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Mossman grower Ben McClelland is saving time and money through the use of state-of-the-art liquid fertiliser technology.

COVER IMAGE: A purpose-built liquid fertiliser applicator is helping Mossman grower Ben McClelland slash weeks off his fertilising schedule. Read more on page 24.

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Transloader will have profound impact

CANEGROWERS has welcomed the confirmation of a Federal Government grant for a crucial piece of infrastructure to help Maryborough and Sunshine Coast growers get their sugarcane to Childers for crushing this year.

A transloader is needed in Childers to move cane from road to rail transport before it reaches the Isis Central Sugar Mill.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development **Michael McCormack** and local Federal MP **Keith Pitt** have announced a \$2.5 million Community Development Grant towards the construction of the transloader.

CANEGROWERS had called for government assistance after MSF Sugar announced the closure of the Maryborough Mill at the end of the 2020 season.

Still contracted to MSF Sugar for a number of years, the cane will be processed at Isis Central Mill under a toll crushing agreement.

"This grant shows that a relatively small investment on the part of government can have a profound impact on the economic stability of a regional community," CANEGROWERS Maryborough Chairman **Jeff Atkinson** said.

"It gives longer term confidence to the 90 sugarcane growers in my region and job security to 140 farm workers and contractors.

"It is a good result all round – Maryborough sugarcane can now support a viable Isis Mill into the future."

CANEGROWERS Maryborough and CANEGROWERS Isis are working on behalf of members in the region to ensure all the pieces are in place for a successful 2021 season, including seeking open and frank discussions with both milling companies involved to ensure a smooth harvest and transition to a new cane supply arrangement.

Site works have begun for the transloader. Isis Central Sugar Mill is matching the government grant so the facility will be operational before the season starts.

Queensland Government support is also being sought and if this is forthcoming, growers will have the confidence they need for a successful season that now only hinges on the urgent need for rain in the southern sugarcane regions of Queensland to promote crop growth.

"In January the rain looked good but February has delivered almost nothing with temperatures up to 38 degrees so the situation is getting desperate," Mr Atkinson said. ■

Winning the war on Red Imported Fire Ants

Rocky Point growers have had a massive win in their battle against the invasive fire ant, slashing the number of nests in the region from 47 to just 9 as part of a pilot eradication project conducted by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

The project, run in coordination with CANEGROWERS Rocky Point, worked with 18 local growers across 39 properties in the Coomera area from June-September 2020.

"As part of the pilot we provided two rounds of fire ant bait to enable growers to treat at a time which suited them and in-turn helped decrease the risk of heavy infestation and further spread," a DAF spokesperson said.

Fire ants are aggressive and highly adaptive. They are considered category 1 restricted matter under the Biosecurity Act 2014, meaning landowners must report sightings within 24 hours. ■



Facebook stoush hits CANEGROWERS

CANEGROWERS' Facebook page was temporarily silenced in February after the social media giant decided to block all news content from its platform in an escalation of its conflict with the Federal Government over the proposed media bargaining code.

While the 'ban on news' was only supposed to block news outlets from posting content, a whole host of non-news organisations where caught in the crossfire, including emergency services, charities, community groups and representative organisations, like CANEGROWERS.

Facebook claimed this was an unintentional consequence of trying to prevent news content from being shared.

The outage lasted several days, with Facebook eventually reversing the ban after reaching an agreement with the government on the proposed code. ■





World sugar price continues to climb

There was more good news for Australian growers on the price front during February with the global sugar market continuing its upward trend.

February 22 saw the March ICE#11 raw sugar futures contract hit US18.78c/lb - "a stunning 39% gain since 15 December," CANEGROWERS Head - Economics Warren Males said. "This should be good news for the 2020 season harvest pool."

With most futures contracts for 2021 season also moving higher, growers can now lock in prices above A\$450/t.

"When US quota and Shared Pool values are added, the weighted average price available to growers is for 2021 season, should they have chosen to lock in at February values would be more than A\$470/t," Mr Males said.

Poor northern hemisphere crops mean there is a supply shortfall ahead of the next Centre-South Brazil harvest.

"The latest news we have is the Indian crop is lower than originally thought and the Thai crop is worse than was expected," Mr Males said.

"There are also concerns that there may be a logistical delay in new season Brazil sugar exports, thanks to a bottleneck in Brazil's ports - a consequence of delays in soybean exports.

"This is all good news for Australian growers as it's driving up prices on the international markets."

The Aussie dollar impact of sugar price surge has been moderated by the strength of the AUD/USD exchange rate. One Aussie dollar now buys around USD0.80. ■

"This is all good news for Australian growers as it's driving up prices on the international markets."

REPORT

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Ministers meet with CANEGROWERS

The Queensland election and a Federal Cabinet reshuffle have prompted a round of consultation meetings between government ministers and CANEGROWERS representatives. Over the past month, a total of five ministerial meetings have been held.

A trip through the Whitsunday electorate created the opportunity for the new Federal Trade Minister **Dan Tehan** to hear first-hand from growers the importance of trade policy to the sugar industry, which exports around 85% of its production each year.

Mr Tehan told growers he would continue the government's work on free trade agreements with the United Kingdom and European Union.

"They're not going to be easy negotiations. We'll be proactive, we'll be principled and where necessary, we'll be patient," he told growers.

"Hopefully we'll be able to knock one of those off this year and in the pipeline, we're beginning scoping work on Israel and one called EFTA - it's Iceland, Norway, Lichtenstein and Switzerland."

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** reminded him it was important there were no sugar exclusions to any agreement, a situation that happened at the last minute when a deal was struck with the United States in 2004.

Mr Schembri also emphasised the importance of Australia's case against India's sugar subsidies in World Trade Organisation. Progress on the case is expected in the coming months.

"They're not going to be easy negotiations. We'll be proactive, we'll be principled and where necessary, we'll be patient,"

Policy and programs related to farming adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef were the headline issue raised in discussions with Queensland Environment Minister **Meaghan Scanlon**.

CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** and Mr Schembri raised the issues of the Great Barrier Reef management practice targets, the impact of the misalignment between the Paddock to Reef reporting framework, which informs the Reef Water Quality Report Cards, and the industry best practice program Smartcane BMP, and the duplication created by the Queensland Government's proposed new regulations covering new cropping developments in catchment areas.

Within days of the Brisbane meeting, the Queensland Environment Minister along with her Federal counterpart announced that a review of the Paddock to Reef program and associated farm management targets would be undertaken this year in close consultation with CANEGROWERS.

In Canberra, Mr Schembri and Mr Galligan followed up with a meeting with the Federal Environment Minister **Sussan Ley** where the discussions also included water quality and farm practice targets.

CANEGROWERS analysis has shown that the current targets are pushing growers to unproductive levels of fertiliser use, below the best practice advice of the industry SIX EASY STEPS calculations.

As a joint Federal and State government policy, it has been critical to achieve support for a review of the targets if industry is to see meaningful change and a fairer treatment of farmers in Reef policy.

Ms Ley has committed the Federal Government to follow through on the review of both Paddock to Reef and the targets.



Pictured adjacent page: Dawson MP George Christensen, CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri, Trade Minister Dan Tehan, Erakala sugarcane farmers Victor and Andre Camilleri, CANEGROWERS Mackay Area Committee Chairman Frank Perna, CANEGROWERS Plane Creek Area Committee member Serg Berardi, CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg and CANEGROWERS Mackay CEO Kerry Latter.

Pictured left: Queensland Minister for the Environment and Great Barrier Reef Meaghan Scanlon with CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri and CEO Dan Galligan.

Pictured below: CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan and Head – Economics Warren Males with the Queensland Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen Mick de Brenni, and CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri and CEO Dan Galligan with Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley and Dawson MP George Christensen .

While in Canberra, Mr Schembri and Mr Galligan also met with the Federal Agriculture Minister **David Littleproud**, briefing him on the CANEGROWERS Reef strategy, trade issues and the industry's future vision work.

Briefings on the state of the sugarcane industry in general were provided to the Deputy Prime Minister **Michael McCormack** and a number of Senators and MPs.

Mr Galligan and Head – Economics **Warren Males** have met with the Queensland Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen **Mick de Brenni** to advocate for members on issues of electricity energy and water pricing and outline how CANEGROWERS and his department could work together with CANEGROWERS providing direct grower input.

The minister was keen to understand the impact on power bills of irrigators moving from transitional electricity tariffs to small business tariffs.

The meeting also discussed the options for government to work with the sugarcane industry on the State Government's strategy for bioenergy and other biofutures industry development.

These would rely on a sustainable supply of green biomass – something that should see the sugarcane industry front and centre of these initiatives. ■



Once in a lifetime opportunity for regional Australia

The global pandemic has created a one in 100-year opportunity to propel Australia's regional communities to a prosperous future, according to the National Farmers' Federation recently released Regionalisation Agenda paper.

NFF Chief Executive **Tony Mahar** said the paper provided a clear pathway for regional development, leveraging Australians' heightened interest in working and living outside urban centres influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"COVID-19 has been an absolute disruptive force, the NFF's Regionalisation Agenda urges government and industry to work together to capitalise on the disruption and ensure the bush can deliver for all Australians: economically, socially and culturally," Mr Mahar said.

The NFF-led Regionalisation Agenda proposes more than a repeat of the tired thinking of relocating city jobs to regional areas, Mr Mahar said.

"It charts a vision for regional Australia where regional economic activity and

jobs are designed to thrive in the unique economic and geographical conditions of that region.

"Large regional cities should be places where teachers, nurses, tradies, lawyers and investment bankers live side by side and they should be well equipped to retain their best and brightest with education and job opportunities.

"To make regionalisation happen, we need to throw the same level of resources for place-based development of regional centres as we do for places like Western Sydney.

"We need federal, state and local governments to work hand in glove with industry on well-defined regional priorities."

"We must challenge our bureaucrats whose decision-making processes always relegate transformational regional infrastructure behind infrastructure for our cities."

The Regionalisation Agenda is supported by Australia's leading industry and corporate voices, and the NFF believes that agriculture can play a vital role.

"Australia is without a cotton processing facility, despite Australian cotton being some of the most sought after in the world. The same is almost true for our renowned Merino wool," Mr Mahar said.

"Regional Australia should be the host of a world leading export industry in food and fibre manufacturing. The fact we aren't is a missed opportunity." ■

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Ag a standout performer

A new ABARES report confirms agriculture has been one of the Australian economy's standout performers in recent decades.

Snapshot of Australian Agriculture 2021 found that the gross value of agricultural, fisheries and forestry production had risen over the past 20 years and, despite recent droughts, reached \$67 billion in 2019–20.

While the value of agricultural exports has fluctuated between \$40 billion and \$60 billion during the same period, the

“Well-managed farms are better prepared for droughts and other risks, such as global price shocks, and not all farmers in regions affected by drought experience economic or financial hardship.”

value of meat and live animal exports has increased 86%, with horticulture up 64%.

ABARES' acting executive director Jared Greenville said the sector's rate of growth was testament to farmers' ability to adapt, manage risk and seize opportunities.

“Agricultural productivity has outpaced most other sectors of the Australian economy over the long term,” Dr Greenville said.

“COVID 19 was a major event for the sector in 2019–20, but it demonstrated an ability to adapt and transition to new opportunities.

“Australian farmers successfully manage significant variability, including a highly variable climate and volatile commodity prices and have employed a number of

effective strategies for managing those risks.

“Well-managed farms are better prepared for droughts and other risks, such as global price shocks, and not all farmers in regions affected by drought experience economic or financial hardship.” ■

AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE ACCOUNTS FOR:

55% of Australian land use (427 million hectares, excluding timber production in December 2020) and 25% of water extractions (3,113 gigalitres used by agriculture in 2018–19);

11% of goods and services exports in 2019–20;

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¹ AUSTRALIAN SUGARCANE NUTRITION MANUAL June 2019 Chapter 21 : Silicon (Si) 91
² Results may vary based on various climatic and soil conditions Trial work completed by Dr Graham Kingston's from 2014 to 2016 Bundaberg QLD

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CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

NATIONAL POLICIES REQUIRE AGRICULTURE FOCUS

There has been a lot of talk recently about whether Australia should commit to a net zero emissions by 2050 target.

Recent media coverage has highlighted differences between agriculture's traditional political allies in the National Party and industry bodies such as the National Farmers Federation (NFF).

CANEGROWERS supports and contributed to the NFF position: supporting an economy-wide NZC 2050 target with two clear caveats – that there is an economically viable pathway forward and that agriculture is not worse off.

Let's be clear, this is not about philosophy or belief on climate change, it is about policy responses. CANEGROWERS is engaging in this discussion from a perspective of determining what will work best for growers.

The historical impact of climate policy on the Australian agricultural industry is fraught. Look at the experience of Australia's response to the Kyoto protocol, for example, when farmers were left carrying the burden of the nation's emissions reduction contributions.

Government investment was targeted at helping farmers to understand and then modify farming practices to deal with impacts. But we all know that farmers sit on both sides of the climate agenda – not only adversely impacted by a changing climate, but also required to do much of the heavy lifting on emissions reduction.

Despite this, agriculture as a sector has suffered economically by being left out of policy discussions, because government often acts without due consideration of either positive or negative impacts on farmers.

Farming can be a contributor to a national policy approach.

Cane production has a strong and positive story to share in relation to climate risk management and as an overall positive contributor to managing climate risks to the economy. Cane is the world's most efficient converter of biomass that can be used for green energy, to deliver ethanol, bioplastics, electricity and biochemicals, all via an entirely renewable plant.

As the global political landscape continues to change, it is probably inevitable that Australia needs to sign up to this global 2050 target.

Being a part of the pathway to deliver the target is important so farmers don't miss out on any benefits.

Managing nearly 70% of Australia's natural landscape means that if we are not part of the solution, we will most assuredly be asked to suffer the costs of the problem, either economically or climatically – probably both.

As we move towards a net zero target, any extra cost burden for farmers risks making us less viable against our international competitors, who are often either subsidised to produce crops or compensated for managing environmental offsets.

In our global marketplace we run the risk of being further exposed to this inequality if we don't become proactive by exploiting our natural sustainability credentials and significant advantages.

There is still a lot of discussion to be had on net zero emissions, and no doubt the controversy that has long plagued Australia's climate change policy will continue.

But a lack of policy certainty will serve no-one, while the rest of the world moves on. Therefore, we agree with the NFF – agriculture must not merely have a seat at the table but should also be front and centre in crafting Australia's climate policy. ■



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CONFERENCE DELIVERS POSITIVE VIEW OF CANE'S FUTURE

After a COVID delay of almost 12 months, the CASE IH Step Up! conference has been held in Bundaberg with an optimistic perspective on the future the sugarcane industry. The conference, organised by the Next Gen program attracted around 130 young growers and other industry professionals to two days of speakers, exhibits and a farm visit.

Keynote speaker **Sam Bailey** set the tone of the conference with his instruction to, "Get out there and get stuck into it!"

Paralysed from the chest down in a vehicle accident aged 19, he uses modified equipment to run his northern New South Wales cattle property. He flies ultralights and has set modifying and flying a helicopter as his next goal.

"If I can do all this, what could you do?" he challenged the crowd before his wife, **Jenny Bailey**, joined him to say that she believes agriculture will lead Australia out of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You have a bright future ahead of you no matter what you choose to do in agriculture," she said. "Life won't always turn out the way you think and sometimes you won't even visualise how amazing it can be. But embrace opportunities because you never know where they're going to lead you."

Solid investment

The positive assessment was underlined by **Steve Kirby**, the CEO of Australian Cane Farms Limited, which owns and operates more than 2,250 ha of sugarcane in the Burdekin, averaging 120 tonnes/ha.

"The corporate farm is a mechanism that enables the transition between people who want to exit cane farming and people who want to join the industry," he said. "Businesses like ACF are just the matchmaker between external equity capital and human capital."

However, Mr Kirby said many investors avoided agriculture because it was perceived as too small to drive the required returns and had governance issues.

He was asked by a grower in the audience to clarify why the company chose to invest in sugarcane in the Burdekin when it could've done anything.

"The joy of investing in farming is that land is about 90% of your assets and the first objective of investing is to protect your capital," he said.

"We picked sugarcane because it is quite predictable as one of the few commodities in the world with a clear and transparent terminal market - No 11 in New York.

"In the Burdekin you can manage your volumes because of the irrigation. You pay more for the land and more for the water, but you have guarantees of production."

"Growing sugarcane is one of, I think, the most profitable and predictable agricultural pursuits in Australia."



He said the company also wanted to be positioned ahead of what he described as two coming waves - rising demand for sugar from a growing world population and the increasing value of a finite amount of prime rural real estate.

"There are a whole lot of investment themes going on here, but growing sugarcane is one of, I think, the most profitable and predictable agricultural pursuits in Australia," Mr Kirby said.

Sustainable sugar

The global sugar market is part of the positive future for the industry according to QSL's **Andrew Phipps** who told the conference that in the past three years, inquiries from companies chasing sustainability certainties for sugar have risen from a few a year to three or four per month.

"Australia is in the forefront of the movement in terms of compliance and our ability to meet the market," he said referencing the accreditation of more than 600 farm businesses in the industry Smartcane BMP program. "But you don't stay ahead by resting on your laurels."

He warned Australia risked losing its advantage if it stopped advancing its technology, methods and data tracking, allowing competitors to catch up.

When asked where the value for the Australian industry was, he said there was no definitive answer yet.

"We are in a great position and we need to drive the outcome," he said, outlining two possible scenarios. "One is that accreditation becomes a cost of business ... in this scenario we lose value and access by not moving forward, it's about value preservation as opposed to value-add.

"The second scenario is the one we want, and we are all working towards, that we drive that discussion and try and make sure that the value flows back to the farmers, the primary producers."

Kate Gowdie, Smartcane BMP program manager, outlined the CANEGROWERS blockchain project as an important mechanism for Queensland sugar to meet market sustainability needs by tracking and verifying transactions from the farm of origin to the end user.

"The work to date has shown that developing a digital supply chain platform using blockchain technology is possible and it can improve the visibility of Queensland sugar, which is important because we want our sugar to stand out in the crowd," she said.

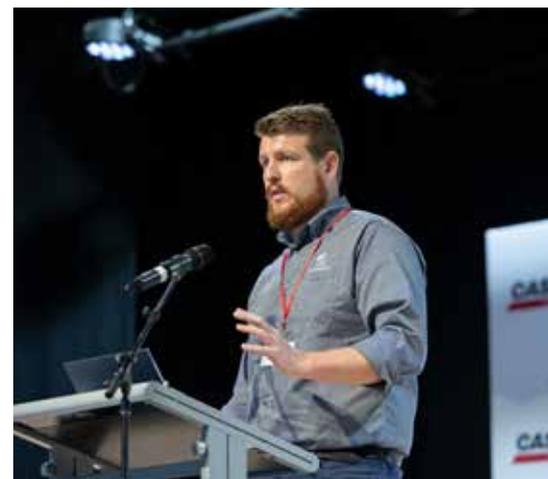
While a premium for sugar based on sustainability criteria is yet to be secured, some growers are exploring other ways to realise an economic benefit from environmental considerations on farm and **Robert Quirk's** address on carbon farming attracted a lot of questions when he outlined his project of building soil carbon levels and the potential of carbon credits.

"There is a real appetite out there of corporates wanting to be carbon neutral, they will pay farmers to put carbon back in the soil and as soon as we can prove the concept, I think this is going to be massive," he said.

Mr Quirk's advice for growers seeking to explore carbon credits, was to get good baseline data of what was already in the soil, do the work to improve it and shop around for a reputable scheme.

Seats in the auditorium placed socially distanced from each other to meet

COVID-19 safety protocols didn't dampen the networking and community spirit of the meal breaks of the conference. The Next Gen program is considering another conference in two years. ■



Pictured: (above) Andrew Phipps from QSL and (below) Kate Gowdie from Smartcane BMP program.





By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATE – SUGAR'S GREAT CHALLENGE

This year marks my 38th year as an elected representative of CANEGROWERS. During that time, the industry has changed markedly in farming practices and technology. The institutional structures and regulatory and marketing arrangements have also changed enormously.

All that change has forced the industry to adapt and innovate. That is why the Australian sugar industry is acknowledged as one of the most efficient and adaptive in the world.

However, there is one debate that after 40 years is far from settled - the environment.

When I was first elected to CANEGROWERS Farleigh 38 years ago, the environment hardly rated a mention at our monthly meetings.

Today, demonstrating our environmental credentials has become our greatest social challenge.

Wherever I travel in this industry, it is the issue that cane growers are most passionate about.

Recently, CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan and I had the opportunity to meet with the newly appointed Queensland Minister for Environment, Meaghan Scanlon.

This meeting was timely, given the release of the Queensland Government's draft environmental standards for new cropping areas. These guidelines are yet another barrier to the further expansion of our sugarcane industry.

Despite the fact that any new cane land coming into production is already instantly regulated under Reef protection laws, these new cropping area rules mean that same land will now be subjected to yet another assessment process.

It is simply duplicating government processes. Another example of five-star bureaucratic overkill.

At our meeting with the Environment Minister, we made three distinct points:

Firstly, Reef regulations have already inflicted and will continue to inflict substantial economic damage on our industry.

When the fear of regulation prompts growers to leave the industry, it has a severe consequence for not just the industry but the wider economy.

For every \$1 of cane produced, it levers up \$6.42 in regional economic activity. When cane farmers exit the industry, substantial regional economic activity exits as well.

Secondly, we contend that the current system of Reef Report Cards is blatantly under-reporting the huge progress cane farmers have made towards sustainable farming practices.

The most recent Report Card, released last month, claims only 12% of Queensland's cane growers have adopted best farming practice.

Clearly this is not true.

When farmers are continuously and unfairly marked down, they dial out of the whole process.

The third point we made was that if regulations are to remain then they need to be practical, achievable and sensible.

To that end, the Smartcane BMP program is critical for farmers to meet our objectives and demonstrate our sustainability to both customers and government alike.

The government must recognise that Smartcane BMP participation and accreditation is a true measure of practice change.

Our meeting with the minister was an open and candid exchange of views and we are looking forward to further engagement.

Only time will tell if our representations have had a positive impact.

However, we acknowledge and welcome the Queensland and Australian governments' commitment to speed up a review of the Reef Report Card process.

This is a process of government which measures how we rate as farmers in the scale of adoption of best farming practice.

More than anything, we all need some certainty so we can get on with life and capture the opportunities that exist for our industry.

Our industry is often cited by government as the industry most suited to produce biofuels, bioenergy, and bio-products.

Cutting back on regulations and acknowledging our environmental stewardship would go a long way to achieving that. ■

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Regen Ag Forum gains ground in the Wet Tropics

More than 100 farmers gathered for a forum in Cairns in February, to network, learn and share experiences about growing sugarcane crops using regenerative farming practices.

Local farmers showed off a range of regenerative practices including industrial scale composting, cover cropping and minimal tilling.

Soil health-based farming has been gaining ground in the Wet Tropics with many farmers participating in soil workshops and programs, and regenerative farming is the logical next step in an approach that focuses on improving resources used by farming, including soil.

Herbert River region grower **Michael Waring** said the Regen Cane Forum was the creation of a group of North Queensland farmers and agroecologist **David Hardwick**, who met at the National Biological Farming Conference held in southern Queensland in 2018.

“We wanted to keep networking and learning from other like-minded farmers.”

“This is the second forum we’ve held, the first one was in Ingham two years ago,” Mr Waring said.

“We wanted to keep networking and learning from other like-minded farmers about practices that promote soil health, improve water cycling and sequester carbon.

“We all agreed there was a real appetite back home for regenerative farming approaches and we needed somewhere to learn how to take the next steps.

“There’s a lot of info already out there, but it’s not the same as seeing and hearing practical hands-on stories from other farmers.”

Grower **Simon Mattsson** travelled from Mackay to attend the forum.

“No matter how far along the regenerative journey you are, you can always pick up something new.”

“I’m part of the organising committee, because I’m passionate about regenerative agriculture,” he said.

“I’m here at the forum because no matter how far along the regenerative journey you are, you can always pick up something new.”

“Shifting to a regenerative approach can completely transform someone’s farming business and that’s why we’re seeing more and more farmers getting involved,” Mr Hardwick said.

“Regenerative farming just makes sense. There’s a big list of benefits for farmers, as well as the environment.” ■



Small groups visited different farm sites, giving farmers the chance to see and hear from others who have implemented specific changes on their farm, or even redesigned their whole farming system.

Additional masterclasses in composting and cover cropping were also available.

Agroecologist David Hardwick said the four key themes of regenerative cane farming are paddock operations, cover cropping, soil health and holistic nutrient management.

The Forum, held from 15-17 February, was supported by Terrain Natural Resource Management, MSF Sugar, Soil Land Food, the Australian Government’s Reef Trust IV Program, and the Queensland Government

Pictured on the adjacent page Mark Rossi explains his family’s industrial-scale composting techniques at the Regen Cane Farming Forum; above right Paul Gregory (Gordonvale) shares his experiences of regenerative farming techniques with forum attendees; (below) farmers inspect a cover crop during a site visit; (below right) Regen Cane Farming Forum committee member Michael Waring at a site visit.



BREWING WITH CANE JUICE – SWEET SUCCESS

What happens when you mix cane juice with passionate brewers?

“Quite a beer!” according to the Managing Director of Rocky Point Mill (Heck Group) David Heck.

In 2020, he was approached by the Brisbane-based Felons Brewing Co to supply cane juice to help produce a sensational beer, specifically designed for the online Carwyn Collaborational Festival.



Felons Brewing Co teamed up with international superstars of hoppy beers Firestone Walker Brewing from California.

“We were excited to brew a big hoppy beer in the style of a Double India Pale Ale (IIPA),” Lead Brewer of Felons Lincoln Gibbs said.

Mr Gibbs took the opportunity to visit Rocky Point Mill, to see the form sugarcane takes at various stages of the refining process. This assisted in determining which source would be best to go with the beer style.

Evaporator Source Juice (ESJ) was chosen for the trial brew.

“This style of beer required a lot of fermentable sugars to get the alcohol content up to the desired target of 9% Alcohol by Volume (ABV),” Mr Gibbs said.

“The mildly smoky character of the ESJ needed a judicious hand to ensure the fruity hop flavours weren’t overwhelmed in the final product. Rocky Point supplied us with fresh ESJ straight from the clarifier.

“The decision to put the ESJ into the boiling stage of the brew allowed the concentration of the sugars to the desired level, and to boil off the volatile organic compounds from the cane.”



The finished product came out with a strong juicy hop aroma; apricot and mango nectar, pine and lychee.

The proof was in the tasting, with many drinkers commenting they could taste the cane juice! ■

Pictured: (left) David Heck at Rocky Point Mill and below the ESJ arriving at Felons Brewing Co.



LOVABLE LARRIKIN REMEMBERED

Mr Bruce Green, a well-known Lawrence cane and cattle grower, tragically lost his life in a freak accident at the ABCRA Rodeo Roundup event in Tamworth on 23 January 2021.

"Bruce was a much-loved Aussie larrikin. He was passionate about anything agricultural but especially cattle, horses, rodeos, sugarcane and soybeans," President of the Clarence Canegrowers Association, Mr Ross Farlow said.

"He was the driving force as president of the Lawrence Rodeo Committee, a position he held from inception in 1982. A very valued committee man of the Maclean Show Society.

"These committees have generated over a million dollars donated back to the community organisations and local charities of the lower Clarence.

"Along with all this and his own farm, Bruce was employed by Clarence Harvesting Co-Op as a casual Infield Buggy Driver and could be relied upon to relieve anywhere, anytime without complaint.

"Of course, his other great love was farming, growing sugarcane and soybeans. He always grew soybeans and often spoke about the value and goodness they returned to the soil.

"Our sincere condolences go to Bruce's family, he will be sadly missed by the people of his beloved Lawrence township, the wider Clarence Valley and all those that knew him." Mr Farlow said. "His passing leaves a big hole within the community." ■

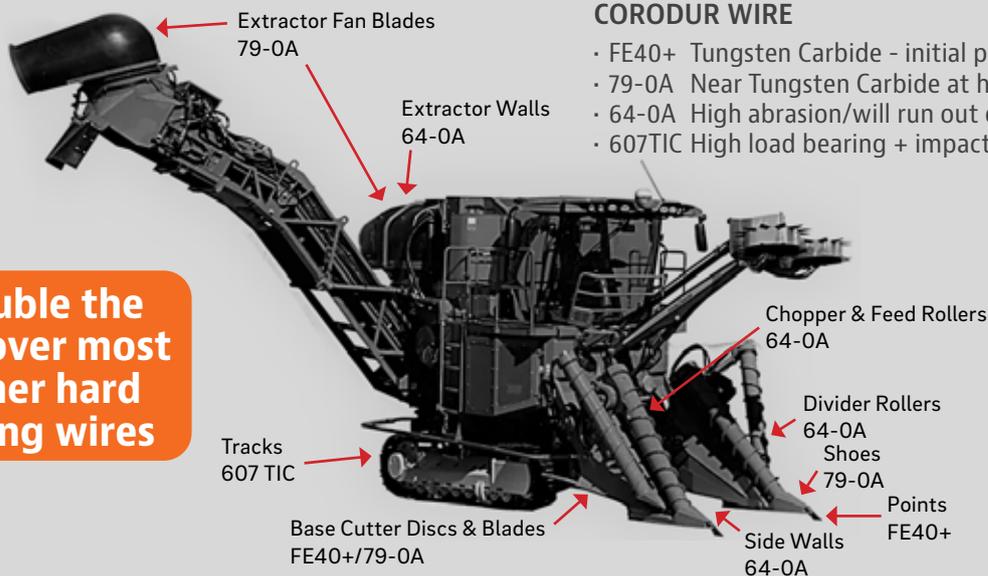


Pictured: Bruce Green well-known NSW cane grower. Photo credit - The Land.

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QSL MARKET UPDATE

Current as of 22 February 2021.

Sugar



- > A short term supply squeeze coupled with expiry volatility has driven sugar prices to contract lifetime highs with the Mar21 ICE #11 contract spending almost the entire month above 16 USc/lb and reaching a high of 17.96 USc/lb.
- > Logistical issues continue to plague exports out of India despite the market demanding as much of the country's sugar as possible. It has been reported that India has sold approximately 1.75m tonnes of sugar for export, but only 200,000 tonnes have actually been shipped. Raw sugar exports totalled just over 100,000 tonnes in January 2021 compared to 280,000 tonnes in January 2020.
- > Daily throughput numbers out of Thailand have fallen below 1 million metric tonnes of cane, indicating the end of the crush is near. If production continues to follow a similar trajectory to last season, crushing is likely to finish in late March/early April.
- > Oil continues its strong performance with Brent crude oil gaining more than 13% over the course of the month.
- > **ICE 11 trading range going forward:** Broader trading range estimated to be 15.00 to 18.00 USc/lb.
- > **Closely watching:** Indian export pace, Brazil weather, speculative activity, trading volumes, and overall technical indicators.

Currency



- > The Australian dollar broke free of January's sideways movement back into an uptrend channel through February reaching highs just below 79 cents in the week commencing 22 February.
- > Despite US Republican resistance, the US Senate has approved a budget resolution enabling President Joe Biden to fast-track a US\$1.9 trillion pandemic relief package.
- > The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) agreed at its February meeting to leave the cash rate unchanged at 0.1% and to extend the quantitative easing package by buying an additional \$100 billion of bonds at the end of the current program.
- > The US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) met recently to announce interest rates and bond purchases would remain unchanged, however there was a slightly dovish flavour to their statement. US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell highlighted the weakness in the US labour market and declared that monetary policy would need to be accommodative to moderate inflation.
- > **AUD/USD trading range going forward:** 0.7600 to 0.8200 by the end of 2021.
- > **Risks Ahead:** COVID-19 vaccine news and economic recovery, US politics, Australia-China relationships, RBA commentary.

KEY INDICATORS

	22/02/2021	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (MAY21)	16.89 USc/lb	+0.62 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.38 BRL	+0.08 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US63.45/barrel	+\$US8.70
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	14.44 USc/lb	+2.23 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	212,000 (net long)	-22,000

	22/02/2021	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.7892	+\$US0.0184
\$US Index	90.27	-0.5000
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.45 CNY	-0.0400 CNY
S+P 500 Index	3,906.00	+137.7500
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.10%	0.00%

RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 22.02.21, based on the Target Price Contract's current 5:1 pricing ratio for the 2020 Season and 1:2:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 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, 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.

QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

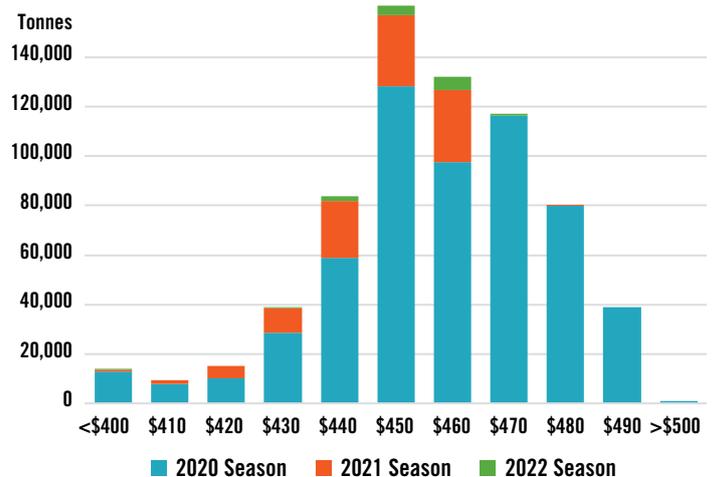


Grower Pricing



- > The recent rally has seen orders filled as high at \$485 for the 2020 and \$440 for the 2021-Season Target Price Contract.
- > 2020-Season Target Price Contract orders were rolled to the May21 contract. The roll following the expiry of the Mar21 contract was executed at a \$22.06 benefit with the net roll adjustment at a positive \$12.63.
- > Nominations are now open for the QSL Pre-Crush Advance Payment Scheme where growers can receive \$50/tonne IPS for up to half of their 2021 season QSL GEI Sugar.
- > Nominations for the QSL-Managed 2021 Actively Managed Pool will open on 1 March 2021.

QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2020, 2021 & 2022 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 22.02.21 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

Why is the Mar21 ICE #11 contract higher than the future contracts?



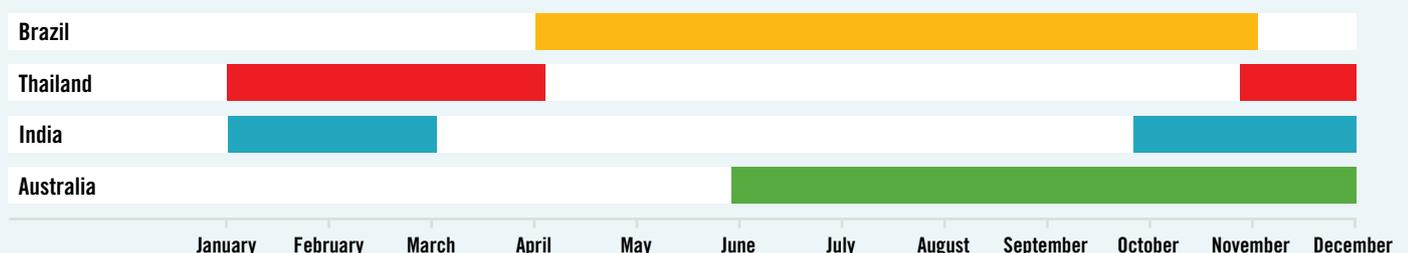
The Mar21 ICE #11 contract has seen a massive rally in the early stages of 2021, from barely 14 USc/lb in December to well above 17 USc/lb in February. While the forward contracts have also been rallying, they are still far lower than the Mar21 contract, leaving the market inverted (i.e. the closest contract is the highest and the furthest contract the lowest).

The graph below represents the average harvesting season of Brazil, Thailand, India and Australia and signifies approximately when sugar is available to the market. During the Q2-Q4 period (April – December) there is generally plenty of sugar produced and available, especially if CS Brazil is producing maximum sugar and other countries begin their crushing as usual. However, in Q1 the only countries harvesting are Thailand and India.

In this small window at the beginning of the calendar year, a supply deficit may be formed if Thailand and India do not export sugar for a number of possible reasons (e.g. crop failure, export subsidy issues, logistical issues). However, the shortage is only short term as CS Brazil begins harvesting in April replenishing the deficit and delivering sugar to the market. The short-term shortage in Q1 consequently forces the immediate Mar21 ICE #11 contract higher.

To note, there are many other countries harvesting and exporting throughout the year. Supply to the world market is always volatile as some countries will also store and sell their sugar at other times contrary to where their harvesting season is in the calendar.

AVERAGE HARVESTING SEASONS





TAKING THE GUESSWORK OUT OF EEFS

A new collaborative project will provide Australian sugarcane growers with valuable information on the potential for enhanced efficiency fertilisers (EEFs) to be incorporated into their farming systems.

The new research will build on four years of work conducted as part of the CANEGROWERS-run EEF60 project, which will finish in June.

Through EEF60, industry partners worked together to conduct trials of EEFS on 60 sites in regions between Childers and Mossman.

The project discovered valuable information about the practical application of EEFS including considerations such as weather and farming scenarios, the economic implications of their use, and how this relatively new fertiliser technology compares to more traditional fertiliser.

The new project sees SRA continuing with 17 on-farm trial sites in Far North Queensland and partnering with CSIRO and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) on key research activities.

Lead researcher Julian Connellan said that the new project was an opportunity to build on the information gathered through EEF60.

He added that SRA will coordinate the research with CSIRO, and then with project collaborators, in order to produce a package of information for Australian sugarcane growers.

"The industry is very keen to understand if using EEFS can improve productivity and profitability by better matching

nitrogen requirements to crop needs," Mr Connellan said.

"This understanding is crucial, given the additional cost that is associated with purchasing EEFS

"EEFS may not suit every farm, every year, and every situation, but we now know they offer opportunities in some cases."

In addition to the 17 controlled and replicated trials, the project will fine-tune a decision support tool for growers on selecting EEFS, which is building on other recent work delivered by CSIRO and the Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited (HCPSSL).

The new project will also involve CSIRO researchers, led by Tony Webster, who will use the APSIM farming systems model to develop information on the expected benefits of EEFS to inform when and where EEFS can be used in place of urea to reduce nitrogen losses.

"Through this collaboration, we are bringing together the latest information on EEFS in sugarcane-specific scenarios, to package that information for practical application," Mr Webster said.

- An information sheet summarising recent findings from the EEF60 project is available at <https://bit.ly/2MfFi1f>. ■



Lindsay Neilsen, pictured (above), hosted an EEF60 trial plot on his Mackay farm.

EEF60 was funded by the Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy (Reef Trust 4) and the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science.

The new project is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF), with support from SRA, CSIRO, CANEGROWERS and productivity services companies.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR INTER ROW WEED CONTROL

Supplied by Silvan Australia

Silvan Australia has developed innovative solutions for intensive growing operations where there is a need to manage and control weed growth in the inter rows.

The applications are foremost in industries like sugar cane, although there is application potential in any row crop growing situation in horticulture in particular.

Silvan's spraying specialist David Carr says that solutions have been created by building a fully galvanised multi-row hydraulic fold boom fitted with stainless steel spray lines, which can be fitted with multiple spider spray heads or fully shielded spray heads.

Both these options ensure that the spray application is made direct to the surface growth, limiting the risk of spray drift.

The sprayer is typically configured as a four or six row unit, with the shielded spray head option commonly being 90cm in width, although it is available in widths ranging from 50 to 130cm as required

to suit the specific application. There are normally two twin swizzle nozzles per shielded spray head with air induction nozzles.

The Silvan spider head is a popular choice in the sugar cane industry for weed control early in the growing season.

"Silvan has the unique ability to build spray application solutions that meet the exact needs of growers," Mr Carr said.

"We work with farmers and growers Australia-wide to build and supply spraying solutions that exactly meet their growing practices and needs."

"We work with farmers and growers Australia-wide to build and supply spraying solutions that exactly meet their growing practices and needs."

A further example of meeting customer needs has been the development of a 3000L trailed sugarcane sprayer to compliment the existing three point linkage range.

Fitted with large row crop tyres for maximum ground clearance, the trailed version reduces tank re-fills so more time can be spent spraying.

The trailed cane sprayer still has the choice of four or six row boom with either spider or shielded spray heads.

For more information or technical advice call 1300 SILVAN (1300 745 826) or email info@silvanaust.com.

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The Silvan Cane Boom is designed specifically for Australian cane growers. It incorporates choice of standard or shielded spray heads with air induced nozzles to minimise spray drift.

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The Spraying Specialists

TIME MACHINE

How much is your time actually worth? It's a question not many people consider, but one that regularly crosses the mind of Mossman cane grower Ben McClelland while chatting to fellow growers about his decision to ditch granular fertiliser and build a state-of-the-art liquid fertiliser applicator.

BY WAYNE GRIFFIN

A fourth generation cane farmer in the Craiglie area, just 10 minutes from Port Douglas, Ben returned to the family farm full time in 2018 to help out his father Chris.

It was Chris who originally made the move to liquid fert six years ago.

Far from being put off by the costly price tag, the father-son team was so impressed with the benefits that Ben took it upon himself to design and commission a purpose-built liquid fertiliser applicator.

Two years later, he's more convinced than ever that liquid has a future in his farming

system. He's even beginning to convince some of his fellow growers.

"Whenever I talk to another grower about liquid fertiliser it's nearly always the same response. Straight away they're like 'nah, it's too expensive'," Ben said when *Australian Canegrower* visited the 150 hectare property.

"And yeah, if you just compare the cost of granular vs the cost of liquid, then it does look expensive.

"But you can't just compare them like that. You have to factor in so many other things, like the money you save in fuel, wear and tear to your machinery, loss of



"You have to factor in so many other things, like the money you save in fuel, wear and tear to your machinery, loss of fertiliser to the environment."





fertiliser to the environment.

“On top of those savings you have other benefits. One of the things I really like about the liquid is that you have your molasses in there and your seaweed and things like that. So, it’s not just a fertiliser, it’s a soil enhancer as well.”

It was this combination of cost savings and soil health benefits, coupled with a desire to start applying his fertiliser sub-surface, that convinced Ben to build a bespoke liquid applicator in 2018.

That decision has resulted in Ben finding by far his most impressive input saving to date – time, lots of it!

Inspired by similar applicators designed

and built by Ingham liquid fertiliser business, Liquaforce, the five-row, sub-surface, liquid injection applicator allows Ben to complete in days what would have taken weeks with his old granular fertiliser box.

“The concept is based on what Liquaforce has done elsewhere, but we designed the frame ourselves with an old boilermaker guy in town. We drew all the plans up and as we came across issues we made tweaks and changes,” Ben said.

“The electronics were done by TDC Auto Electricians in Ingham. The guy there works closely with Liquaforce on all their applicators, so he really knew what we needed.”

Christened the Foxton Brawler - Foxton in honour of the local Foxton Creek, and Brawler because it’s “taking the fight to granular fertilisers” – the applicator can hold 6000 litres and cover up to 7ha an hour.

“With the old granular box we were only doing two rows, so it took a lot longer, and that’s even without any problems like the shoot getting choked up, which is one of those things that happen,” Ben said.

“With granular you’re shifting bag-lifters around to fill the box, which is time consuming, whereas with this I can plug

*Pictured: Mossman cane grower Ben McClelland has designed and commissioned a purpose-built liquid fertiliser applicator that is helping shave weeks off his annual fertilising schedule
Photo credit: Colyn Huber - Lovegreen Photography.*



Continues next page ►



"At the end of the day it's about being more efficient in our farming practices while still being able to grow the crop."

the hose in, turn the pump on and it's full in no time, so I can get going again.

"It's saving quite a substantial amount of time, you can really pump out the hectares.

"I can cover 30ha in a day with the block constraints of our area and not be worn out at the end of the day. Try doing that with a granular box!"

All that saved time gives Ben the opportunity to complete other tasks around the farm that often get left on the back burner, or better yet, do some contract work for other growers, boosting his business's bottom line.

"I do some mechanic work around the area, I also do some planter driving, and bin hauling during the harvest. and we do some fertilising contract work now in the area as well. It's not something we chase, but if someone comes to us we'll do it."

It's this contract work that is slowly persuading some locals of the benefits of liquid fertiliser, Ben believes.

"I did some fertilising work for one farmer recently. He'd been sitting on the fence for a while, but he bit the bullet this year.

"I went in and did in a day and a half what it would normally take him 2 weeks. He was bloody stoked.

"He's got cattle, so it freed up time for him to go and do other things - he could go off and sell some cattle or do some fencing or whatever he needed to do."

In addition to saving time and money, the Brawler's narrow, 10mm coulters also mean less disturbance to the stool for better soil health outcomes.

"With a granular stool splitter you're peeling the ground right apart to get the fertiliser in there," Ben said. "Compaction is a big thing as well. You're only doing every fifth row instead of every third, so there's a lot less compaction, which then leads to benefits for the soil and the crop."

It also takes some of the stress out of fertilising in one of Australia's wettest regions.

"I don't have to worry about the weather so much," Ben said. "Obviously I'm not going to be out there fertilising if it's bucketing down, but if it's overcast and threatening to rain I can still go.

"I don't have to worry about the granular getting wet and choking up in the box. With the liquid applicator I know all five jets are running by the flow meter in the cab.

"And if I have some left over it will carry over to next year, I don't have to worry about bags of fertiliser turning to rock in a damp shed."

The design of the applicator also makes it easy to combine applications of various inputs. Ben regularly applies phosphate and fertiliser simultaneously, while variable rate technology ensures each area of the farm only gets the nutrients it requires to optimise crop growth.

"I can also incorporate Confidor into the mix so we're controlling grubs at the same time. Another job done," he said.

While Ben currently manually adjusts the variable rate controls, that, he says, is a temporary situation.

He's hopeful that within five years



completing the farm's input applications will be as simple as plugging a USB drive into the tractor's GPS system - a completely automated process with Ben little more than a passenger.

"Everything is manual at the minute, but that's basically because I'm not skilled up enough yet," he said.

"We get an agronomist in and they do all the soil tests and create a variable rate land map for the whole farm in line with SIX EASY STEPS recommendations. I then have to manually adjust the flow rates as I go along to match those requirements.

"But the plan is to have it completely automated in the next five years. They'll save information on a drive or something, which I'll just plug into the GPS, then just sit back and let it work."

"At the end of the day it's about being more efficient in our farming practices while still being able to grow the crop.

"There's no point putting on six or ten bags to the acre, because it's a waste of bloody money. If we can just put on what the plant is going to use, that's ideal. I don't want to be paying for it to evaporate off the paddock or get washed off in some big rain event, it's too expensive for that.

"We have the technology these days. There's a lot of new and exciting things happening in that space, so why wouldn't you get on board and start using that technology where it can make you more efficient?"

With a focus on adopting new practices and technology to improve efficiency and productivity, it's not surprising that the McClelland's farm is part of the 85% of Wet Tropics cane land accredited in the industry-led Smartcane BMP program.

In fact, Ben's father Chris was one of the first Mossman District growers to achieve accreditation back in 2016.

"I believe Dad was one of the first five accredited in this area. In fact, I think we're up for re-accreditation soon," Ben said.

"We didn't have to make any huge changes to get accredited, just little things like the records and chemical storage.

"Like a lot of growers, we were kind of heading in the right direction anyway, or trying our best to, so the BMP accreditation was just another step in that journey." ■

Pictured: The Foxton Brawler's 10mm coulter ensures minimum disturbance to the stool while still being able to inject the liquid fertiliser sub-surface. This has the dual benefit of improving soil health outcomes and minimising any loss of nitrogen to the environment. Ben hopes his fertiliser application system will soon be fully automated..
 Photo credit: Colyn Huber - Lovegreen Photography.

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The road ahead for super in 2021

Last year's federal Budget and the release of the Retirement Income Review will have significant impacts on superannuation for employers and funds in 2021

Successive federal Governments have made updates to superannuation, not only in regard to contributions, tax treatment and the payment of benefits, but more recently to the obligations and requirements of employers and superannuation funds.

2021 is predicted to continue this trend, following a number of significant announcements made in last year's federal Budget, and comes at a time where debate has become increasingly louder regarding the legislated increase to the Superannuation Guarantee, which is due to increase from 9.5% to 10% from 1 July 2021, and then in 0.5% increments at 1 July each year, reaching 12% from 1 July 2025.

The federal Budget

As part of the federal Budget in October last year, the government announced the "Your future, your super" package with 4 key areas of focus:

- Preventing the creation of unintended multiple superannuation accounts, by ensuring a member's superannuation is "stapled" to them, staying with them as they change jobs.
- Making it easier for members to compare between and choose a well-performing product.
- Holding superannuation funds to account for underperformance.
- Increasing the transparency and accountability for how superannuation funds use members' savings.

It's important to note these are only proposed changes by the government and have not been legislated.

A new tool will help people to compare super funds

It is proposed that from 1 July 2021, an online YourSuper comparison tool will allow consumers to compare the fees and performance of superannuation funds, assisting them in deciding which superannuation product best meets their needs. The YourSuper tool will:

- Provide a table of simple super products (MySuper) ranked by fees and investment returns.
- Link users to super fund websites where they can choose a MySuper product.
- Show users their current super accounts and prompt them to consider consolidating accounts if they have more than one.

MySuper products will be subject to an annual performance test

The Budget also announced that super funds offering MySuper products will face greater regulatory scrutiny and will be required to pass an annual performance test. In particular:

- If a fund is deemed to be underperforming, it will need to inform its members of its underperformance, initially

by 1 October 2021, and provide information about its underperformance on the YourSuper comparison tool.

- Underperforming funds will be listed as underperforming on the YourSuper comparison tool until their performance improves.
- Funds that fail two consecutive annual performance tests will not be permitted to accept new members unless their performance improves.

Super funds will follow members to new job

Account "stapling" is also proposed to be introduced from 1 July 2021, meaning that:

- If an employee does not nominate an account at the time they start a new job, employers will pay their superannuation contributions to the employee's existing fund.
 - Employers will obtain information about the employee's existing superannuation fund from the ATO.
- If an employee does not have an existing superannuation account and does not make a decision regarding a fund, the employer will pay the employee's superannuation into the employer's nominated default superannuation fund.

More information on these topics will be shared as the details are finalised and become legislated, particularly, how identifying a new employees' "stapled fund" will be managed between employers and the ATO.

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ADAMA Nimitz®

A KEY TOOL FOR PLANT-PARASITIC NEMATODE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Supplied by ADAMA Nimitz®

Although not a high focus at planting, nematodes cost cane growers up to \$82 million dollars in reduced yields each year.

Root lesion nematode (*Pratylenchus zae*) is very common in all cane growing regions and soil types, whereas root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne spp.*) are more commonly found in soils with low clay content but are damaging at much lower thresholds.

Either species can reach economically damaging levels if not managed with good crop rotation or the use of a nematicide.

ADAMA Commercial Manager- Central Queensland, Brett Hansen, says the economic impact of nematodes varies by region and species. "Trials conducted by ADAMA in Australia have shown nematodes can reduce yield by an average of 15 to 20% – and up to 40% – in plant-cane," he says.

"An integrated approach, involving crop rotation with nematode-resistant legume crops, maintaining a green cane trash blanket, fallow management, minimum tillage and other steps to boost organic carbon in soils, can yield significant benefits for growers.

However, the addition of a chemical treatment at planting, such as Nimitz, remains the most effective method of minimising the economic impact of nematodes."

Australian trials conducted in Mackay, Oakenden, Burnett Heads and South Ballina found the application of Nimitz at the label rate increased yield by an average of 15–20% compared with untreated crops.

"Until Nimitz, there have been few effective options at planting for the control of nematodes in sugarcane," Brett says.

"It contains a unique active ingredient, which has an irreversible effect on target species.

"Nematodes cease feeding and quickly become paralysed within one hour of contact, with death occurring within 24 to 72 hours. Any eggs laid after exposure are unlikely to be viable, while any juveniles that do hatch will not survive.

"Nimitz is applied at planting using standard spraying equipment on a 1.8 m (6 foot) row centre and 50 cm spray band, equating to 1.1 L/ha of planted sugarcane. It is compatible with a range of other crop protection products for one-pass control of insects and fungal diseases.

"Nimitz is applied as a coarse spray in a 50 cm wide band over the centre of the row immediately before covering the sett with soil during planting. Application at planting targets nematodes during the crop establishment phase when the young plant is most vulnerable. Even low levels of nematodes can reduce early root and tiller establishment, affecting yield potential.

"Importantly, Nimitz has minimal impact on non-target and beneficial species. Their preservation contributes toward maintaining healthy soils, maximising yield potential and prolonging the life of the crop. We have also noticed first ratoons perform better the following season with the use of Nimitz."

ADAMA is committed to helping Australian cane growers and their advisors to implement effective and sustainable crop protection programs.

First ratoon cane following treatment with Nimitz at planting in 2019. Trial conducted at Chris Pitiris' Home Hill cane farm.

Same block of first ratoon cane- untreated with Nimitz



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FACELIFT FOR TOWNSVILLE'S BULK SUGAR TERMINAL

Townsville's Bulk Sugar Terminal will get a roofing revamp, with operator Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) announcing a \$22 million investment to reroof the two sheds during 2021 and 2022.

The upgrade will extend the life of the sugar export infrastructure in Townsville by at least 40 years and will create much-needed job opportunities for the region, STL Chief Executive Officer **David Quinn** said.

The project is the final component of a \$100 million reroofing project that has seen STL rejuvenate 10 sheds across its storage and export operations in Queensland.

Brisbane-based company BESIX Watpac has been appointed to deliver the two-year project to replace the roofs on Shed 1 and Shed 2.

"BESIX Watpac is well-placed to complete this last element of our decade-long reroofing project," Mr Quinn said.

"We are confident the team will deliver the project safely, on budget and on time, ensuring STL's significant Townsville operations can continue to play a vital role in Australia's sugar industry for decades to come."



The project, which is scheduled to commence on site in March 2021, will also upgrade and strengthen structural steel elements of the sheds, which were commissioned between 1959 and 1965. ■

Pictured: Townsville's Bulk Sugar Terminal is getting a \$22m facelift as part of STL's rejuvenation project.

**Thinking about planting?
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SMARTCANE BMP OFFERS FLEXIBILITY AND FREEDOM FROM GOVERNMENT AUDITORS

By Kate Gowdie
Smartcane BMP Manager

From December this year, a revised set of reef regulations will require growers to prepare what the government calls a nitrogen and phosphorus budget (or N and P budget).

At the beginning of each year, growers will be required to calculate and submit the sum total of nitrogen and phosphorus recommended for each block on the farm.

Once fertiliser applications are completed at the end of each year, the sum totals of nitrogen and phosphorus applied on the farm are also calculated.

Growers will be assessed as compliant if the total amount of N and P applied to the farm for the year is equal to or less than the total amount of N and P recommended for the farm.

Growers still need to have the soil tests, records, farm maps, etc. required by the current regulations, as well as mapping of "management zones".

But the regulations, at heart, are still based on the block-specific recommendations derived from the SIX EASY STEPS program and soil analyses undertaken before planting.

These recommendations cover the annual requirements for nutrients and ameliorants for the whole crop cycle.

Freedom and flexibility

Growers accredited in Smartcane BMP will not be in the sights of compliance auditors, as the State Government recognises these growers exceed the requirements of regulations.

The regulations only focus on N and P rates, and as all growers know, production is about complete nutrient management, and much more.

Smartcane BMP takes an holistic approach.

For non-accredited growers, the new regulations do have one benefit over the current compliance process.

The current system requires every block to have received N and P rates that match exactly, or are below, the corresponding recommendations.

Just 1 kg/ha more than the recommended rate on one block can make you non-compliant.

The new N and P budget process will impose a 'cap' on the amounts of N and P to be applied to the whole farm,

Growers accredited in Smartcane BMP will not be in the sights of compliance auditors



and the compliance process will be less concerned with how closely each block application rate matches the corresponding recommendation.

However, growers will not be able to exceed the farm cap for N and P, not even by 1kg.

Some growers may not be aware that Smartcane BMP has always accommodated a practical and flexible approach to nutrient management.

N and P rates are required to match recommendations within the practical constraints of rationalising the number of blends being used, the accuracy of calibrations, and the environmental effects on flow rates of product (such as relative humidity).

As a result, N application rates are generally assessed to meet BMP requirements if they are within 10% of the recommended rates.

Smartcane BMP has also accommodated significant deviations from the recommended rates of N or P where there are sound agronomic reasons.

For example, several growers have presented strip trial data showing that certain soil types require more N or P than recommended through SIX EASY STEPS.

Growers also now have access to the SIX EASY STEPS toolbox, developed by SRA, which identifies situations that may require more or less N or P.

These adjustments when based on sound agronomic approaches demonstrate the use of all steps in the SIX EASY STEPS program

We do worry that the N and P budget process will encourage growers, or their advisors, to deviate significantly from the soil-specific SIX EASY STEPS recommendations for N and P without sound agronomic reasons.

The SIX EASY STEPS recommendations have proven to be very reliable over time. Any deviation from these should be carefully considered if growers are to avoid wasting fertiliser.

For example, we have recent cases of growers being advised to take 20 to

N application rates meet BMP requirements if they are within 10% of the recommended rates

40 kg/ha N away from third or fourth ratoons and add this N to the applications for their plant crops.

As plant crops are the least responsive to N, this option risks wasting fertiliser, losing additional N to the environment, and not meeting the nitrogen needs of ratoon crops.

Another source of concern is the persistent myth that optimal N rates for sugarcane are directly related to yield. This is not the case, as any inspection of the extensive field data underpinning the SIX EASY STEPS readily shows.

This belief has been used to justify approaches to N management based on concepts like block yield potential.

Extensive field data does not support such approaches.

Growers wanting to both (1) ensure their nutrient management fully and efficiently meets the needs of their crops and (2) demonstrate to government that they exceed regulatory requirements, should seek accreditation in Smartcane BMP.

This program has practice standards backed up by industry science while also accommodating the specific management needs of your farm. ■

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

The CANEGROWERS Mossman manager and various Board members attended a number of meetings in February including the Local Marine Advisory Committee and the Wet Tropics Waterways Partnership. The entire Board also attended a CANEGROWERS Negotiation Training Session over two days in Cairns.

On the productivity front, Mossman Agricultural Services held an information session for growers in February, which was well attended.

Guest speaker **Professor Frederik (Frikkie) Botha** from the University of Queensland talked about the Suitable sugarcane to diversify income and add value project being undertaken by Far Northern Milling Pty Ltd in conjunction with UQ, the Qld Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation and Sugar Research Australia. Trials are underway on the coast and Tablelands, looking at energy canes and sweet sorghum varieties.



Another big topic was the RSD sampling for Mossman. Indications are that the amount of sugarcane infected with RSD in the region is quite high and unless active measures are taken, it will not improve.

Other productivity matters were a few instances of Pokkah Beong showing up in growing cane and some Amitron phytotoxicity being observed and reported again this year, particularly in SRA16 and Q200.

Mossman mill is now in full swing with its maintenance program. Current expectations for this year's harvest are for a slightly larger crop than last year, a start date around mid-June, crushing in continuous mode with some toll-crushing at the Tableland mill.

Far Northern Milling is organising a Productivity Awards evening for the 2020 season results for coastal growers on Thursday 25 March at the Mossman Bowls Club.

CANEGROWERS Mossman looks forward to the night and has contributed as a sponsor to the event.



Pictured: (left) MAS Shed meeting held at the Mossman Bowls Club Hall on 5 February and (right) presenter Kate Scullard from MAS. Photo credit MAS.

CAIRNS

The weather has been favourable for growing cane with intermittent sunshine and rain across the region.

For members supplying South Johnstone Mill, the negotiations for the Cane Supply Contract are close to being finalised.

Negotiations for the Mulgrave Cane Supply Contract are underway, but have some way still to go.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region is rolling out a number of projects for the benefit of members.

One initiative is a complementary leaf analysis project across the region, with members encouraged to contact

either office for more details.

The organisation is upgrading the direct drill bean planter to a three row planter, making it more efficient for members.

Toni Whyte will contact those growers who purchased beans through the organisation to have a brief discussion and ask a few quick questions.

Congratulations to the newly accredited and re-accredited Smartcane BMP growers within the region. Well done!

Pictured: (right) Neil Maitland assessing his hemp crop in fallow. Neil is working with DAFF to best manage the crop as well as looking at fibre and N values.



INNISFAIL

Growers and industry representatives, both past and present, came together in the first week of February to celebrate **Wayne and Mary Thomas** and their contribution to the cane industry.

Both Wayne and Mary have had a long-lasting impact on the local industry and we wish them all the best in their retirement.

Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project Extension Officers have continued to sample heavy downpours in a bid to answer growers' long held questions about the amount of nitrogen in rainfall.

These results will be communicated to local growers at upcoming shed meetings.

Representatives from CANEGROWERS Innisfail attended the consultation sessions hosted by the Office of the Great Barrier Reef regarding the Government's new Draft Standard Conditions for new cropping in the Reef catchment.

The session held in Innisfail on 4 February was a valuable opportunity for the organisation to reiterate our disappointment with the draft standards, particularly given the high level of regulation already placed on the industry.

TULLY

While the La Nina event has delivered above average rainfall to the Tully district since the start of the year, it has been beneficial to the crop without any major flooding to date.

Initial crop prospects are that there will be slightly more land available for harvest in 2021, and barring a major weather event, there will be a crop of 2.5million tonnes for harvest and crushing.

Planning is underway for an industry-led Harvest Forum in March, where the results of the harvest monitors that were trailed last year are outlined by SRA and others.

Initial reports from the harvest groups involved are positive, and CANEGROWERS Tully and Tully Sugar have agreed to a subsidy to fit additional units to machines for the coming season.



HERBERT RIVER

There will be a \$16.2 million investment in the Herbert region by the Australian Government under the Reef Trust Partnership. This investment is managed by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and CANEGROWERS Herbert River is assisting with program delivery as the Partnership Coordinator. The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program involves several projects working together to reduce the amount of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) and also improve the productivity, profitability and resilience of the Herbert sugar industry and associated community.

A network of 20 real-time water quality monitoring sites is being installed in the lower Herbert region as part of the Fine-scale Water Quality Monitoring in High Priority Catchments Project (RP232), funded by the Department of Environment and Science's Reef Water Quality Science Program.

The actual location of these monitoring sites, and their installation has involved collaboration with Lower Herbert sugarcane growers and organisations. The project will help everyone improve their understanding of what is happening with nitrate concentrations in the Lower Herbert waterways and complement activities of the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program.

Heavy rainfall continues in the region with damaged plant cane and ratoon crops reported by growers in various areas.



Continues next page ►

BURDEKIN

The 2021 season is shaping up to be similar to the past two seasons, with a preliminary crop estimate coming in at 7.91 million tonnes of cane. There has been no significant net loss in area under cane, which is something the sugar industry is keeping a keen eye on. These are early days, with a lot more wet weather and sunshine to come, but ideally we would like to see the Burdekin district back to crushing a crop of greater than 8 million tonnes of cane.

The plant cane is looking very good compared to previous seasons and, while there are some question marks over ratoons, on the whole growers are positive and the spike in the sugar price has added to confidence levels.

Government auditors have been active in the Burdekin conducting chemical audits and it would be fair to say that some growers are still coming to grips with the additional record-keeping requirements that came into effect in June 2020.

Shed meetings coordinated by the extension community have been well attended and are proving to be a good source of information on topical subjects such as herbicide/pesticide record keeping, application of imidacloprid and cane grub control, ratoon stunting disease, itch grass and variety guides.

Sugar Research Australia publicly announced the findings of its Strategy and Operating Model review recently and is moving into the implementation phase, which will eventually provide certainty to local staff and the growing community.

In terms of enhancing the ability to monitor water quality in the Burdekin, the Department of Environment and Science has installed new monitoring equipment in 16 out of the proposed 20 new water quality monitoring sites. The remaining four sites will be installed once water levels have subsided in certain locations.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin lobbied hard for a monitoring site to be installed up-river from Dalbeg to measure what is coming down the Burdekin River before any cane land commences. We also requested a site down river before the brackish water.

These two sites will enable all to see what is entering the cane region and what comes out the other end, which will be important data from a management perspective.

The State and Federal governments have released the Reef Water Quality Report Card 2019 which details progress towards the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan targets up to June 2019.

For the Burdekin, the overall rating came in at E which was Very Poor, which is a bit deflating, but we fundamentally disagree with the adopted targets and the modelling and are seeking to change these. What was pleasing to see was the positive change in trends with the Burdekin making very good progress towards the dissolved inorganic nitrogen target with an annual reduction of 4.5%.

The Burdekin region also recorded the largest increase in best practice nutrient management for sugarcane, up 6.3%. Where the Burdekin needs to focus some more effort on is the area of inshore marine condition which remained poor with inshore coral and seagrass in poor condition and water quality rated moderate.

By the time the next report card is due, the Burdekin should show even greater improvements as a result of the Smartcane BMP program and general grower awareness about water quality and run-off.

Despite the assessment in this latest report, cane farmers are responsible environmental custodians of their land and over time this will be proven.

We need to make sure we are not being set up to fail through unrealistic water quality targets and to that end, CANEGROWERS has lobbied government for a review. The targets need to be realistic and should be based on scientifically-accepted industry best practice to maintain a viable industry while minimising our impact on waterways near our farms. In this, we are making solid progress.

PROSERPINE

The Proserpine district recorded above average rainfall in January which rejuvenated the 2021 crop and offered some optimism of a return to average production.

Follow-up rain in February has been patchy, however most growers have reported some useful falls.

Between the showers, SSP staff have been active performing pachymetra and RSD testing.

The productivity company also took delivery of its first drone in early February and is busy testing software capability and outputs.

The company hopes to establish some grower demonstrations and trials in the coming weeks.

The CANEGROWERS Proserpine executive recently met with

LNP Shadow Minister for Water and Dams, **Deb Frecklington** and the Shadow Minister for Environment and Great Barrier Reef, **Sam O'Connor**.

Subjects discussed included the new cropping regulations, effectiveness of nutrient budgets, water pricing and water security in Proserpine.



MACKAY/PLANE CREEK

CANEGROWERS Mackay has an expanding role as a training hub, not only for cane grower members but also for other interested jobseekers in the district and beyond who are hoping to fill available jobs in the sugar industry and other sectors.

CANEGROWERS Mackay facilitates the Pilot/Escort Level I & II Driving Training Course in our region. The Pilot/Escort Driver travels with an oversize vehicle/combination in order to warn other road users, as required by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR).

While the pilot/escort job is important for growers and contractors who are shifting harvesters and heavy farm machinery around the district, these jobs are also often on offer in the mines, energy and construction sectors.

CANEGROWERS Mackay also offers the annual sugarcane haulout training to ensure seasonal workers are trained to industry standard for the cane harvest season.

The training has been offered for 15 years with 99% of those trained having readily found employment.

CANEGROWERS Mackay is pleased to be able to offer the training again this year after it was cancelled last year due to COVID-19.

The training will be held in May over four days and the venue is on a local cane farm.

Training opportunities for growers and employees who are progressing towards their Best Management Practice accreditation are also available and these include the chemical accreditation qualification to achieve competency in the

storage, preparation, application and transportation of chemicals.

Jobseekers hoping to secure laboratory jobs in the Plane Creek and Mackay Sugar mills also have access to training in Mackay. CANEGROWERS Mackay and Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network (QAWN) have been involved with this project and CQUniversity will be delivering the training.

Online safety courses are available, too.

For more information about the courses on offer in our district please visit the website www.mackaycanegrowers.com.au or contact Training Coordinator Shelley Dent on 07 4944 2600.

Pictured (bottom): On the way to being an accredited Pilot/Escort- Brooke Mifsud (Clermont), Roger Vine (Clermont), Wayne Vickers, Deborah Fowler (Marian), Karen and son, Michael, Sherry (Mackay) with trainer Daryl Cullen and past graduates pose for a picture (below).



BUNDABERG

We are now two months into the new year, and still no clear vision on what the weather or sugar price has in store.

Many areas are still extremely dry for this time of year and have received very little rain. Coastal areas, on the other hand, have fared better.

These irregularities across the district are typical of storm rain. We need good soaking rain with some runoff to ease the burden on irrigation and instate some longterm water security across the catchment.

It is too early to know for sure, but early signs suggest a similar crop to last year. We are all hoping for an improvement over last season.

Unfavourable weather and limited allocations in some areas are certainly stifling productivity across the region.

We are continuing with our claims of extremely outrageous rates increases across the Regional Council area. We have strong support from CANEGROWERS Isis, Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers and AgForce South on the issue.

We all see this as an unjustifiable money grab from the agricultural sector. Many in this category are and will continue to struggle with drought, low commodity prices and ever increasing interference from poorly informed bureaucrats who are supposed to be responsible for representing us.

Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

ISIS

Attendance at the Burnett Mary Regional Integrated Science Forum in mid-February was a highlight with the Isis district again punching above our weight.

Three Isis presentations were delivered on the day. Firstly **Bruce Peterson**, one of the few growers in attendance, spoke about his experience and involvement in learning from a group of Monto growers he met through the peer-to-peer Achieving Better Results Together project.

Bruce shared how the interactions he has with other growers affect the decisions he makes on-farm on a range of issues, from basic agronomy to commodity pricing tools and much more.

Bruce found the most rewarding part of participating in the project was the opportunity to exchange ideas with others.

Secondly, Isis Productivity Officer **Juliette Greenway** shared her experience of working with engaging growers on the Nutrient Management Planning in the Isis project and Smartcane BMP.

Lastly, CANEGROWERS Isis Manager **Angela Williams**, presented the new Extension Model of Practice and the application of it, showcasing how it will be useful, practical and relevant to extension officers and policy makers alike.

It has been pleasing to note that the QFF Graduate Program has been open to the use of the model and has recognised that it could add value in the induction and training of successful applicants.

Three regions have commenced testing the model in a variety of ways including Extension Officer recruitment, selection and performance appraisals, project design and implementation, and project monitoring and evaluation.

Over the past month, we have continued to represent our members by meeting with various politicians and local advocates to strongly lobby our position to reinstate Paradise Dam and ensure no net loss of water volume in the lower Burnett.

The Building Queensland Report has been delayed again and we are awaiting it with bated breath.

The Bundaberg Regional Council rates issue continues and together with our Ag consortium and QCGO we are investing in additional expertise to undertake a comparative analysis of rates in other local government areas across the state.

This information will be valuable to us all.



Pictured: Burnett Mary Regional Group Integrated Science Forum – International Day of Women and Girls in Science

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ROCKY POINT

From 13 January to 14 February, Rocky Point received on average 150 mm of rain through a combination of storms and general rain.

This has kept the cane crop moving along.

We have a preliminary estimated crop size of 320,000 tonnes at an estimated average CCS of 13.50.

The soy crop has continued to progress with the good growing conditions.

CANEGROWERS Rocky Point put on a Soybean Field Day for all growers on 1 February, where we invited an agronomist from Elders Beaudesert to address the growers on different types of chemicals for insects, weeds, and fertiliser requirements.

The morning was well attended and finished off with a barbeque lunch.

Following the recent National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication PILOT Program in Rocky Point, we will be meeting with Kate Retzki, Principal Engagement Officer (Industry and Self-management).

The aim will be to review the effectiveness of the program and suggest improvements for continuing to suppress the ants in this district.

With the important role that the sugarcane mulch industry plays in Rocky Point, it is crucial that the fire ants are controlled.

On 9 February, representatives from Rocky Point attended an Urban Development Institute of Australia presentation on the Greenfield Land Supply for the Gold Coast into the future.

It was noted that industrial land is in short supply and will most likely need to extend east of the existing Yatala industrial area, which would see some cane land taken out of production in the future if it goes ahead.

STICKER SPOTTER COMPETITION



CANEGROWERS sticker spotters are out and about in all sugarcane regions looking for vehicles proudly displaying their CANEGROWERS Growing Together bumper sticker.

Is this your number plate? If so, you're a winner!

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Can't find your bumper sticker? Need another one for another vehicle? Contact your local CANEGROWERS office.

How to enter:

- ✓ Make sure your CANEGROWERS bumper sticker is on your vehicle
- ✓ Wait for one of the CANEGROWERS sticker spotters to spot you as you drive around your district
- ✓ Check the next *Australian Canegrower* magazine for a list of number plates
- ✓ If yours is listed, contact CANEGROWERS Brisbane office to claim a prize on **07 3864 6444** or info@canegrowers.com.au



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WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS

CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE



Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager
CANEGROWERS

No need for additional regulations

The Queensland Government released a draft regulatory Standard for 'new' cropping land in late January aiming for these new regulations to come into effect from 1 June. But as CANEGROWERS has pointed out in its submission, the new regulations are little more than an unnecessary duplication of existing bureaucratic red tape.

The new regulations will require new or expanded commercial cropping and horticulture activities in the Great Barrier Reef catchments (where they are greater than 5 ha) to apply for a permit before any work takes place.

It will affect land that has never been cropped and areas where cropping has not taken place for at least three out of the past 10 years.

The CANEGROWERS submission included the following points:

- The draft Standard duplicates requirements for growers under the existing regulations for sugarcane cultivation. One of the conditions in the existing regulations states that "*Erosion and sediment control measures to minimise soil loss and surface water run-off must be implemented and maintained on the agricultural property*". The new regulations simply repeat the same requirement.
- There is no point in government duplicating these requirements. Sugarcane growers are already subject to intensive regulation of their practices and most certainly do not need another layer of regulation and paperwork.
- Bringing new cane land into production remains an important need for the industry, in order to maintain and increase cane supply and keep mill areas viable.
- The onerous requirements of the Standard, especially when site-specific applications are undertaken (for areas greater than 100ha), will be a significant disincentive to new growers and to new investors.

Growers make big efforts but end up with another 'E' rating

The Reef Water Quality Report Card for 2019 has been released. It is based on practice changes from Reef projects that were reported during 2018-19.

There was a modelled reduction of 4.3% in average catchment loads of Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN). This is no doubt due, in large part, to the efforts of the 660 growers who participated in the Reef Alliance project (Reef Trust funded) which ran from 2015 to 2018.

However, this reduction in DIN was not reflected in much progress towards the Reef land management target for sugarcane – the industry scored another E on the Report Card.

Meeting this target requires the adoption of practices that are not profitable for growers.

The growers involved in the Reef Trust projects implemented practical nutrient management plans based on SIX EASY STEPS, but this was not good enough for the government's definition of 'best practice', and so growers end up with another E for their troubles.

These unfair Report Cards have been used to justify the increasing regulation of growers. The unfairness and unreality of the land management target for sugarcane has been communicated to both Federal and Queensland governments and the recent announcement of a review of the target is welcome, but long overdue.

The challenge now is to ensure this review is fair dinkum and we end up with a realistic management target that is consistent with industry science and with sound economics. ■

CANEGROWERS has pointed out in its submission, the new regulations are little more than an unnecessary duplication of existing bureaucratic red tape.



Burn Ashburner
Senior Manager - Industry
CANEGROWERS

Positive engagement with SRA in changing times

Sugar Research Australia's Chief Executive Officer **Roslyn Baker** recently met with the CANEGROWERS Farm Input and Research Committee to provide further insights into the organisation's Strategic and Operations Model.

SRA is still working through a process to implement the plan and it's clear that this is a difficult time for SRA. There will be some pain required to achieve the necessary gain.

So, where does CANEGROWERS fit into all of this?

The main strategic issue for CANEGROWERS is around engagement. SRA has long recognised the need to communicate and engage with its levy payers at a district level.

Regional Advisory Groups, and more recently the Regional Adoption Committees, have undertaken this role with varying levels of success and none have lasted long.

To facilitate engagement with growers, SRA is planning to appoint district managers with a mandate to determine district-level productivity targets.

This has been tried before (through service level agreements) with mixed success. At this stage, there is no specific plan for this engagement but the industry needs to engage to make SRA as effective as possible.

At a district level, CANEGROWERS can provide leadership to assist in making the SRA engagement successful and effective.

There are still many operational questions to be answered - How much autonomy and what budget will the SRA district managers have to ensure they can be flexible, agile and creative in response to district needs?

The selection of district managers will also be critical and input from CANEGROWERS will assist in attracting the right people.

The SRA Research Funding Panel also needs industry input into selecting research projects.

From a grower perspective, this is mostly around whether the project outcomes and outputs will be useful and adopted.

Initially there was the Production Research Advisory Committee (PRAC) which SRA considered to be a failure. Then it was proposed that the Regional Adoption Committees or the Industry Adoption Committee would perform this function but with the demise of the adoption strategy (due to budgetary issues) this was never finalised or implemented.

The form that this engagement takes has not yet been finalised, but again CANEGROWERS, through staff and grower representatives, can provide leadership to assist SRA in being as effective as possible.

It is critical that SRA research reaches growers and is adopted and that grower concerns are communicated back to SRA and researchers. Communication must be a two-way street.

Local productivity services are in a good position to be effective in this process but they need a functional relationship with SRA. This can be difficult given that the productivity services themselves provide varying levels of service.

SRA has a Variety Distribution Agreement with each productivity service for the distribution of new varieties and clean or approved seed but little influence on any other activities.

At a district level, CANEGROWERS again can provide leadership to assist in building this relationship.

These are changing times for SRA and a time when true leadership is required. ■

At a district level, CANEGROWERS can provide leadership to assist in making the SRA engagement successful and effective.

Warren Males

Head - Economics
CANEGROWERS



Pressure builds on India at home and internationally

Two years since Australia, Brazil and Guatemala launched their formal World Trade Organisation (WTO) dispute settlement action in relation to India's sugar subsidies in February 2019, it is pleasing to report that Australia has now lodged its second written submission in the case.

At the heart of the case are concerns that the sugar support measures, including price supports and export subsidies, provided by the Indian Government and several Indian states are inconsistent with the international undertakings India had made as a member of the WTO.

Reflecting the importance of the case Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, the European Union, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Panama, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the United States have all joined the dispute as third parties.

Although the issues raised by Australia, Brazil and Guatemala are largely the same, at India's insistence the three cases are separate. So, each of the three complainants is a third party in each other's case.

Some aspects of the proceedings are confidential but the Australian Government's first and second submissions to the Panel have been published on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website.

Building on earlier submissions, Australia's second (11 February) written submission comprehensively rebuts the arguments made by India in the case.

In short, Australia strongly argues that India's domestic support for sugarcane producers and export subsidies for sugar are inconsistent with the commitments it has made under two WTO agreements – namely the Agreement on Agriculture and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement).

With no significant factual matters in dispute and arguing that India has failed to establish a defence for its measures, Australia

is asking the Panel to find in Australia's favour and recommend that India bring its measures into conformity with the two WTO agreements.

The second hearing will be an important milestone in the process. After the hearing there will be an opportunity for the Panel to ask further questions and the parties to respond before the Panel prepares its interim report containing its findings and recommendations. Once comments on the interim report have been considered, the Panel's final report will be issued.

In the meantime, the Indian government is attempting to make its farm laws more market-oriented by removing the government guaranteed minimum support price (MSP) for wheat and rice and allowing farmers to sell these staples outside designated regulated areas.

Farmers are protesting the agricultural reforms.

A strong Panel decision in Australia's favour will support New Delhi's development and implementation of WTO-consistent measures and elimination of trade and production distorting programs for sugar, such as excessive MSPs and export subsidies.

India's farmers use their significant political clout successfully each year when minimum support prices are reviewed.

The current farm protests reflect underlying concerns that once the MSPs are gone, farmers will have much less market power when selling to a few large agribusiness corporations.

In Australia, these market power imbalances are addressed through competition policy laws and, for sugar, the associated Code of Conduct.

It remains to be seen how the Indian government will deal with its farmers' concerns. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Males', written in a cursive style.

|| The Indian government is facing farmer protests over its attempts to make farm laws more market oriented. A strong WTO decision in Australia's favour will support New Delhi's reforms. ||



Harvesting contracts

a checklist for growers

Around this time each year, growers are often considering harvesting arrangements for the coming season. This article examines some of the important issues that growers should consider when engaging a contractor and provides a handy check list for preparing a harvesting contract.

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

CANEGROWERS recommends that growers and harvesting contractors document in writing the harvesting agreement they propose to enter into.

Whilst oral agreements are binding and enforceable, there is considerably more scope for dispute and disagreement if there is no written record of what was agreed.

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

A fair and balanced written harvesting contract can assist in identifying the expectations of both grower and contractor and hopefully lead to a better harvesting outcome.



By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS
Legal Advisor

The following are some of the important issues that should be provided for in a cane harvesting contract:-

- The full name, address, ABN and contact details of the grower and contractor.
- The seasons the agreement covers.
- The contract rate being charged. This rate might be calculated per tonne harvested, per hectare harvested, per hour, or some other agreed method. The most common form of charge is a rate per tonne harvested.
- The terms of payment, including whether the contractor is paid directly by the mill from grower cane payments, or paid progressively by the grower.
- A review mechanism for periodic review of the contract rate, usually before the start of each season.
- Whether additional costs are charged, such as fuel or wet weather equipment.
- The delivery points where delivery is to be made.
- A description of the equipment to be used by the contractor.
- Obligations on the contractor to maintain appropriate insurance for employees, as well as public and contractor's liability.
- Standard of performance expected.
- Acknowledgement and warranty that the contractor has all the necessary skill, experience, qualifications and equipment to provide the contracting services in a safe, proper and efficient manner.
- Acknowledgement and warranty that the contractor will comply with all laws relating to the contracting services including vehicle operation, overloading and fatigue management, Work Health and Safety, Workers Compensation and National Heavy Vehicle rules and chain of responsibility obligations.
- Acknowledgement and warranty that the contractor will comply with the cane supply agreement requirements regarding harvesting and delivery, including grouping, allotment and rotation arrangements.
- Obligations on the grower to provide reasonable farm layout and paddock conditions including sufficient headlands for harvesting.
- Provision for who is to be responsible for any penalties imposed for dirty cane, extraneous matter, damage to bins and other similar expenses or deductions.
- Restrictions on the spread of weeds and the need for sterilisation of equipment.
- Cleaning of siding responsibility.
- Overloading of bins and trucks.
- Obligations to comply with Sugar Industry Codes of Practice.
- Termination provisions including provision for breach of contract.
- Acknowledgement by the contractor that the contractor has made all necessary enquiries and inspections and taken reasonable steps to ensure that there are no hazards or other impediments to performing the services and has received whatever induction information the contractor requires.
- A process for local and simple dispute resolution to help resolve disputes about performance complaints, payment complaints or other disputes arising during the course of the contract.
- Any further or other special conditions.

(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. ■



Photo credit - Bernard Milford

Demand for sustainable sugar increasing.

Since 2015, CANEGROWERS has been working on a pathway to support the growing market demand for sustainably produced sugar.

Our approach is to use Smartcane BMP accreditation as the benchmark for sustainability and evaluate blockchain technology to support our credentials and identify new opportunities for value creation for growers.

Recently CANEGROWERS presented this work at an online webinar for sugaronline and at the CASE IH StepUp! conference, organised by Next Gen in Bundaberg.

The importance of the project was underscored by QSL's Andrew Phipps, who told conference goers that the sugar marketer is fielding an increasing number of calls from buyers seeking to purchase sustainably produced sugar.

Read more about the conference on page 12 of this magazine.

Moving equipment?

CANEGROWERS has developed a range of resources for members needing to move oversized farm vehicles and equipment on public roads.

If you need information on dimension and mass limits and the conditions for travel specific to the roads you are travelling on, the CANEGROWERS guides contain maps of critical and major roads in each cane growing region.



By Matt Kealley,
CANEGROWERS Senior
Manager - Membership
Engagement & Innovation

This information is grouped in publications for:

- Rocky Point
- Bundaberg/Isis/Maryborough
- Mulgrave, South Johnstone, Tully, Burdekin, Herbert River, Proserpine, Mackay and Plane Creek
- Mossman and Tableland

Go to www.canegrowers.com.au/page/membership/member-resources and log in to access this information created specifically for your business.

Need training and professional development?

CANEGROWERS recently held an intensive Negotiations skills training course in Cairns with 30 elected members and regional managers.

This is part of our professional development for members program and was about improving the negotiation skills of your elected representatives who work on cane supply agreements and manage other issues with mills, councils and government on your behalf.

The feedback from participants was very positive with recommendations that more courses should be offered.

Speaking of professional development, have you registered your interest in the TAFE Pricing Essentials for Cane Growers course?

It will be delivered between February 2021 and May 2021 over two days in most cane growing districts.

To register, use the online form tafeqld.edu.au/skillsetcanegrowers or contact your district CANEGROWERS office. ■

CANEGROWERS Community News

Got some news you want to share with the CANEGROWERS Community?

This is the place...

Births, birthdays, engagements, weddings and funerals - this will be the place to share your family and community news in 2021.

To provide an item please email editor@canegrowers.com.au

This green box can grow so, space-permitting, *Australian Canegrower* would love to share a photograph of your event.

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



FIRST 5 LINES FREE* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

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

Next deadline is **23 March 2021**.

* 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.

Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

Specialising in Used Cane Harvesting Equipment Sales



CASE 1999 – 2000 updates Track Harvester, Tilt cabin, Komatsu 325 HP, 4,200 hours from rebuild, 15" x 8 blade differential chop. Shredder topper, D5 type tracks. Good Condition

AUSTOFT 1990 model 7000, Komatsu 240 HP engine. 12" x 4 blade chopper system, standard topper, plastic primary extractor hood, dual transmission has been fitted, underslung base cutter. Rubber rollers fitted to roller train.

HBM Single row billet planter 2014 model. Very Good Condition.

Whole Topper late model CASE as new complete with hydraulic valve.

JD shredder topper 3510-3520.

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

IN STOCK NOW
10, 8 & 6 BLADE DIFFERENTIAL
CHOPPER DRUMS
Suit '05 Cameco to JD 570.
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www.gtmachinerysales.com.au

Mossman-Tully

SAME Laser 110 4x4 Tractor, new rear tyres Radials; HBM Whole Stick cane planter with Suscon Box; Parkinson plant cane cutter; 3 fan cane stripper. Ph: 0428 420 973.

Harvester CASE IH 8810 track machine – 2600hrs with all the upgrades to hydraulics. John Deere 7630 with 14 tonne Carta, Fiat 100-90 with Newton Elevator 10 tonne bin. CASE 7700 Harvester 2000 model track machine. 65 Articulated with 5000ltr water tank. Ph: 0427 163 748.

Ratoon crumble roller 3Row Scratcher Breakpusher frame and mountings with spiral 200lt Diesel tank. Ph: 0401281262 after 6pm.

John Deere 6330 Premium. 3 remotes, new tyres, remote camera, 80 channel UHF two-way radio, 40km/hr, 4071 hours, all services have been carried out, one owner. Excellent condition. Tully. Ph: 0408 728 072.

220 Litre Diesel Fuel Tank. VGC \$2,000 plus GST. 2 Type Ripper Coulter with drag rollers. 12 cast iron wheels either side with grease-up bearings, GC \$1,600 plus GST. Located Tully. Ph: 0429681264.

2004 Cameco harvester VGC \$150,000 (GST incl). Ph: 0427655168.

Mini high rise spray tractor- Ford 5000 - clearance 5"0' - tractor row spacing 5"6' -

boom variable row spacing 5"2' up to 6"0'. Ph: 0427669218. A/h: 0740669218.

Hodge 28 Plate Offset Disc \$9,900 (incl GST). Ph: 0488 050 017.

Case Maxxum 125 with 10 tonne Newton Bin VGC. 4,000hrs on tractor. Ph: 0408488521.

MSW 3 tonne S.S. fertilizer bin. Pour on top or side dress, New Coulters, \$5,500 (GST inc). Ph: 0438 642 195.

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

Herbert River-Burdekin

2 of 13.6 x 28 tyres in good condition. Ph 0429771209.

Chamberlain Canelander PTO. Good tyres. Drawbar and linkage. Runs well. \$3,300.00, photo available. Ph: 0417070844.

Toft 6000 swinging knife cane harvester. Has half-tracks fitted. Cummins 300 Engine. Bent elevator. Cuts nice billets. \$17,500.00. May swap for 4wd open cab tractor. Ph: 0417070844.

Tyres and rims. 480/80 r50 .10 hole rims, off New Holland. Good condition, photos available Ph: 0417070844.

50 inch rims complete with 480/80R 50 tubeless Goodyear tyres fitted 65% rubber. These were outside duals off New Holland, photos are available. Tyres and rims are in excellent condition. Ph: 0417070844.

Mackay-Proserpine

2 x 3T side elevating bins on Vane double trailer with own hydraulics. Ideal for planting. Ph: 0418983163.

Ford 8401 coupled to 6 tonne Ian Richie tipper bin. Ph: 0418716043.

John Deere 3350 4WD Cab Tractor, with a Bob Smith 6tonne side tipper. Both very good condition. \$35000. Ph: 0427606328.

Refalo 2-tonne fertilizer box on wheels; 3-row trash rakes; 3-row multi-weeder; cutaways; grubbers for ratoons and fallow; cane break pushers; & more. Ph: 0417612883.

Case JX90 ROPS Tractor, 82hp, 1020 hrs, 6x45kg Front Weights, Good Rubber, \$38,500 Inc GST. Hodge Inter-row Fertiliser Applicator (tows behind 4 wheeler) - \$2,700. Ph: 0428236165.

Tractor tyres: 18.4X38, 520/70-R38, 540/65-R38. Ph: 0427606328.

New Hydraulic Heavy Duty OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,
All 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 Hydraulic 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

Classifieds

90 HP A/C 4WD John Deere Tractor. Excellent condition. Suit new buyer \$70,000 ONO. Ph: 0427606328.

750x20in steel rims x 2. Ph: 0438421217.

Cane Country whole stick planter, two trailers, plant cutter and Bonel trash extractor. Equipment stored in shed and is in excellent condition. Ph: 0418580986.

Tyres and rims. 2 x 20.8 R42. Tread 10%. Cases good. \$2,200 ono. 2 x 480/80 R46 tyres, as new. Clamps, wedges to suit New Holland. \$5500 ono. Ph: 0408733793.

Celli Rotary Hoe, 100" Heavy Duty, in good condition \$12,000 +GST. Ph: 0407165557.

Celli Tiger 250- 355 rotary hoe with hyd cage roller able to control track 2-1.8 Mt rows \$17,500 including Ph: 0407595094.

Case Cane Harvester 8800 (2016), new tracks, sprockets & elevator chain, worked 3 seasons to 2019, hours - 4685, custom made multilplier attached (can separate off machine) good condition, serviced & work ready \$250,000+GST; Cane Side Tipper Bin (10T) \$18,000+GST; Cane Side Tipper Bin on 2 axel trailer (will separate) \$20,000+GST; Multiplier to fit tractor \$1500+GST. All in very good condition. Proserpine PH: 0408755453 or 0438755459.

Moller Sorter Planter. Contractors model. Own hydraulics, liquid fertilizer, steering, 250lt lorsban tank. 700 lts fungicide tank. Suitable for small contractor or medium size farmer. Good condition. Ready to go. \$23,000 ono. Phone 0408733793.

AUSTOFT 7700 Track Harvester, 1996 Model, 7510 genuine frame hours, last 600hrs fully rebuilt engine, 4 blade EHS Choppers, new 4ft 6 Barrel & Hood, Komatsu engine, leg base cutters, excellent machine \$90,000 + GST. Ph: 0438541448.

FORD Tractor, 1998, 8340 , 16 Speed, 40 Klm gear box, 7,200 hours, VGC. Ph: 0438541448 for more details.

95' single axle, 10 tonne Carta double door elevating bin. VGC. New tyres. \$45,000 +GST. Ph: 0417427480.

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

12t self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. Very good condition. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

6t side tipper on Leyland tandem. Good condition. 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. Very good condition. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Standard topper to suit John Deere - Cameco 3510, in reasonable condition (no motors) - \$550. Ph: 0413584728.

Ford 8401 tractor, 2xFord 7000 tractors, 3x LNG 6 ton single axle tipper bins, 1000gal diesel tank on tow trailer, 3 inch 2 in 1 Avoca double reel water winch, 4 inch Avoca 2 in 1 heavy duty water winch. Ph 0427598333.

2012 John Deere 3520 wheel harvester, New Holland 8560, New Holland 8360, John Deere 6820 - all with 10t Newton tippers. Ph: 0400844581 or 0488415781.

2 x rolls - 10" black flood fuming. TEXT ONLY: 0439035487.

9 Tyne grizzly ripper \$9,000 + GST, 3 row fertiliser box 1 tonne inch and 1/4 tynes and rakes \$5,000 + GST, land plane \$8,000 + GST, 3 row multi weeder \$3,000 + GST, 3 row plant cane cutaways \$1,500 + GST, Howard 4 furrow plough \$5,000 + GST, HBM billet planter, 2 billet cane trailers, 800lt tank, \$16,000 + GST, Track infielder \$30,000 + GST. All negotiable. Ph: 0447532490.

Rolls of black plastic lay flat. 8", 10", 12" with cups. FREE. CIG Coment3 oxy set, complete. \$100. Ph: 0402085833.

Howard 90 inch hoe with crumble roller \$4,500. John Deere 2030 with a Dalmore forklift \$9,000. Hydraulic triple winder \$2,000. All prices + GST. Ph: 0412644616.

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Jan 2021)	Month to date (1 Feb-23 Feb)	Year to date	Jan-Feb
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	678.8	410.2	1089	1109.3
Mareeba Airport	393.2	139.8	533	444.9
Cairns Aero	608	248	856	846.5
Mt Sophia	683	401	1084	1197.6
Babinda Post Office	1112.3	258	1370.3	1383.8
Innisfail	987	310.8	1297.8	1095.8
Tully Sugar Mill	1169.5	922	2091.5	1329.5
Cardwell Marine Pde	915.8	473.8	1389.6	905.8
Lucinda Township	0	371.6	371.6	853
Ingham Composite	841.5	646.1	1487.6	864.5
Abergowrie Alert	679	317	996	602
Townsville Aero	360.8	162.6	523.4	573.8
Ayr DPI Research Stn	433.6	97.8	531.4	459.2
Proserpine Airport	418.6	96.8	515.4	654.6
Mirani Mary Street	250.1	89	339.1	621.1
Mackay MO	347.6	81.6	429.2	592.6
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	0	5.6	5.6	748.4
Bundaberg Aero	41.8	38.2	80	325.1
Childers South	31.6	17	48.6	242.7
Maryborough	52.4	21.6	74	334.9
Tewantin RSL Park	159	86	245	370.5
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	186.2	81.2	267.4	479.4
Nambour DPI - Hillside	144.6	69.2	213.8	519.3
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	93.9	86.2	180.1	288.6
Murwillumbah Bray Park	173.7	218.6	392.3	435.2
Ballina Airport	118.4	273.6	392	372.6
New Italy (Woodburn)	111.1	182.6	293.7	311



dream with your eyes open

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.

70 mega litres of bore water in Zone 5 for temporary transfer. Ph: 0429025051.

Wanted

Trash incorporator - prefer Hodge. Ph: 0409495550.

Same Panther 90 front axle complete with diff and hubs. Wheels if available, complete tractor may be an option Ph: 0417070844.

Front and rear tires and rims to suit JD 3510 harvester. Wanted hi flotation tires and rims to suit spiders on ACCO trucks. Text msg 0400794857.

Positions Vacant

Experienced haulout operators required for the 2021 cane season. Near new equipment. Approx. 100,000 tonnes. 1 1/2 roster. Tully area. Ph: 0418456071.

Harvesting contractor for 2021 season. Hawkins Creek area in the Herbert River District. Approx. 3,000 tonnes (60 acres planted). Call Kevin Melvin on 07 47761450 or Pauline Biasi on 07 47762242.

Sugar cane farm hand required for Innisfail area, part time/fulltime negotiable. General farm duties, good working conditions. Ph: 0488633777 after 7pm.

Work Wanted

Contract Soybean Harvesting - JD7700 header available for soybean harvest in the Mackay area. Also have a 25t field bin for storage. Please call Richard on 0427559139 for more information.

Cane wanted for 2021 and beyond for harvest 2021. JD 570 Harvester. Tully area. Ph: 0418456071.

Enthusiastic operator moving to Innisfail area is looking for work this season, with agricultural industry experience and mechanically minded. Ph: 0400584801.

Property

Very Productive Pioneer Valley Cane Farm. 580acres - as a whole - 4 titles or 2 separate farm options. 240meg water alloc, very fertile soils, full machinery list. High production records, quality farm, crop in good cond. EOI closing 23.04.2021 - Ph: Gary Johns - 0427241250.

Cane Farm, 47 acres. 23 acres cane production for 2021, remainder fallow. 40MG Kinchant Dam Allocation. Supplied to Racecourse Mill. 20 mins from Mackay. Ph: 0466241656.

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

2 Mackay cane farms on 4 lots; one farm 113.62ha with total area 74.67ha CPA and second farm 126.57ha with total area 82.17ha CPA. Farms have common boundary. Ph: 0415881092.

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

Cane farm wanted to lease Racecourse mill area Mackay. Young farmer wishing to expand. Ph: 0408011983.

Mulgrave cane farm. 47 ha total. 11.5 ha high flat fertile land. River flat 40 ha prime river silt land. River frontage. Water available for irrigation. Ph: +44427525173.

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. 2x4" 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 2019 crop. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.

Tropical Paradise Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property, 96 acres 6klms to PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable land, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. Easy farm to maintain. Ph: Mandy 0408880724.



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.

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

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.



Bill, Proserpine



Contact your district facilitator to find out more.