later in the season. Harvest contractors please ensure the best possible effort is made to sterilise the base cutters, knock down rollers etc between farms as RSD is being found where none has been detected in earlier years.

**Varieties:** The annual RVC variety selection meeting is to be held in early April. At this meeting the clone QN02-1707 is expected to be added to our Recommended planting list. This clone has very good CCS and TCH as well as much better fibre (milling) qualities. In the attached updated variety guide, SRA 1 is mentioned as a guide for harvest expectations x soil type only. It is NOT on the Recommended planting list.

**For further information please contact Barry Callow on 0487017811**



## Useful Information

### Maryborough Cane Productivity Services

- Barry Callow – Mobile 0487 017 811

<b><u>Maryborough Office</u></b>		<b><u>Postal</u></b>
106 Bazaar Street, Maryborough Qld 4650		PO box 172
<b><u>2017 Office Hours:</u></b>		Maryborough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday: 8:30am – 4pm</li> <li>• Tuesday: 8:30am – 4pm</li> <li>• Wednesday: 8:30am - 1pm</li> <li>• After 1pm Urgent matters call Cam's mobile</li> <li>• Thursday: 8:30am -- 4pm</li> <li>• Friday: 8:30am – 4pm</li> </ul>		Qld 4650
Cameron Waterson	Manager, coffee maker, caterer	Mobile: 0427 577 557 Office: 07) 4121 4441
Email address:	cameron_waterson@canegrowers.com.au	
	<b><u>DIRECTORS</u></b>	<b><u>Contact number</u></b>
Jeff Atkinson	Chairman	Mobile 0428 212 792
Allen Birt	Deputy Chair	Mobile 0428 118 053
Ashley Petersen	Director	Mobile 0418 787 032
Allan Otto	Director	Mobile 0409 632 656
Roger Bambling	Director	Mobile 0419 788 376

## 2019 variety Guide

### Maryborough-Morton

<i>Soil</i>	<i>Early CCS</i>	<i>Early- Mid CCS</i>	<i>Mid-Late CCS</i>	<i>Late CCS</i>	<i>Mid to late CCS (high Pachymetra)</i>
Heavy Alluvial	Q252	Q240, Q208,	Q240, Q208	SRA 4, SRA11	Q238, Q138
Light Alluvial	Q252 KQ228	Q240, Q208, SRA1, Q238	Q232, Q242, Q138	SRA4, SRA11	Q242, Q238, Q138
Black Clay		Q240, SRA1, Q208,	Q232, Q138	SRA4, SRA11	Q238,
Red Clay	Q252	Q240, Q208, SRA1	Q242, SRA4, SRA11, Q138, Q232	SRA4, SRA11	Q138, Q242, Q238
Red Forest	Q252 KQ228	Q240, Q208, SRA1,	Q242, Q232, Q208, SRA11, Q138	SRA4, SRA11	Q242, Q238, Q190
Grey Forest	Q252, KQ228	Q208, SRA1	Q240, Q208, Q138, Q238, Q242	Q232, SRA4, SRA11	Q242, Q238
Hard-setting scrub soil	Q252	Q240, Q208, SRA1, Q252	Q138, Q240, Q208, Q238	Q232, SRA4, SRA11, Q242	Q138, Q238, Q242
Scrub Soil	Q252, KQ228	Q240, Q208, SRA1	Q232, Q242, SRA11, Q138	Q138, SRA4, SRA11	Q242, Q238, Q138
Wallum	Q252	SRA1	Q240, Q208, Q232	SRA4, SRA11, Q138	Q242, Q238, Q138

# Maryborough Cane Productivity Services

## Cane Grub Recording sheet

Record the following details in the table below:

- Date        /    /
- Farm No
- Block no
- Variety
- Soil type \_\_\_\_\_
- Species. \_\_\_\_\_

Farm No \_\_\_\_\_      Block No \_\_\_\_\_      Crop Class \_\_\_\_\_

	Hole 1	Hole 2	Hole 3	Hole 4	Hole 5
Southern one year					
Negatoria					
Christmas Humus					

More than an average of 1.5 grubs per hole indicates treatment is necessary. Christmas and Humus grubs are more white in colour, and when left alone for a few minutes on a shovel, can get onto their feet and crawl away- cane grubs can't do this.

Cane grubs have a raster pattern also.



# ChemClear collection information

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**FREE collection of Group 1 chemicals:**

- with readable labels
- still in original containers
- not mixed with other products
- within 2 years of expiry or deregistration
- from drumMUSTER participating companies

**Fee for service for Group 2 chemicals**

**QLD - June 2019**

Register your chemicals by mid-April.  
*(date to be confirmed)*



**For further information please call Colin Hoey on mobile: 0428 964 576**

**Register your chemicals at ChemClear:**

 [chemclear.org.au/register-your-chemical](http://chemclear.org.au/register-your-chemical)

 1800 008 182

