

CANE

AUSTRALIAN

GROWER



CANEGROWERS

June 2021 Price \$9.95



DEEP ROOTS

BUNDABERG FAMILY MARKS
150 YEARS FARMING THE LAND

WOMEN IN SUGAR CONFERENCE
SHOWCASES FRIENDSHIPS, FUN
AND FARMING UPDATES



INNOVATIVE USE OF AQUATIC
WEEDS HELPING IMPROVE CANE
PRODUCTIVITY



GROWER-LEADERS GATHER IN
CAIRNS AHEAD OF 2021 SEASON
START





AmiTron[®]

TERMINATES WEEDS WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE

- UV Stable
- Moves through trash
- Easily activated
- Residual control
- Wide weed spectrum
- Pre- & post-emergent
- Versatile & compatible
- Tough on vines

www.upl-ltd.com/au

© AmiTron is a registered trademark of UPL Australia Pty Ltd





AJK
CONTRACTING

AJK HumiSoil®

AJK HumiSoil® is a soil amendment product suitable for application in the agricultural, horticultural and land rehabilitation sectors

	AJK HumiSoil®	Bagged Organic Fertilizer
N	1.6	3.5
P	1.3	1.55
K	0.4	1.6
S	0.26	0.44
Ca	0.25	1.8
Mg	0.12	0.5
B	0.0026	0.003
Zn	0.25	0.04
Fe	0.82	0.16
Mn	0.024	0.04
Cu	0.01	0.01
Mo	0.0004	0.0008

**Indicative Only*

Why Choose AJK HumiSoil®

- Made from 100% organic materials
- Reduced reliance on imported chemical fertilizers
- Restores soil quality & improves soil structure
- Reduce nutrient and pesticide run off
- Improved soil carbon levels
- Improve water retention and improve water use efficiency
- Easy application and can be blended
- Is quality tested against AS4454
- Is currently the only HumiSoil® produced in QLD to contain biosolids and meet the unrestricted use classification

Contact **AJK Contracting** to secure your **AJK HumiSoil®** tonnages for 2021
P. 07 4942 6363 // www.ajkmackay.com.au





'One day' starts with better returns today

8.3% p.a.

Over 10 years to 31 March 2021
Sunsuper Balanced option*

Our experienced investment team has delivered strong, long-term investment returns for our members who trust us with \$85 billion** of their retirement savings. Because we know getting somewhere great starts with great returns, it's good news for members that our Balanced investment option for *Super-savings accounts* has outperformed the industry average over 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10 years.*

sunsuper.com.au/choose


what dreams are made of



*SuperRatings Fund Crediting Rate Survey - SR50 Balanced (60-76) Index, March 2021. The industry average is the median return after investment fees and costs and taxes for the SR50 Balanced (60-76) Index which comprises the largest investment options with a similar asset allocation to growth-style assets of between 60-76%. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. **At April 2021. See award information at sunsuper.com.au/awards. Products issued by Sunsuper Pty Ltd ABN 88 010 720 840 AFSL No. 228 975. Consider Product Disclaimer Statement before making a decision. Call 13 11 84 or visit sunsuper.com.au for a copy. 2464 (05/21)

FEATURES

6 Leadership forum

Grower representatives from across the industry gathered in Cairns recently to reflect on their leadership roles and discuss how best to serve members.

22 Letting weeds do the work

Burdekin growers are using an innovative approach to tackle invasive aquatic weeds while also giving their cane a productivity boost.

24 Deep Roots

Bundaberg's Dingle family continues to work the same rich soil as their forebears, 150 years on.

28 Farming Friendships

After the disappointment of a COVID-19 postponed conference in 2020, it was full steam ahead for the Women in Sugar in Mackay recently.

COVER IMAGE: Former Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Chairman Allan Dingle still operates the same farm purchased by his great-grandfather in 1871. Read more on page 24.

CONTENTS IMAGE: Burdekin cane grower Gary Spotswood is taking part in an innovative project to tackle aquatic weeds and boost productivity. Read more on page 22.



EVERY ISSUE

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



CANEGROWERS

Editor: Wayne Griffin

Design and classifieds: Robyn Devine

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

Published monthly by

CANEGROWERS
Level 6, 100 Edward Street, Brisbane,
Queensland Australia
ABN 94 089 992 969

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

Telephone: 07 3864 6444

Email: editor@CANEGROWERS.com.au

Website: www.CANEGROWERS.com.au

AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039

Volume 43 Number 6

Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 12 issues (postage included)

Within Australia \$176 inc GST

Overseas (AUD) \$265

Shot in the arm

The National Farmers Federation has welcomed last month's Federal Budget, saying it delivered a shot in the arm for agriculture and regional Australia, with welcomed investment in biosecurity, infrastructure, trade, telecommunications, climate change adaptation and health service.

NFF President **Fiona Simson** said the 2021-2022 Budget papers specifically referenced the NFF-led goal for agriculture to be Australia's next \$100 billion industry by 2030 and outlined spending initiatives that would provide tangible, on the ground benefits to farmers and bush communities.

"This Budget has delivered more than \$5 billion investment in freight and regional roads across every state and territory, including upgrades to Queensland's Bruce Highway," Ms Simson said.

"These projects will go a long way to addressing NFF's previously highlighted concerns with the \$1.3 billion annual gap in regional infrastructure spending.

"The cost of getting produce from farm to market is one of farmers' largest cost imposts and a key determinant of our ability to compete on the world stage.



Pictured: National Farmers' Federation President, Fiona Simson addresses the 2021 Leadership Forum with CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan

"Work must commence on these infrastructure projects as soon as possible."

Ms Simson said the NFF also welcomed \$29 million for a strengthened and more coordinated approach to feral animal control.

"This is in addition to the \$371 million over four years announced last week to expand and modernise an ailing biosecurity system, exceeding the NFF's ask of \$400 million."



Confidor to go

Chemical company Bayer has announced it will discontinue the sale of its Confidor products in Australia by the end of 2021.

Long the go-to product for controlling grubs in Queensland's cane paddocks, growers have had access to a range of cheaper generic brands in recent years.

"We will continue to sell both Confidor Guard Soil Insecticide and Confidor 200 SC until 31 December 2021, after which time these products will no longer be available," a Bayer spokesperson said.

"Bayer's remaining imidacloprid products, including Movento Energy, Gaucho, Hombre, and home and garden Confidor-branded products, will remain part of our brand portfolio. We will continue to work with SRA on stewardship projects for the remainder of 2021." ■



Milling Council CEO resigns

The Australian Sugar Milling Council is on the hunt for a new Chief Executive Officer following the announcement that current CEO **David Pietsch** will step down at the end of August.

Mr Pietsch (*pictured*) who was appointed to the position in January 2018, is leaving to spend more time with his family on the Darling Downs, the ASMC statement said.

"Under David's leadership over the past three-and-a-half years, ASMC has made considerable progress on key issues affecting the sector's future, including being the catalyst for the World Trade Organisation case against Indian sugar subsidies, tackling regulatory imposts on the sector, and developing the industry's longer term strategic focus." ■



Lack of competition costing farmers

Farmers are being forced to pay through the nose for machinery servicing and repairs due to a lack of competition in the market, according to a new report from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

The consumer watchdog's Agricultural Machinery Market Study looked at a range of competition and fair trading issues in the direct sale of agricultural machinery, as well as after-sales services, such as repairs.

The study found that competition in repair markets is being limited by restricted access to software tools, technical information, and service manuals and parts held by manufacturers.

"Modern tractors, harvesters and other agricultural machinery use complex computerised systems that involve embedded software and specific tools and parts," ACCC Deputy Chair Mick Keogh said.

"While this technology has increased productivity, it has also meant that access to this software, tools and parts is needed to repair the machinery. These are often held or controlled by manufacturers, limiting the ability of independent repairers to do the work.

"Competition in after-sales markets would be improved if independent repairers had access to software, tools and parts on fair and reasonable commercial terms. This is an important issue that runs across a number of industries, both in Australia and overseas."

The ACCC recommended that agricultural machinery be considered for future inclusion in the motor vehicle service and repair information sharing scheme.

The report also recommended that agricultural machinery be included in any broader 'right to repair' scheme introduced in Australia, saying that "future right to repair legislation could include requirements for manufacturers to: grant access to diagnostic software tools and parts to independent repairers on commercially reasonable terms; have a sufficient supply of parts readily available in Australia for a defined period from the date of the sale agreement; and provide purchasers with information about how long a certain software system will be supported."

A key emerging issue in the report is the control over data and the use of that data, Mr Keogh said.

"Our survey findings indicate that many purchasers of agricultural machinery don't understand the circumstances under which manufacturers can collect, share and use the data generated by their machines."

The full report can be downloaded from the ACCC website. Visit www.accc.gov.au and type Agricultural Machinery Market Study into the search bar. An audio version is also available. ■

Grower leaders meet in Cairns ahead of harvest

More than 80 grower representatives and staff have gathered in Cairns for the CANEGROWERS Leadership Forum on the eve of the 2021 sugarcane season.

"Growers are the backbone of the Australian sugar industry which is the second biggest exporter of raw sugar in the world, and we take this responsibility very seriously," CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri said.

"This Forum was a time to pause and reflect, to take stock of our personal and collective approach to our roles in CANEGROWERS and to set some goals around our contribution in the future."

The National Farmers' Federation President, Fiona Simson, and former Socceroo, player advocate and social campaigner, Craig Foster, shared their insights.

Both emphasised a desire and a responsibility to make an impact that would benefit people in their fields, agriculture and sport, in the future.

"My local issues started to drive me but then, as I got engaged and involved in committees and organisations, that changed," Ms Simson said.

"Policies that governments set are so absolutely important and if we don't have good people in the room and organisations talking to the ministers then we are leaving ourselves exposed as an industry."

"Policies that governments set, I came to realise, are so absolutely important and if we don't have good people in the room and organisations talking to the ministers ... then we are leaving ourselves exposed as an industry."

"I was involved with the players' association in very early times, so we very quickly made it not just about the people in the room," Mr Foster said.

"Talking about our game, football, we wanted to see the whole game prosper, more people play, women be able to prosper and we wanted greater impact – that's what it is about."

Another theme was the importance of gathering and working with a team of like-minded people.

"I believe in people power and in democracy and we all need to raise our voice, particularly in groups," Mr Foster said. "No one goes out the front and makes great change by themselves."



REPORT YELLOW CRAZY ANTS

CALL: **1800 CRAZY ANT**



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





"Leadership can take many forms, whether it's in your local community or for your industry at a state or national level," Ms Simson said.

"Either way, I'd urge growers who wish to make a change to consider stepping up. I congratulate CANEGROWERS on supporting the sugar industry's leaders of the future."

"CANEGROWERS values and supports every grower who stands up to represent their colleagues and events like this Leadership Forum are an important part of that - providing opportunities to share knowledge and build on skills," Mr Schembri said.

The Leadership Forum was followed by a meeting of the 21-grower CANEGROWERS Policy Council representing every sugarcane region. ■



Pictured left: Burdekin Directors Roger Piva, Owen Menkens and Phil Marano enjoyed the opportunity to network with National Farmers' Federation President Fiona Simson, while CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri and former Socceroo Craig Foster, pictured right, discuss leadership ideas. Pictured above the leadership forum in full swing.

RAIN DELAYED YOUR PLANTING?





GET BACK ON TRACK WITH **PLANTSTARTER 21** FROM LIQUAFORCE

At a cost of more than \$3,000 per hectare, we know that plant cane is one of your most valuable assets, so it makes sense to protect your investment. With a combination of enhanced efficiency fertiliser with organic carbon to boost nitrogen use efficiency, **PlantStarter21** delivers faster plant uptake and safer application options. This means your plant cane starts stronger, grows taller faster and is ready to spend more time above ground growing!

CALL US TODAY ON **4776 0882** TO SECURE YOUR ORDER OF PLANTSTARTER21 BY LIQUAFORCE – THE PREMIER LIQUID FERTILISER MANUFACTURERS FOR QUEENSLAND SUGAR CANE. VISIT LIQUAFORCE.COM.AU FOR MORE

CANEGROWERS Membership Fees 2021

As a grower-led organisation, CANEGROWERS works tirelessly at local, state, national and international level on behalf of our members.

Through your support, we can ensure that grower voices are not only heard but understood in the halls of power, at the highest levels of government.

As your peak industry body, we will continue to support you and advocate on your behalf, as we strive for a strong, profitable and innovative sugarcane industry.

After holding membership fees steady during an unpredictable year in 2020, the CANEGROWERS State Board has approved a modest increase in 2021 to align with CPI growth.

The State membership fee for 2021 will be set at 19.00c per tonne (2020 18.58c), ex GST on all cane delivered to the mill by

all members. The fee is deducted progressively throughout the crushing season from cane payments.

CANEGROWERS values all members and will continue with its levy cap policy at the state level, offering a rebate to all members when more than 50,000 tonnes of cane are delivered to the mill.

Thank you for the contribution you make. We remain firm in our commitment to supporting and guiding members as they continue to drive the industry.

Below is a table of total membership fees after combining the state and local district charges.

Membership Fees 2022 season, cents per tonne of all sugar cane supplied to mills by all members

District Company	Crop Insurance Premium cents per tonne (inc stamp duty & GST)	Total Membership Fee cents per tonne (inc GST)
Bundaberg	TBA	TBA
Burdekin *	1.88	49.18
Cairns - Babinda	Note 1	48.40
Cairns - Mulgrave	2.20 **	50.60
Herbert River *	3.30	48.62
Innisfail	2.20	50.78
Isis	1.55	49.40
Mackay *	4.91	50.61
Maryborough	Note 1	34.10
Mossman	2.42	35.20
Plane Creek *	4.91	55.31
Proserpine	Note 1	38.50
Rocky Point	4.49	64.99
Tableland - Mossman Mill	4.08	47.01
Tableland - Tableland Mill	4.08	47.01
Tully	2.75	41.14

Key Points to Note

This fee schedule will apply to all sugar cane supplied to Queensland mills by all members during the 2021 crushing season. Fees vary from district to district due to the size and extent of operations and services offered.

Fees quoted above are inclusive of cane testing/auditing fees in some districts. Fees quoted above are exclusive of productivity/extension officer fee's which exist in some districts.

Note 1 - no additional charge for crop insurance, included as part of membership fee

* - Local district membership fee cap may apply in addition to state cap.

** - Crop insurance for 2021 season is subsidised for members from local company reserves

TBA - District Board has not yet set their fee for 2021. Total levy to be advised.



LIME ANALYSIS

CALCIUM LEVEL: Ours 40% Others 22%

Family owned and operated with over 40 years' experience in the industry.

Phone 0427 008 856 today
Ingham Spreading Services: 4777 7726
sales@townsvillelime.com.au

WWW.TOWNSVILLELIME.COM.AU

***Knockdown and
residual weed control
that stays where
you put it***

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



 **SUMITOMO CHEMICAL**
AgroSolutions Division



***Scan here to see more information
about Valor 500WG Herbicide***

www.sumitomo-chem.com.au

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

CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS



SUGAR PRICING: IT IS ESSENTIAL

There is no doubt the challenges inherent in farming continue to evolve. In many ways success in farming is dependent on balancing a range of risks, controlling what you can, and taking advantages of opportunities as they arise.

Variability in seasonal conditions is perhaps the most challenging of all elements. But growers can minimise risk in other areas through the proper use of irrigation, nutrition, variety selection, etc.

In our industry, mechanisms to help turn global sugar price volatility into an opportunity have been available to Australian sugar producers for quite some time – much longer than any of our global competitors.

Recent months have shown just how important this ability is.

Thankfully, nearly two years ago CANEGROWERS began building a range of resources and services around understanding the sugar market.

When launching our Marketing Information Service, we focused on providing timely, online and in-person information sessions that offer expert insight into the drivers of the sugar market and guidance on how to monitor the commodity cycle.

Based on feedback from growers and district staff, this work was backed up last year with the release of our Cost of Production Tool. This tool, developed by CANEGROWERS exclusively for members, enables growers to calculate the true costs of their specific farming operations.

Many growers have found great value in using the tool, in conjunction with their agronomists and accountant, to get a handle on their costs.

This year, the Marketing Information Service work and the Cost of Production Tool have been brought together into our Pricing Essentials course. Delivered in partnership with TAFE Queensland, but presented by CANEGROWERS staff, the course has run in nearly all districts in the first half of the year. The feedback from participants has been positive.

The objective of the course is clear, and the outcomes can be profound. The evidence from growers is that, given the right knowledge of the market combined with a good understanding of their cost of production, there are opportunities to make much needed profits.

Thankfully, these services have been out and available for growers at a time when, working in partnership with your chosen marketer, growers can take full advantage of the current or medium pricing opportunities.

CANEGROWERS will build on the recent positive feedback on the pricing essentials training and we welcome further feedback.

We will continue to refine the service and look to ensure that it provides the right level of insight and a pragmatic approach to better position growers to manage their business.

It is just one of the ways that your organisation works to drive down the costs of production and talk up our opportunities to increase value in the industry. ■

WE'RE ON THE GROUND

We're in Mossman to Maroochy River and everywhere between.

We take the latest industry research and make it relevant for your district and the way you farm.

Get in touch with your district facilitator and they'll help you find expert advice and specialised training tailored to you.

Andrew, Proserpine



Contact your district facilitator to find out more.

SUSTAINABLY SOURCED SUGAR IN DEMAND

By Kate Gowdie
Smartcane BMP Manager

What motivates growers to participate in Smartcane BMP and become accredited is different for every business. Accreditation is a badge of honour for some, an alternate pathway to reef compliance for others and an avenue to productivity improvements for many. While accreditation will continue to deliver these outcomes into the future, the benefits of accreditation may soon be found most profoundly in market access as demand for Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) and sustainably sourced commodities increases.



End users are listening to their consumers who want products that are ethically and sustainably sourced. Demand for investment in ESG is also increasing exponentially.

The Financial Times defines ESG as “a subset of non-financial performance indicators which include sustainable, ethical and corporate governance issues such as managing a company’s carbon footprint and ensuring there are systems in place to ensure accountability.”

While Australian sugar is ahead of its competitors in terms of quality and has held good market share for many years because of this, there is a risk that we may lose that advantage and market access if we do not heed the call of our consumers.

Andrew Phipps from QSL was the keynote speaker at the recent Tableland CANEGROWERS productivity Awards night where he was clear with the audience that the market is no longer just talking about sustainably sourced sugar but is now demanding it.

Just knowing that our sugar products are good is not enough. We need a system that verifies on-farm management practices and satisfies the requirements of stakeholders throughout the value chain.

Smartcane BMP accreditation is a recognised system to demonstrate these credentials.

The core modules of Smartcane BMP satisfy the sustainability requirements for some of the largest end users, including Coca-Cola. This means that sugar from a Smartcane BMP accredited business can be purchased by Coke as a sustainable product.

With 35% of all Queensland cane area accredited under Smartcane BMP, Queensland is producing a significant volume of sustainable sugar into the market.

In the Tully district, where there is over 80% of all cane land accredited, the volume of sustainable sugar is greatest. The question is – will Queensland’s supply of sustainably sourced sugar continue to meet demand?

If you are keen to remain ahead of the competition when it comes to supplying sustainable sugar, and you want to maintain market share and market access, Smartcane BMP certification delivers the sustainability credentials you require.

Talk to your local facilitator today about Smartcane BMP accreditation for your business. ■

“At the recent Tableland CANEGROWERS Productivity Awards night, Smartcane accredited growers were the bulk of the award recipients.”

Pictured: (above left) Andrew Phipps from QSL speaks at the CANEGROWERS Tableland Productivity Awards; (above right) Smartcane BMP accredited growers, John and Niela Myteza of Echobrief took out three awards.



Happy



QUEENSLAND DAY— JUNE 6 FROM QSL, QUEENSLAND'S SUGAR MARKETER

Proudly Queensland based and focused, QSL has been supporting our state's sugar industry since 1923, returning billions of dollars in exports sales and pricing to Queensland's cane growers, sugar millers and regional communities.

Right around our great state, the QSL team is ready for another important harvest and proud to help the Queensland sugar industry deliver a taste of the sweet life to customers around the world every year.

To learn more about QSL, call your local QSL rep or visit www.qsl.com.au





FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

SUGAR PRICES HEAD NORTH

It is often said by cane growers that Australia's sugar industry runs on good weather and a good price. It may not be as simple as that, but certainly having a strong sugar price goes a long way to bolstering confidence.

In recent weeks, the sugar price has been hovering around US16c to 18c/lb.

Australian cane growers have great access to forward pricing and the recent market surge has led to most growers locking in some favourable prices.

A number of factors, including a projected global deficit, have been driving up the sugar price, with most commentators are now of the view that sugar should trade in the range of US15c to 19c/lb in the near term.

The global deficit is projected to be in the region of 3-5 million for 2020-21.

Recent reports of dry weather in Brazil have caused a downgrade of the Brazilian crop. One report has suggested the Brazilian 2021 crop could reduce from the initial forecast of 596 million tonnes of cane to around 576 million tonnes.

Dry weather in Thailand has also resulted in reduced crop for the last two years. Not only has Thai production fallen but it also has had a major impact on its exports, which in turn has added momentum to the world price.

European sugar production in 2020-21 fell by around 11% as well. This fall in production has resulted in very little exports of raw sugar from Europe.

Historically, large exports from Europe have impacted on the world price. It also appears that commodity prices worldwide are demonstrating a comeback from the debilitating impacts of COVID-19, while financial markets are showing a greater resilience to the economic lockdown of the pandemic.

Nobody can be certain where sugar prices will go. What we do know, however, is that the fundamentals of supply and demand are pointing to a global deficit and hopefully stronger prices.

We could be tempted to believe that the current high price might compel Australia, Brazil and Guatemala to ease back on the WTO action against Indian export subsidies.

In fact, the recent price increase would have been higher had it not been for Indian sugar subsidies. This high price could also prompt India to actually increase its exports.

We will not take our foot off the accelerator with this WTO action. The second round of formal hearings has been completed, and while there is a raft of administrative and appeals processes to be worked through, we remain confident that the initial findings can be released in the next few months.

Women in Sugar

Recently I attended the Women in Sugar (WISA) Conference in Mackay. The conference was well attended with around 80 representatives from all over Queensland. The conference was professionally run and the theme of 'Farming Friendships' seemed to resonate with all who attended. We cannot and should never devalue or underestimate the important role women play in our industry.

I encourage members of the WISA movement to consider nominating for industry positions including at the next CANEGROWERS election, due in 2022.

Yes, I do acknowledge that women are fully engaged with industry and maintain family life. There is however a richness of strength and diversity that women could bring to these roles.

Regardless of whether Women in Sugar are a source of candidates for industry representation, their role in providing a woman's perspective in telling our story is invaluable. ■

Ag Leader®

SteadySteer

Prices start from
\$10,950!*



Entry-level Guidance Bundle

Start by bringing guidance accuracy into any operation with the InCommand 800 Guidance Package.

***EXCLUDING GST**



GPS SOLUTIONS MKY

"GPS solutions for agriculture"

INSTITUTIONAL RISK AND REWARD

the rise of environmental performance reporting

BY RICHARD HEATH,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AUSTRALIAN FARM INSTITUTE (AFI)

In April 2021, Richard Heath, Executive Director of AFI, presented at the Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) conference in Bundaberg. This article presents the key themes discussed during that presentation.

Australian agriculture is an increasingly risky business, with farmers facing a multitude of perils from various angles. As well as production risks (e.g. ill-timed rainfall events) and market risks (e.g. fluctuating commodity prices), there is another suite of risks farmers must consider and factor into their decision-making. Institutional risks refer to those involving the supply chain, regulation, trade, and contracts; and these risks are increasing throughout the agricultural sector.

A 2019 research report by the AFI¹ investigated the ever-changing nature of risks facing the Australian agricultural industry and assessed the efficacy of current tools available to manage them. Risk profiles and management options were addressed sector by sector, which also highlighted the diversity of mitigation options across the wider agricultural industry in Australia.

The sugar industry was found to be one of the sectors most exposed to institutional risk, with few options available to effectively mitigate that risk. While increasing exposure to institutional risk was common to many sectors, the factors which enhanced the sugar industry's risk included the global health focus on reduced sugar consumption and the prospect of burdensome environmental regulation geographically specific to the majority of Australia's sugar growing region (i.e., impact on the Great Barrier Reef).

Agriculture, natural capital and climate change

Natural capital describes the stocks of natural assets (which include soil, air, water and all living things) from which a wide range of services are derived

to support life on earth. Agriculture is reliant on access to natural capital to a greater degree than almost any other sector of the economy. Natural capital is a fundamental factor in the productivity and profitability of Australian farmers. Without healthy soils, functioning ecosystems and clean water, farmers would not be able to produce high-quality food and fibre. However, agricultural production can also impact on natural capital and climate change (both positively and negatively) (Figure 1).

Climate change represents a serious threat to the continued sustainability of the natural capital on which Australian agriculture is inexorably dependent, yet the sector faces this threat without a cohesive, overarching national strategy. Previous research undertaken by the AFI in 2019 defined the need for an Australian agricultural climate change strategy.

The report noted that the extent of tomorrow's climate change impacts on Australian agriculture will be influenced by the strategies determined and actions taken today.

"The sugar industry was found to be one of the sectors most exposed to institutional risk, with few options available to effectively mitigate that risk."

Institutional risks and ESG reporting

Climate change poses an enormous physical risk to Australian farmers, as the greater frequency and severity of natural disasters, higher temperatures and lower (or more fluctuation) rainfall stemming from a changing climate will significantly increase production risks.

Importantly, significant institutional risks are also associated with the regulatory, policy, business and consumer response to climate change. For example, Australia has committed to global agreements on climate change which have binding targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Consumer and voter pressure for improved environmental outcomes also extends beyond greenhouse gas emissions, with increased market and regulatory focus on biodiversity, water quality and regenerative agriculture practices.

One of the main pathways through which environmental pressures are being expressed as institutional risks is the impact on the global trading environment.

As our major trading partners take measures to reduce the environmental impact of their agricultural sectors, it is anticipated the same standards of environmentally-responsible production will apply to imports; for example, the European Union 'Farm to Fork' strategy has a target of 25% organic production by 2030.

Pressure for demonstrably sustainable practices now permeates most business strategy, clearly seen (and measured) in the way that companies report against environmental, social



and governance (ESG) metrics. ESG have become significant indicators of success for shareholders and investors, with companies who perform strongly on ESG metrics generally performing better financially than other companies. Shareholder pressure on companies to deliver strong ESG performance is a primary force influencing business investment.

The importance of ESG metrics in determining business investment is indicated by the growth in the industry associated with measuring ESG performance. In the US, spending on ESG data and indices has increased from \$200 to \$750 million in the last six years (Figure 2).

Is there opportunity to offset this risk?

Australian farmers have long had a reputation for delivering high quality, safe food and fibre. The fundamental change in today's environment is that much more evidence is now expected – or required - to back those claims and demonstrate the environmental footprint of production.

Continues next page ►

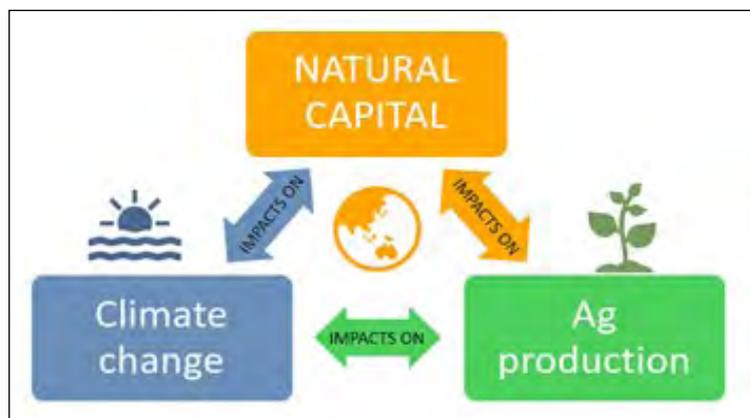


Figure 1 -The interdependent relationships between agriculture, natural capital and climate change. Source: (McRobert et al., 2019)²

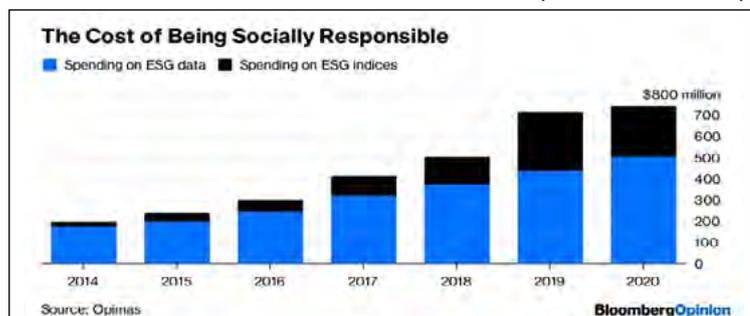


Figure 2: The cost of being socially responsible. (Source: Bloomberg/Opimas)

This may seem potentially burdensome to industry, but there is also opportunity to be realised.

One factor driving the need for evidence of environmental outcomes is that markets for environmental services are rapidly developing. These markets will provide financial opportunities for those who can demonstrate environmental performance.

While these opportunities may not be extensive, the bulk of industry will still need evidence of environmental outcomes if they are to avoid losing access to premium markets. It will be important that evidence of environmental performance is collected and demonstrated in a way that is relevant to as many markets and regulatory processes as possible.

As part of a process to ensure alignment of processes and programs that demonstrate sustainability, the AFI is currently developing an Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework (AASF) - funded by the Federal Department of Agriculture and managed by the National Farmers Federation.

The aim of the AASF is to harmonise existing schemes and identify high-level principles and goals for Australian agriculture. The AASF will not set specific industry targets or replace existing schemes and frameworks. The framework is set to be completed in early 2022³.

Conclusion

Whether for regulatory compliance, trade access, or market premiums, environmental reporting is becoming a feature of doing business in agriculture. While this requirement may seem at first glance to be yet another institutional risk being imposed on the industry, there are strong market signals which indicate potential reward for positive environmental performance. ■

ABOUT THE AFI:

The Australian Farm Institute is an independent institute leading farm policy discussion for Australian agriculture.

We deliver timely analysis and insights on priority farm policy issues and promote evidence-based policy solutions that maximise the economic and social wellbeing of our farmers.

Learn more about the AFI at www.farminstitute.org.au



1. Laurie, A., Darragh, L., Curtis, M., Heath, R., McRobert, K., & Australian Farm Institute. (2019). *Australian agriculture: An increasingly risky business*. <https://www.farminstitute.org.au/product/australian-agriculture-an-increasingly-risky-business-2/>
2. McRobert, K., Admassu, S., Fox, T., & Heath, R. (2019). *Change in the air: Defining the need for an Australian agricultural climate change strategy* (p. 78) Australian Farm Institute. <https://www.farminstitute.org.au/product/change-in-the-air-defining-the-need-for-an-australian-agricultural-climate-change-strategy/>
3. More information about the AASF can be found at <https://nff.org.au/programs/australian-agricultural-sustainability-framework/>



ReefAware



ADAMA

Dedicated to providing solutions for Australian Sugarcane

Visit ADAMA.COM to learn more

PALMERO® TX

- Long lasting, broad spectrum grass and broadleaf weed control
- Flexible application in plant and ratoon cane
- Ideal rotation option with Bobcat® i-MAXX SG or Bobcat® Combi WG for sustainable weed management



BOBCAT® I-MAXX SG

- Outstanding performance against key grass weeds and broadleaf weeds
- Extended residual control
- Flexible use window without time-of-year restrictions
- Dual mode of action for resistance management





Scan to learn more about ReefAware.
©Registered trademarks of an ADAMA Agricultural Solutions Company.

Follow us  

ADAMA Australia's unique Sugarcane herbicides providing innovative solutions for canegrowers



Supplied by ADAMA Australia Pty Ltd

Sugarcane growers can be assured their grass and broadleaf weed issues are addressed this season with ADAMA Australia's unique herbicides Palmero® TX and Bobcat® i-MAXX SG.

ADAMA Australia Herbicide Portfolio Manager, **Rob Walker**, says Palmero TX is a unique co-formulation of the active ingredients terbuthylazine (Group C) and isoxaflutole (Group H), providing broad spectrum control of key grass and broadleaf weeds in plant and ratoon cane for up to 3 months.

"A relatively new triazine herbicide for the sugarcane industry, Terbuthylazine controls target weeds by inhibiting a specific step in photosynthesis. Isoxaflutole also inhibits an enzyme involved in photosynthesis, but at a different stage of the process", he said.

"The combination of Group C and Group H herbicides are often synergistic due to their combined effects on inhibiting photosynthesis in target weeds".

Rob confirmed "Palmero TX was developed by ADAMA Australia to combine these two actives into a highly efficacious herbicide for the Australian sugar industry, in an easy-to-use water dispersible granule formulation, whilst also reducing the need to tank-mix to broaden the weed spectrum".

Palmero TX can be applied as a directed spray in plant and ratoon cane prior to canopy closure, or as a broadcast application in ratoons following harvest up to the two-leaf crop stage.

"Bobcat® i-MAXX SG herbicide combines the strengths of two active ingredients for excellent knockdown and extended residual control, as well as providing important resistance management benefits", Rob said.

"Bobcat i-MAXX SG exhibits robust, broad-spectrum control of major grass and broadleaf weeds in plant and ratoon crops, including barnyard grass, summer grass and liverseed grass, as well as blue top and ipomea vine species. Bobcat i-MAXX SG is also registered to control Guinea grass via hand-held or optical spot spray technology".

Bobcat i-MAXX SG can be applied as a directed spray in plant and ratoon cane following final cultivation and hill formation, or as a broadcast application in ratoons following harvest and before new cane growth appears.

Brett Hansen, ADAMA Commercial Manager, Central Queensland, says Palmero TX is an ideal rotation partner for ADAMA Australia's Bobcat® i-MAXX SG for sustainable weed control in sugarcane.

"It's important that growers use a range of management strategies to control weeds," he says.

"Rotating between herbicides with different modes of action reduces selection pressure for herbicide resistance.

"For resistance management, controlling emerged weeds and improved crop

safety, we recommend that Palmero TX and Bobcat i-MAXX are always applied in a tank-mix with ADAMA's paraquat herbicide Spraytop®."

Brett says ADAMA Australia has a history of being focussed on innovation for the sugarcane industry, developing alternatives to offset restrictions on the use of existing herbicides such as 2,4-D and Diuron, for example.

"Applying a product with a strong residual on target weeds in plant and ratoon cane, such as Palmero TX or Bobcat i-MAXX, reduces the frequency or need for 2,4-D applications during the season," he says.

The use of Palmero TX and Bobcat iMAXX is also supported by the free ADAMA ReefAware app, a simple 'stop-go' decision support tool that determines which herbicides can be applied to a specific paddock at a specific time of year.

"We're committed to helping growers and agronomists implement effective and sustainable weed control programs," Brett says.

"ReefAware allows growers and agronomists to select and use ADAMA products with confidence."

For further information, contact your local **ADAMA representative**, or visit adama.com.



Pictured: Palmero TX an ideal rotational option with Bobcat i-MAXX for residual weed control. Palmero TX applied at 1.5 kg/ha with Spraytop 250 as a directed spray prior to canopy closure providing robust control of key grass and broadleaf weeds, 11 weeks after application in an ADAMA field trial at Marian, QLD.



Pictured: Bobcat i-MAXX SG applied at 565 g/ha with Spraytop 250 herbicide as a directed spray prior to canopy closure providing residual control of key grass and broadleaf weeds 11 weeks after application in a field trial at Marian, QLD.



Pictured: Untreated control at the Marian, QLD 2020 ADAMA field trial.

QSL MARKET UPDATE

Current as of 24 May 2021.

Sugar



- May was a huge month for raw sugar prices as the ICE 11 July 2021 contract rallied to contract record highs of 18.25 USc/lb mid-month before rapidly dropping below 17 USc/lb in the latter stages of the month.
- Many eyes turned to the first two UNICA (Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association) reports of the month to evaluate the negative impacts of the extremely dry weather on the new-season Brazilian crop. The results did not disappoint, as every category was significantly below last year's figures due to the late start of harvesting. The cane crop as at 1 May 2021 was 25.44% lower than the same time last year at 45.259 million tonnes, with sugar production 28.51% lower at 2.148 million tonnes.
- Export volumes from India have remained strong, with 5.7 million tonnes of the 6 million tonne export subsidy now sold. As the ICE 11 price rallies, it may be possible for India to export sugar without an export subsidy should the price move above approximately 18.8 USc/lb. However, they would have to move this sugar quickly before the monsoon hits around June/July.
- The entire commodities complex was dragged lower after the US Consumer Price Index (CPI) printed at 4.2%, significantly above the expected 3.6%, sparking fears of higher interest rates.
- **Closely watching:** Brazilian harvest statistics, macroeconomic influences, speculative activity and overall technical indicators.

Currency



- The Australian Dollar traded sideways for another month, keeping in the broader 75-78 US cents range with no key signs of breaking away in either direction.
- The Aussie Dollar briefly dipped lower after China announced they would be indefinitely suspending all activities under the China-Australia Strategic Economic Dialogue. While the breakdown does not appear to imply any imminent impact on Australian trade, it does highlight the strained relationship with China.
- The Producer Price Index (PPI) data release reinforced concerns of rapid inflation in the United States when it also exceeded expectations significantly, publishing a 6.2% change year on year. Market attention will be focused on how the US Federal Reserve reacts to the data.
- The Australian Federal Budget was announced in late May, with the Treasurer revealing a forecast budget deficit of \$106.6 billion in the 2021-22 financial year, and surprised many with large expansionary spending.
- **Risks Ahead:** US inflation and interest rates, COVID-19 vaccine news and economic recovery, Australia-China relationships and RBA commentary.

KEY INDICATORS

	24/05/2021	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (JUL21)	16.67 USc/lb	-0.21 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.37 BRL	-0.20 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US66.44/barrel	-\$US0.13
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	14.395 USc/lb	+0.01 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	233,000 (net long)	+83,000

	24/05/2021	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.7731	+\$US0.0026
\$US Index	90.02	-1.22
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.43 CNY	-0.07 CNY
S+P 500 Index	4,155.86	+20.92
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.10%	0.00%

RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 24.05.21, based on a 1:2:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 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

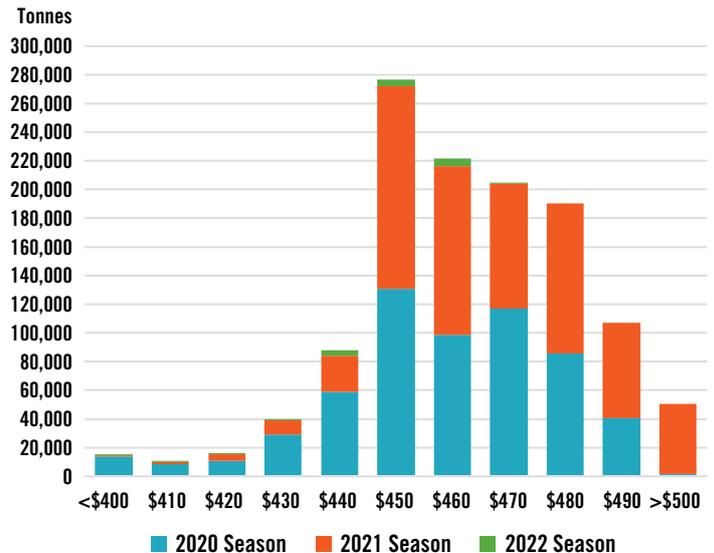


Grower Pricing



- > The latest market rally saw a huge increase in grower pricing activity, with QSL filling over 500,000 tonnes of 2021-Season orders since the beginning of April.
- > The highest 2021 Target Price Contract order filled so far has been \$500/tonne actual (gross) during this period.
- > The highest Individual Futures Contract order level filled has been \$510 actual (gross) for both the Jul21 and Oct21 ICE 11 contracts.
- > It's still not too late to lock in your QSL Loyalty Bonus for the 2020 Season. To be eligible, growers marketing with QSL for the 2020 and 2021 seasons must nominate QSL as their marketer for the 2022 Season by June 30, 2021.
- > Growers using the 2021-Season Individual Futures Contract are reminded they have until **15 June 2021** to price or roll any nominated tonnage in the July 2021 contract (costs may apply). Please contact your local QSL team for more details or to activate your roll option.
- > Growers in the 2021-Season Target Price Contract are reminded that they have until **21 June 2021** to achieve their 2021-Season targets before their pricing window is automatically extended and roll adjustments apply.

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



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 24.05.21 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

How do US inflation and interest rates affect the ICE 11?

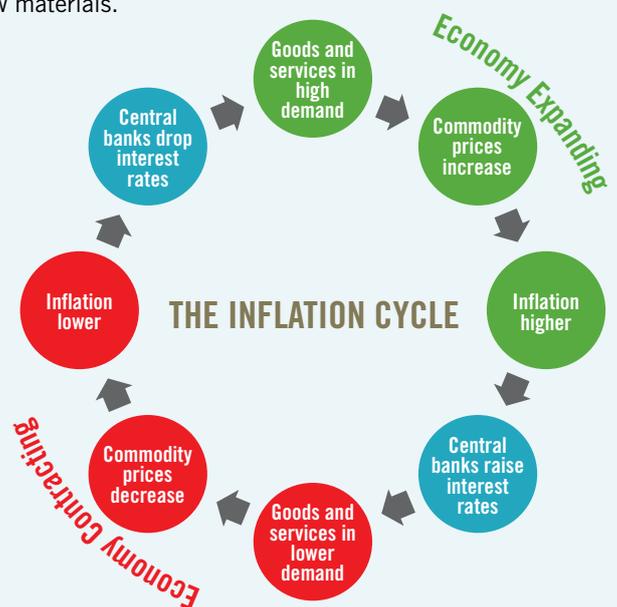


Outside of the fundamental supply and demand factors of the world sugar market, there are other influences known as macroeconomic factors which impact the ICE 11 sugar price. Investors watch macroeconomic factors as they give them an indication of which asset class will give them the best return on their investment (e.g. commodities such as the ICE 11 sugar market, equities or foreign exchange).

US inflation is one such metric which is closely watched and is measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This index is published monthly and measures the change in price of a fixed basket of everyday goods and services. Inflation is said to be growing as the price of goods and services increase. As a direct result, the value of the raw materials (also known as commodities) used in the production of such goods also increases. Contrastingly, if goods and services are decreasing in price then inflation is declining, so underlying commodities will also become less valuable. This is why it is said commodities have a positive correlation with inflation.

The US Federal Reserve (often known as 'the Fed') closely monitors inflation and the risks it imposes on the US financial system. The Fed uses interest rates as a tool to combat inflation if it deems necessary. If inflation is too high, the Fed raises interest rates, which makes borrowing money more expensive and encourages consumers to spend less. As a result, goods and services tend to be in lower demand and so are considered less valuable, which drags down the price of commodities. In contrast, when inflation is

too low and an economy is contracting, the Fed may decrease interest rates, encouraging consumers to borrow and spend more money. This increases the demand for and value of goods and services and drags up the price of the raw materials.



BURDEKIN GROWERS PUT WEEDS TO WORK

A group of Burdekin cane growers are taking an innovative approach to aquatic weed management, turning weeds sourced from local creeks into a soil-improving compost.

The scheme, which is part of NQ Dry Tropics' Reducing Burdekin Sediment project, aims to turn problem weeds into a valuable on-farm resource through cost-effective means, while controlling weeds in waterways.

Respected agro-ecologist **David Hardwick** of Soil Land Food has been contracted to guide the growers through the composting process.

"My role is to show farmers how to make compost on-farm using low-cost, local resources that can be used in their soil for production benefits and soil health benefits," Mr Hardwick said.

"Farmers are hesitant to use compost because of the price, and the cost of freight is an additional barrier.

"The approach being trialled is a fermentation compost, also known as a minimum or no-turn compost.

"Fermentation is where you mix your ingredients and add a bacterial inoculum to the compost heap, and then cover it to allow it to compost in a low-oxygen environment.

"It's different from a normal turned compost because it uses a lot less resources, time, water and machinery to achieve a really good quality compost.

"Compost needs two main ingredients, called feedstock, carbon and nitrogen. The wood mulch is the carbon source and the water weeds are the nitrogen source."

NQ Dry Tropics Waterways, Wetlands and Coasts team leader **Scott Fry** said the trial would not have been possible without funding support from the Queensland Governments' Natural Resource Investment Program, and in-kind donations from Burdekin Shire Council and Lower Burdekin Water.

"Council has donated mulch from its waste transfer facility and has provided access to aquatic weeds from the local creek systems," Mr Fry said.

"Lower Burdekin Water is donating excavator time to remove the weeds from the creeks and loading it onto trucks to be taken to participating farms."

Growers have also made their own microbial inoculant for the compost.

"Making the inoculant is pretty straight forward using ingredients purchased from a local store," Mr Fry said.

"The microbes do all the hard work breaking down the feedstock and converting it into a high-grade compost.



Pictured above: Agro-ecologist David Hardwick of Soil Land Food, has been contracted to guide the growers through the composting process and below, growers are trialing a fermentation compost.



"When forming the compost piles, we wet them to about 60% moisture and the microbes are diluted and spread through the piles."

The composting process will take about five months and will be trialled on a range of crops to improve soil structure to help the sandier soils hold water for longer.

Third-generation cane grower **Gary Spotswood** is participating in the trial. After experimenting with compost for a few years he said he was keen to trial a static compost pile.

"The idea of utilising everything that you have in your backyard such as water hyacinth and other aquatic weeds, is not only practical in terms of producing your own compost, but potentially will also be cost effective," Mr Spotswood said.

"Being organic farmers, traceability is critical. We need to justify what product we use, and how and when we use it.

"Using a locally sourced natural resource to convert into a high-quality compost is appealing. It means potentially reducing our use of conventional organic fertilisers and also reducing costs.

"David Hardwick's input has been valuable. He's been great in explaining how to manage the composting process in accordance with Australian composting standards, and the tests we can do to verify our organic standards."■



Pictured right: Grower Gary Spotswood highlighting some problem weeds and below, Burdekin cane growers are turning problem aquatic weeds into a valuable on-farm resource.



Contains 27% water-soluble silicon, 14% plant available calcium (Ca) plus essential trace elements

Mineral Mulch

Cost-effective Sustainable Soil Amendments

Refined not mined alternative to entrenched agricultural products such as Lime and Gypsum with the added benefit of silicate and other trace elements.

- Increased yields to an average of 21%²
- Improves crop tolerance against salinity, waterlogging, nutrient deficiency, heat and UV Stress preventing leaf freckling¹
- Beneficial in stimulating natural plant defences against fungal pathogens¹
- Provides strength to cell walls; contributes to stalk strength and helps resist lodging¹
- Acts as an enzyme regulator in sugar synthesis, storage and retention in sugarcane¹
- Assists plants to resist biotic attack by insects (e.g. stem borers) and disease¹
- Alleviates the toxicity of metal ions (Fe, Al, Mn, Cd, and Zn)¹

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

[WWW.MINERALMULCH.COM](http://www.mineralmulch.com)

PHONE 1300 895 988

Sourced from 100% sustainable and recycled materials



BUNDABERG CANE-GROWING FAMILY MARKS 150 YEARS ON THE LAND

Cane-growing is an industry with deep roots in Queensland's coastal communities. Just ask any grower and they will happily give you a generation-by-generation account of the family's history on the land. But while many can claim third, fourth and even fifth generation status, few can say they work the same ground their forebears did 150 years ago.

'Strathmore' at Moorlands, north of Bundaberg has just celebrated 150 years of continuous land ownership by one family.

First purchased by a young man from Essex in the UK, the property is now in the hands of fourth and fifth generation farmers – Allan Dingle and his son Ryan – having been handed down through the Barnard family.

Benjamin Barnard came to Australia from Essex UK in the early 1850s as a child and was taken in by the Walker family from Gayndah, who later settled Bingera Station. The Walkers saw to his education and Benjamin later worked for them as a stockman. He would often drive cattle from Gayndah to the coast through Goodnight Scrub.

BY CINDY BENJAMIN

"When the north coast Queensland Rail came through part of the property in the early 1890s ... it opened up the opportunity to develop the land for sugarcane."

Pictured: Allan Dingle and his mother, Laura, with the land purchase title of Strathmore.

The Walkers encouraged Benjamin to buy property in the Bundaberg area and in his early twenties he selected a 240 acre [97 ha] portion on the 'right bank of the Kolan River'.

He wasn't married at the time and decided to engage a couple to manage the property for a few years. Sadly, the manager's wife was killed by a raging cow in 1865 and her body was buried under a memorial frangipani tree, which is still blooming today.

Benjamin married Allison Hood from Victoria around 1870 and by 27 years of age he was in a position to purchase the property outright for a sum of 70 pounds on 9 May 1871.

Soon after moving onto the property Benjamin and Allison planted a line of

"It's very difficult to buy a farm without a major source of off-farm income. Throughout the history of this farm, until irrigation was established, most generations have needed to work off-farm."

hoop pine trees from Goodnight Scrub leading to the original homestead. Many of these trees are still alive and the family planted a sibling of these trees to commemorate Strathmore's 150-year anniversary.

Benjamin and Allison raised three children (William, Frances and Elsie) and after his death in 1910 Strathmore was transferred to his son, William Barnard.

William Barnard died in 1960 leaving the property to Winifred Barnard (his widow) and their daughter Laura and her husband Raymond Dingle, who lived on the property and raised their own family. Their son Allan, purchased half the property from his grandmother in 1984 after attending Burdekin Agricultural College in Ayr.

When Allan and his wife Clare married in 1992 they purchased the other half of the property. Last year, Allan and Clare's youngest son, Ryan, purchased half the property and hopes to buy the other half in the next few years.

Other parcels of land have been bought and sold over the years, but 'Strathmore' has remained a commercial farming operation and the property of Benjamin Barnard and his descendants for 150 years – quite a rarity these days.

The current farming operation includes 114 ha of irrigated land and an additional 108 ha used primarily to run cattle.

"In the early days the property was used

for grazing beef cattle and when the north coast Queensland Rail train line came through part of the property was resumed," says Allan.

"The construction of the railway line in early 1890s gave the family the opportunity to diversify into dairying to supply cream to the butter factory in Bundaberg."

"The train line also opened up the opportunity to develop the land for sugarcane with the assistance of South Sea Islander labourers in the late 1800s," he says.

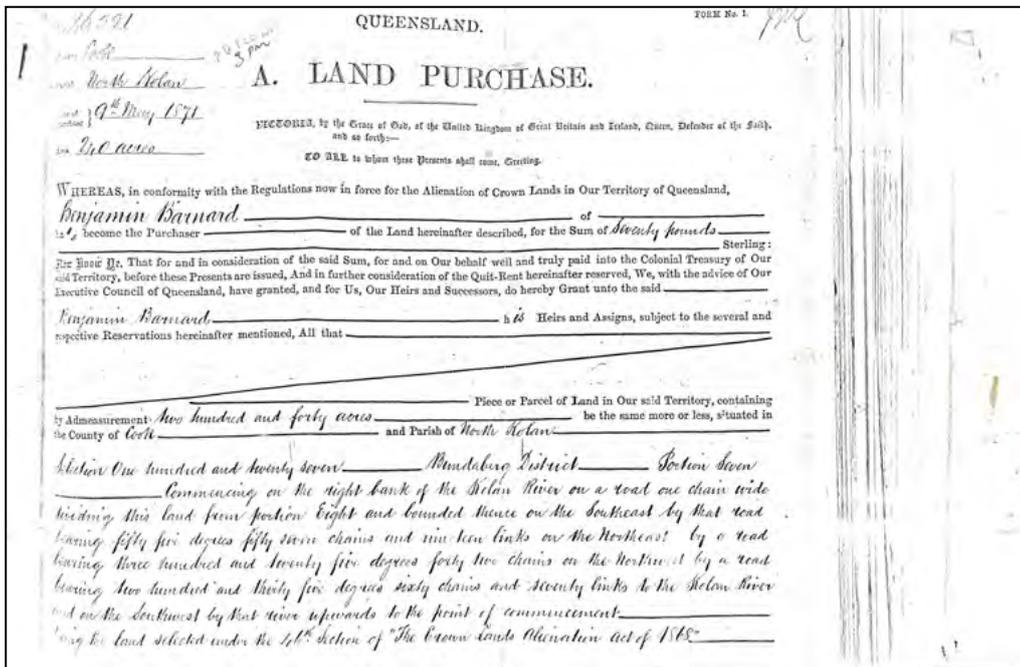
"Cane from here was originally transported to Millaquin Mill via the state railway line until after the Second World War, when the mill tramlines reached Moorlands and our cane was taken to Fairymead Mill."

Once the cultivated area was developed, sugarcane became the mainstay crop at 'Strathmore'.

"When we bought 'Strathmore' from my grandmother, the farm had no irrigation, and so we have invested in irrigation infrastructure and diversified the crops grown," says Allan. "The most recent development has been the commissioning of a low-pressure lateral move irrigator, which is currently under construction."

"We have tried several break crop options such as chickpea, maize, popcorn, peanuts and sunflower," says Allan.

Continues next page ►



Pictured left: The official land purchase title from 1871 and pictured over page, Allan, who is still passionate about the family's sugarcane farm. His son, Ryan works off farm but continues with tradition and works the family sugarcane farm as well, pictured with his grandmother, Laura and father, Allan.



"The soybeans are certainly a good fit, along with fodder crops baled for our own cattle and for sale."

The fall armyworm incursion in Queensland has impacted on the viability of maize and popcorn.

Having grown peanuts for the first time this year, Allan and Ryan believe that crop could be a good second break crop for the cane.

Allan has also settled on growing and baling fodder crops in winter, having found forage sorghum to be risky over summer.

"We grew a few sorghum crops and had a few failures where it was not possible to make hay due to excessive rain," says Allan. "Growing barley and oats in winter is a safer option and we only grow what we can store in the sheds on-farm."

Break cropping has been driven primarily by an on-going problem with soldier fly on river flats, which represents about 50% of the cultivated area.

"What we really need is a solution to soldier fly," says Allan. "This native pest has always been here and the best we can do to limit its damage at the moment is grow break crops like soybeans and peanuts."

Being located on the southern bank of the Kolan River, Strathmore has seen its fair share of floods, none worse than the 2013 event following Cyclone Oswald.

Having qualified as a boilermaker, Ryan has been working at Strathmore and runs an agricultural contracting business – specialising in fertilising, gypsum and lime spreading, planting and harvesting – for corporate and private clients in the district.

"Most of the planting and harvesting work is in break crops, primarily soybean and maize," says Ryan. "It's very difficult to buy a farm without a major source of off-farm income. Throughout the history of this farm, until irrigation was established, most generations have needed to work off-farm to supplement the farm income."

Allan and Clare's eldest son, Craig, is following a career in the horticultural sector in the Fassifern Valley after studying agricultural science and business management.

When it comes to family succession, Allan and Clare sought professional advice regarding the best way to provide for their retirement and their sons' futures. One of their 'take home messages' was the importance of the next generation not being forced into partnerships that may be difficult or become too complex once there are spouses and children added to the business structure.

"We have chosen to support the farming aspirations of both our sons, even though they are taking different paths," says Allan. ■

CHAIRMAN

In 1994 Allan was first elected to the Fairymead Mill Suppliers Committee and so began his involvement in local industry leadership.

Over the years the industry restructured and mills changed hands or closed, causing the mill suppliers' committees to amalgamate, and now the Bundaberg growers are served by the Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Board of Directors. Allan was first elected chairman of the board in 2007 and has recently stood down from the position while committing to serve out his term as a director.

"One year the votes for the Chairman position were tied between Tony Castro and myself, and the committee rules dictated that in such

situations the decision would be made between candidates by drawing straws," says Allan. "So, that's what we did, and Tony drew the long straw and served a term as Chairman."

Allan has seen many changes in the local industry within the three decades that he has been in leadership positions.

"Deregulation and the closure of Fairymead Mill caused significant hardship for many families," says Allan.

"The changes to cane transportation was one of the biggest transitions for farmers, but in the end we have built one of the best grower-miller relationships in the industry. I hope that will continue and it is something I am proud to have been part of."

At a regional level though Allan has watched the dramatic impact of land-use change and the decline of annual cropping in favour of tree crops.

"In 1999 there was 3.8 million tonne of cane grown in the Bundaberg mill area and in 2021 the harvest is estimated to be around 950,000 tonnes," he says. "There is enormous competition for resources and the area available for cane and rotational crops had declined significantly."

Allan says the sudden decision to close Bingera Mill last year took him by surprise, even though he knew the 'writing was on the wall'.

"The other major and on-going issue that we have fought hard for has been for fair electricity pricing for irrigation," he says.

"This has been hard-won, but we did manage to reduce the cost of electricity to growers by around 50%. The time and energy required to keep such an important and complex issue in front of government and policy makers is immense."

"There is still room for improvement but the tariff options available to growers now are much more equitable than they were a few years ago."

Allan wishes the newly elected Chairman of the Board, Mark Pressler, every success in the role.





FARMING FRIENDSHIPS

Almost 80 delegates enthusiastically took part in the 2021 Women in Sugar Association (WISA) conference in Mackay, hosted by the CANEGROWERS NETWORK Mackay District.

Women from Bundaberg to Mossman arrived in Mackay to reach out to one another and give voice to what it means to be a woman in the sugar industry.

The volume levels whenever the delegates congregated confirmed that the theme 'Farming Friendships' was totally appropriate for this conference.

The women lost no time enjoying the chance to connect face-to-face for the first time in two years, following the postponement of the 2020 conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Networking and laughter took centre stage alongside the allocated presentations, with addresses from Greg Williamson, Mayor of Mackay Regional Council, CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri and CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg recognising the valuable role that women play in the sugar industry.

Mr Schembri encouraged the women to think about taking on bigger roles within the CANEGROWERS organisation and becoming part of the leadership team.

“Women in Sugar meetings are a great way to learn and keep up to date on relevant issues.”

Pictured left: Many farming friendships were revisited during the 2021 WISA Conference.

Highlighting the diverse nature of WISA, the various presentations combined insights into resources available from sponsors of the program, with industry updates and overviews of the diverse community that makes up the sugar industry.

Mrs Marion Healy, from the Australian South Sea Islands Community, provided a summary of her community's rich heritage and associations, while Mrs Carmel Baretta, from the Italian/Maltese communities, shared historical stories, reminding everyone of the industry's pioneers.

CANEGROWERS took the opportunity, as proud sponsors of the conference, to workshop and gather feedback from participants for use in future planning by the CANEGROWERS leadership teams.

Sharon Figuera from Women in Sugar Burdekin said she enjoyed hearing the WISA Group reports.

“It's good to hear how active they have been in their own districts,” Sharon said. “Talks from the sponsors also can be very informative.”

"The conference is a great way to meet other women who face the same situations within the sugar industry. Longtime friendships have been formed and continue to be found.

"The social side of the conference is so beneficial to those who also just need a break from the daily tasks at home."

The conference included a bus tour to local attractions such as Oakey Creek Limes, MnS Orchids and lunch at Sarina, with a visit to the Sugar Shed.

Local sugarcane grower, **Julie Ferlazzo**, took the chance to catch up with her neighbour **Therese Russell** during the bus trip. Julie encouraged others women to join the network and to attend these types of conferences.

"The conference provided the opportunity to gain an insight into a lot of topics, which were explained well and there was a variety of information," she said.

"It's interesting to hear things that are going on in other cane growing districts – you never stop learning!" ■

Pictured (top) the Herbert River ladies were excited for this year's conference; (right) the Conference Chairperson, Sonia Ball from QSL kept everyone on track; (far right) Julie Ferlazzo and Therese Russell, took the time for a quick catch up.

Pictured (below) The Burdekin ladies are excited to be hosting the 2022 conference and congratulations to (below right) the CANEGROWERS NETWORK Mackay District team for an amazing effort to provide a very successful conference.

Photo credit: Christine Walker



VALOR COMES OUT ON TOP AGAIN

Supplied by Sumitomo Chemical Australia

In December last year, Sugarcane growers gathered just outside Sarina in the Mackay region to inspect a herbicide trial conducted by Sugarcane Research Australia.

The trial compared nutrient and pesticide strategies for water quality and productivity and aimed to assist growers with management decisions around farm practices to increase production, profitability and environmental outcomes.

In the herbicide trial SRA were looking to compare water quality and weed control from a knockdown application compared to more traditional residual herbicide treatments. Being late in the season, it was an opportune time to assess the environmental impact from run-off losses due to rain events which are common in the wet season.

The herbicide section of the trial involved comparing Bobcat i-MAXX, Spark and the newer product Valor 500 WG from Sumitomo Chemical. All were combined with paraquat. Treatments were repeated twice across five dual rows each of 470 m in length.

Bobcat i-MAXX (imazapic/hexazinone) was applied at 3.8 L/ha for residual control: Spark (imazapic) at 400 mL/ha also for residual control and Valor 500 WG (flumioxazin) at 120 g/ha for enhanced knockdown.

The treatments were applied on 8 December 2020 with a storm on 10 December 2020 resulting in 91mm of rain and subsequent run-off from the paddock.

Samples of paddock run-off revealed relatively high concentrations of imazapic and hexazinone (Spark and Bobcat i-MAXX), whereas there was minimal flumioxazin (Valor 500 WG). Further, the weed control nine weeks after the storm event was found to be better in the Valor 500 WG treatment as compared to the Spark and Bobcat i-MAXX treatments.

Andrew Franklin, Regional Manager for North Queensland at Sumitomo Chemical Australia, explained that the reason that Valor performed so well in this research trial is due it having a very low solubility in water and also a very high adsorption co-efficient (Koc value), making it very sticky with regards to ability to bind to soil and not move with water.

He went on to say that "this is the latest in a number of reports, all of which provide reassurance for growers in close proximity to the reef, giving them the confidence to apply Valor knowing that it will stay where they applied it."

Another benefit of using Valor is where sugarcane is grown in proximity with other crops there is a much-reduced



risk of off-target damage. By using Valor to enhance mixtures of non-selective herbicides such as paraquat for broadleaf weed control, growers can achieve good control with a greatly reduced potential for off-target spray drift, previously an issue with 2,4D

Sugarcane growers have embraced Valor as an extremely effective and versatile herbicide, At lower rates, Valor enhances the knockdown of non-selective herbicides when used in a mixture. At higher rates it provides long residual control of a range of broadleaf weeds and key problem grasses such as barnyard grass, Guinea grass, Summer grass and Crowsfoot as well as Feathertop – Rhodes grass which has developed resistance to glyphosate.

"This report will give growers confidence that Valor's chemical properties lend themselves to not only excellent weed control but very good safety for the environment and the reef," Mr Franklin said.



SPARK



VALOR 500 WG

Pictured: Andrew Franklin, Regional Manager for North Queensland, Sumitomo Chemical Australia and images of the results of the Spark and Valor applications, 9 weeks after treatment.

CALCIUM SILICATE SHOWING BENEFITS ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF CROPS

Supplied by Mineral Mulch

Not only has calcium silicate shown yield increases and many benefits in sugar cane but trial work has also been completed and numerous benefits have been shown across many other crop types.

Silicon is classified as a beneficial element for plant growth rather than essential (in the periodic table, Si is surrounded by near neighbours B,C,N,O,P and S it is interesting to note all of these neighbours are recognised as 'essential elements' while Si is only recognised to be beneficial) However, the importance of silicon to plant growth has been widely recognised since the 1970s, with reports of yield responses in a wide range of crops including rice, sugarcane, cucurbits and strawberries. Canadian researchers have shown that silicon allows plants to activate genes which down regulate adverse response to stress, similarly to a human immune reaction.

Evidence from research has shown that the absorption of silicon has many benefits for crop production, including:

- Promotion of upright stature through adding strength to cell walls improving resistance to lodging.
- Role in favourable exposure of leaves to light; hence promotion of photosynthesis
- Resistance to disease organisms including fungal pathogens.
- Resistance to insect damage
- Increased fruit wear tolerance
- Increased fertiliser efficiency particularly nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.
- Alleviates the toxicity of metal ions especially Fe, Al, Mn, Cd, Pb, Hg and Zn and increases the plants Resistance to Metal toxicities
- Acts as an enzyme regulator in sugar synthesis.
- Increased tolerance to water logging
- Resistance to Salinity Stress
- Reduction of drought stress
- Protection against temperature extremes and UV Stress
- Promotion of nodule formation in a legume

- Increased shoot and root density

Studies in plant Science 8th edition Elsevier L.E. Datnoff, G.H.Snyder and G.H.Korndorfer

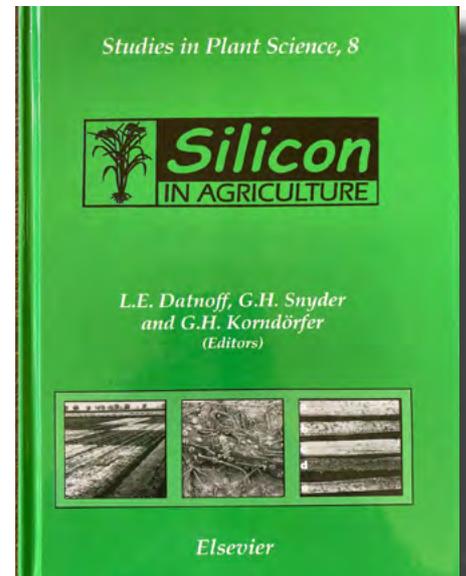
The above benefits combined assist in higher yielding crops, efficient nutritional uptake, reduced disease and pest management cost savings. Mineral Mulch Calcium Silicate also has a pH neutralization value of 32% and acts as a Lime/Gypsum replacement making the addition of low cost calcium silicate beneficial and a cost effective crop input.

A collaborative research project between Professor Elizabeth Dann (UQ) and Dr Wendy Howe (Mineral Mulch Pty Ltd) to analysing the protective effect of silicon in avocados showed the following benefits to plant health and yield.

Initial glasshouse experiments assessed the effects of Mineral Mulch on plant heights in the absence and presence of *Colonectria ilicicola*, the fungus causing black root rot of avocado. There were indications that Mineral Mulch applied to seedlings increased plant heights 1.3-fold or 1.8-fold compared with untreated controls, when plants were uninoculated or inoculated, respectively. Silicon concentrations in leaves and roots also increased.

Applying Mineral Mulch also had a beneficial effect on tree health, and silicon accumulation in leaves and fruit peel was observed after only 10 months. This provides strong evidence that silicon from Mineral Mulch is taken up by roots in mature avocado orchard trees and is translocated and deposited in leaves and fruit peel within a relatively short time frame.

Bill Johnstone (Johnstone Farming Services) has been using Easy Spread Calcium Silicate for seven seasons now across various farms in the Northern Rivers. The findings are that poorer macadamia blocks have responded



quickly to phytophthora infections, kernel recovery rate has increased, aluminium has been bound, manganese has been dispersed in foliage, and there is increased uptake of phosphorus in high PBI soils plus increased pH levels have risen in the soil.

Mineral Mulch Calcium Silicate contains 27% Silicon (Si), 14% Calcium along with a host of essential trace elements, including Iron, Copper, Zinc, Boron and Manganese. Mineral Mulch products have been manufactured with the end-user in mind being both easy to store and apply, best of all they are sourced from 100% sustainable and recycled materials, containing no substances that will contaminate the soil.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on Mineral Mulch or the benefits of calcium silicate on your crops please call us on **1300 895 988** or email info@mineralmulch.com.



www.facebook.com/mineralmulch



Mineral Mulch

Cost-effective Sustainable Soil Amendments

ADVERTISING FEATURE

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

TABLELANDS

The Annual Productivity Awards were held on 29 April 2021, with a fun night had by all. Awards were given to growers from both the Tableland Mill and Mossman Mill areas. Big winners on the night were F, S, J Villedella Family Trust, who won Champion Farm-Mossman Mill with 18.96 tonnes of sugar per hectare, and Echobrief Pty Ltd (J & N Myteza) who won Champion Farm-Tableland Mill with 16.14 tonnes of sugar per hectare.

Special mention to **Rajinder Singh**, who won the Industry Co-operator Award, and **Jason Salvetti**, who took out the Achievement Award. These growers have been working with industry stakeholders to improve productivity and sustainability.

There were two guest speakers for the night, **Andrew Phipps** from QSL who spoke about the importance of block chain, and **Steve Attard** from Agritech Solutions, who gave a rundown on the changes in electricity tariffs.

A big thank you to all the sponsors who made the night possible and our members for their continued effort in the cane industry.

The rain has cleared up and given way to beautiful sunny days, which are hopefully improving CCS and tonnage in time for the season.

Tableland Mill is scheduled to start crushing on **1 June**, with an estimated tonnage of 660,000 tonnes. Mossman Mill will follow on 15 June, with an estimated tonnage of 785,000.

Come and see **Angela** in the new office at Shop 8, 166 Byrnes Street, Mareeba. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 8 am to 4 pm. Phone number 4092 6065.



Pictured above: Greg Cummings (PIMS) with J & F Villedella (Champion Farm – Mossman Mill)

MOSSMAN

Queensland Sugar Ltd held a Grower Information Session at the local bowls club on 23 April. There was a decent turn-out for the meeting with good interaction between the growers and **Greg Beashel** (MD & CEO of QSL) and **Matt Page** (Senior Manager, Treasury & Risk at QSL).

On Wednesday 28 April, **Belinda Billing** from SRA and Mossman Agricultural Services held the final meeting of the Mossman Cane to Creek Monitoring Program on a local cane farm near Marrs Creek where the monitoring had taken place for a second year during 2020.

A number of growers who farm in the catchment or who took part in the demonstration trials received an update on the Cane to Creek nutrient harvest results for 2020 and the water monitoring results from Marrs Creek sub-catchment.

The group were very pleased with the results of the monitoring over two years and while they agreed that the use of the SRA automatic sampling system should be utilised in the area, it was not necessary to continue the monitoring on Marrs Creek.

Growers attended a Far Northern Milling update at the bowls club hall on Friday 30 April. The growers were briefed on the state of play in preparations for the crushing season.



Pictured: Leanne Kruss with the Fasano family

MOSSMAN (CONTINUED)

Given the rain event in the latter part of April, the start date was kept at 15 June, weather permitting, and the mill confirmed that about 106,000 tonnes of cane would be toll-crushed at the Tableland Mill. This means a season length for Mossman Mill in the range of 17.8 weeks, depending on whether the crop grows on, given the good growing conditions so far.

With regard to mill operations being confirmed for the 2022 season, positive messages were conveyed to growers, but final confirmation will only come following further sign-off from government ministers.

The mill representatives were confident that this confirmation would come before the start of the 2021 crushing and in time for growers to make decisions about planting for the 2022 season.

The meeting also received an update on the value-add project due to commence during this crushing season and an appraisal on other projects in the pipeline.

The Douglas Chamber of Commerce organised for Leanne Kruss to spend a day with agricultural businesses on 11 May 2021. Leanne works for the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network (QAWN) as Agriculture Workforce Manager for FNQ and beyond. I spent the day with Leanne visiting three other businesses and found the day very informative and her passion for growing agricultural businesses refreshing.

Rainfall finally exceeded the monthly average in April by some 400mm due to heavy showers in the later part of the month. In May, the good growing conditions continued and quite a few paddocks are flowering already.



Pictured above: C2C final update April 2021 group and below: Leanne Kruss talks with Douglas Chamber of Commerce members.

CAIRNS

Favourable conditions across the region have allowed for the start of planting in the Mulgrave area. The maturity tests look promising although the estimates, for most, are down on last year. Many growers have been able to shore up their position with the recent lift in the sugar price.

The Cairns Region Young Grower Group (*pictured below*) recently took a field trip to the SRA station at Meringa where they were shown through the plant breeding program. The visit was very well received and gave the group a good insight into the program.



Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

INNISFAIL

The Johnstone Basin received almost 700mm of rain in the last two weeks of April, with 170mm of that falling on a single day. As expected, this resulted in moderate flooding across the region.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail Extension staff have been busy with several industry events taking place over the April/May period. These events included two bus trips, one of which was an inter-district learning tour hosted by the Young Farmers Group, and another that highlighted the treatment system trials undertaken by the MIP.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail extension staff assisted and presented at the SRA Meringa Water Quality Field day held on

7 May. Our office also hosted the SRA Harvesting Forum and DAFs online FEAT training, both of which were well attended.

MIP extension officers are putting the finishing touches on the June shed meetings. These shed meetings will be the final round of meetings held by the MIP before the project concludes.

In early May, CANEGROWERS staff hosted a morning tea for the wonderful volunteers at the Australian Sugar Industry Museum. They do an amazing job and their continued support is not only much appreciated, but it is vital to ensuring the continued operation of the museum.



The premium nitrification inhibitor in the Australian market.

N Protect®



To find out more go to impactfert.com.au

Rely on us



TULLY

The AGMs of Tully Canegrowers Cooperative Ltd and Tully Cane Productivity Services (TCPSL) were held on 14 May. Although numbers were down on previous years, those who attended gained additional insight into the operations and future plans of both organisations.

Gerry Borgna, Chair of TCPSL, and manager **Peter Sutherland** reported on activities. Peter spoke on a range of issues including the introduction of one-eye sets into the approved seed suite of products and the soil test database, which is improving.

Deputy Chairman, **Mario Raccanello** did not seek re-election at this meeting and **Peter Crema** will join the Board. Chairman Gerry thanked Mario for his valuable contribution over the past nine years and presented a gift on behalf of the industry.

From the cooperative's perspective, 2020 was a very successful year with a significant increase in trading profits and returns to members through discounts and rebates. Chairman **Joe Vasta** thanked members and staff for their support and mentioned the new trade complex that was the recent winner of Trade Store of the year for Queensland.

The new Tully Grandstand provided an excellent venue for a forum held by government departments on the Paddock to Reef Program. The session was informative and while it explained the processes, growers expressed their frustration that the 80% accreditation of Smartcane BMP was not being reflected in the Report Card results.

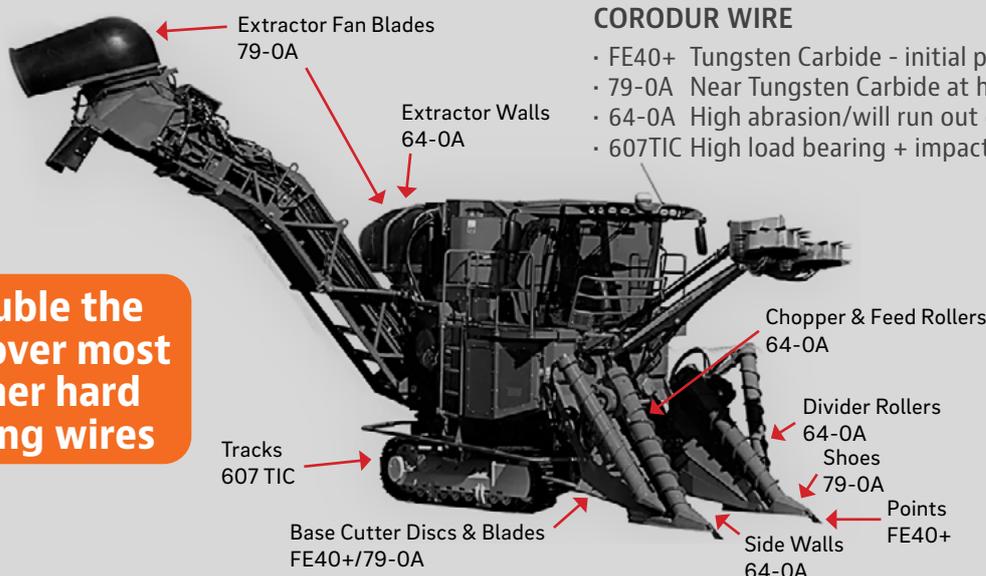
The season start is set for the first week in June, and the fortnight of dry that commenced in May saw growers and planting contractors active in the area. Being Tully, we have just had 50mm of rain and the forecast is for more on the way.



CC WELD SOLUTIONS

We solve your welding and wear problems

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



Double the life over most other hard facing wires

Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

BURDEKIN

Burdekin growers are in a positive state of mind thanks to good sugar prices for the 2021 season which will help backfill some potholes from prior periods of challenging prices.

Nothing builds confidence more than cash in the bank and hopefully as the season progresses and the crop is gradually converted into cash, growers spirits will continue to lift.

May 2021 was a busy month for the Burdekin with a lot of pent-up demand for planting being unleashed after the district received nearly three-times its average rainfall for the preceding month of April.

Due to wet ground, there still remains a reasonable amount of area to be planted and activity levels will be high leading right up to the crushing.

The discovery of Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD) in two of the Burdekin seed cane farms has been a timely reminder of the action the district needs to undertake to minimize the incidence of this disease.

It is likely that with improved diagnostic techniques, the level of RSD in the district could be found to be higher than currently thought. Vigilance will be required to address it.

The ongoing management is a combination of making sure machinery is cleaned and sterilized, growers use seed cane, and fallows are free from volunteers.

Growers and contractors will be hearing more from BPS about their management strategy and action plan to address the RSD issue.

Speaking of timely reminders, growers need to be mindful that several obsolete Ergon tariffs will be changing from 1/7/21 and growers will need to ensure that they understand what the default position is, review their tariffs, and make changes where required to optimize their electricity usage and cost.

Wilmar has reconfirmed a crop estimate of 7.9 million tonnes and a district start date of 8 June 2021, although the two-train mills of Invicta and Inkerman may fire up a day early in preparation for the start.



Pre-commissioning and steam trials have been undertaken and Wilmar has confirmed that their maintenance and capital expenditure programs will be completed on time.

Everyone is looking forward to the start of the 2021 crushing and at CBL we wish you all the best for the season.



PROSERPINE

There has been limited rain activity over the past month and, combined with the cooler temperatures, crop development has been slow.

However, the Operations Review Committee met in early May and agreed to retain the pre-season estimate at 1.64 million tonnes.

The drier conditions have allowed growers to prepare ground and there has been significant planting activity over the last few weeks.

CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** and Membership Engagement manager **Matt Kealley** visited the district on 5-6 May. The visit included an informal afternoon gathering which prompted some lively discussion about the reef, sugar marketing,

sustainability, and the future of the industry. Further on-farm meetings covered harvesting contracts, fertiliser, regulations and sugar prices.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine is currently planning the Pricing Essentials Course which is scheduled for 7-8 June. There is still time to register for the course.

After the absence of the Show Cane Exhibit and Awards last year due to the pandemic, the awards will return to Show Whitsunday on Friday, 18 June. Our sponsors are excited to return and growers are encouraged to participate to win some fabulous prizes.

Picture: Russell Biggs, Robert Faletti, Dan Galligan, Mike Porter and John Faletti

MACKAY / PLANE CREEK

Provided the weather remains good and the mills are ready, the following crushing start dates have been announced:

Mackay Sugar

- Farleigh – Thursday 3 June
- Marian – Monday 7 June for one milling train and Tuesday 8 June for second milling train
- Racecourse – Wednesday 9 June

Wilmar

- Plane Creek – Tuesday 8 June

Most Mackay growers have had a better season to help their crops along. CANEGROWERS Mackay urges growers to show the people of Mackay what a difference good weather can make by showing off their top cane at this year's Mackay Show (15-17 June). The sugarcane competition is back with gusto and we hope to see a large number of entries to celebrate the return of this traditional part of an agricultural show.

Workers ready for the crush

CANEGROWERS Mackay has put another group of trainees through their paces to ensure they are ready to assist in the sugar harvest when it begins in June. The four-day cane haulout training was once again fully booked with workers keen to get a start in the cane growing industry.

Cane growers, Ron Gurnett, Glen Brady and Zac Borg, and a representative from Axiom College Mackay had the hands-on training roles in the program which is funded by Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This State Government initiative is designed to deliver training facilitated by not-for-profit community-based organisations to respond to the needs of local job-seekers and employment opportunities in their areas. This is the fifth year CANEGROWERS Mackay has successfully secured these funds for our training.

Many of the students will go straight to jobs on farms. Farm labour is at a premium this year due to COVID.

For information about upcoming courses please contact CANEGROWERS Mackay on 07 4944 2600 or check the website: www.mackaycanegrowers.com.au.



Pictured left: Dwayne & Estelle Chapman receive the Champion Exhibitor of the Show award from Stuart Hunt, Regional Sales Manager, at sponsor Hardy Spicer and right top: Final day of the cane haulout training course and right: cane growers R to L Earl Neilsen, Ron Gurley, Glen Brady and Zac Borg.



Cane Harvester Parts

1800 463 457

AH 0417 662 137

neils.com.au

Continues next page ▶

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

BUNDABERG

The Bundaberg Mill area start date is 21 June, with Millaquin to run in continuous mode with an anticipated crush of 48,000 tonnes per week. This should see a finish date around 21 November, accounting for two weeks of wet weather.

April has been a busy month for Bundaberg CANEGROWERS and May looks just as busy.

The Bundaberg Rates Consortium are still working hard to achieve a fairer outcome for rate payers.

Tanya Howard (Bundaberg CANEGROWERS), Bree Grima (Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers), Angela Williams (CANEGROWERS Isis) and Tom Marland (AgForce) travelled to Brisbane to meet with Deputy Premier Steven Miles to further pursue a ruling from the State Government and a suitable outcome for all rate payers.

We have written to the Bundaberg Regional Council requesting the following:

'That the Category 9 ratepayers are refunded the rate rises that they suffered from the 2020/2021 budget such that the increase is no more than CPI and that going forward the Council adheres to the Guideline on the equity and fairness in rating Queensland local governments.'

We will be holding a series of member-only shed meetings on 3 June to discuss any issues, outline what we are doing, and ask members what they think we could be doing better.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS manager Dale Holliss was recently presented with a certificate of recognition for 15 years of support and involvement with the GBRMPA Burnett Local Marine Advisory committee (BLMAC). In this role Dale has represented growers on a wide range of water quality issues.



Pictured (above): Tom Marland, Tanya Howard, Angela Williams and Bree Grima at parliament house with Bundaberg MP Mr Tom Smith; (left): Sue Sargent Chair of Burnett LMAC presenting Dale Holliss with a certificate recognising 15 years of Generous support and Involvement



ISIS

Late April saw a historic day in the hosting of a joint district bus trip with Isis, Maryborough and Sunshine Coast growers. It was an excellent day, with growers visiting the new transloader site on Goodwood Road. Maryborough growers were both interested and relieved to see where and how their cane would be transported to and loaded into the Isis Mill.

From there, Isis Productivity Ltd led a tour of the Clean Cane Plot at Bruce Peterson's farm, as its likely that more clean cane will be headed down to Maryborough this year. Growers were interested in the varieties and volumes available.

After a fantastic morning tea made by a local cane farming family, the Taylors, we went on a guided drive-by tour of the Isis Mill before heading to ORECO to tour their factory and receive the announcement of the new Cane Trash Contract.

CANEGROWERS chairmen Mark Mammino (Isis) and Jeff Atkinson (Maryborough) provided growers with an excellent overview of the progress that has been made to ensure a successful first joint crush.

Isis values Maryborough's future contribution and cane supply, and we look forward to working together for current and future industry viability.

It is with sadness that we farewelled a wonderful member of our CANEGROWERS Isis family, Rodney Moller, who died in a farm accident. Rod was a fantastic, engaged member who was always supportive, proactive and willing to contribute. We extend our sympathies to his family and thank neighbours and the community rallying around them.



MARYBOROUGH

With the harvest season creeping closer, work on the transloader is progressing well, with trials scheduled for June. The new lead trailers have also been arriving in good numbers and are being fitted out with modified bins from the trailer fleet.

A number of shed meetings were conducted recently, with Isis Central Sugar Mill Chairman **Darren Harney** and Director **Don Halpin** meeting growers in person and talking through where things are up to.

At all three meetings, growers made it clear that progressing a CSA for 2023 and beyond is the top priority at present, with many people uncomfortable about making plans to plant without knowing the longer term future for the district.

Harvester group meetings have also been held, with plenty of work to be done educating groups on the new electronic ticketing system.

The pre-season meeting for 2021 is pencilled in for 11 June at CANEGROWERS Hall, 106 Bazaar Street Maryborough. Kick-off is 2pm and a BBQ will follow.



ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point is gearing up for harvest, which is expected to begin in the first week of July, weather permitting.

The ground is still very soggy from recent rainfall, so we are hoping for some dryer weather over the next month.

The crop is looking great with a current estimate of 330,000 tonnes.

We are still awaiting a resolution to our objection to the hike in our Unimproved Land Values by about 55% last year, and will continue to keep the pressure on the VG's office.

The area has a growing hoon problem. Directors will be meeting with our local Member to discuss options this week.

Fire ants are one the rise in the area, with increasing reports of fire ants located in the middle of cane blocks rather than just the headlands.



Drain Tech

LAND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS



With over 30 years experience, Drain Tech can ensure you get every drill to the Mill.

- Sub-surface Drainage
- High Pressure Drain Jetting
- Irrigation Mains
- Contour Mapping and Design

~ Servicing growers from Mossman to Mullumbimby ~

Call Richard on 0428 528 054
www.draintech.net.au



WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS

CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE



Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager
CANEGROWERS

Profit now a key consideration for review of Reef targets

Following persistent lobbying from CANEGROWERS, the Federal and Queensland governments recently announced a review of the farm practice targets within their joint Reef Water Quality Plan.

The current targets require growers to adopt unprofitable practices, which explains why we always get a low score in the Reef Report Cards; to get a high rating with the current targets would require the adoption of practices that would compromise both farm profit and the viability of mill areas.

CANEGROWERS were given the opportunity to review the Terms of Reference for this review, and both levels of government agreed with us that farm and district economics must be a central consideration in setting realistic practice targets for the sugarcane industry.

The scope of the review was also clarified – this review will focus on practice targets while a subsequent review of the remainder of the Reef Water Quality Plan will address our concerns with both the Paddock to Reef program and the water quality targets. A stakeholder committee, including a rep from each affected agricultural industry, will overview the conduct of the review.

Nutrient BMP

CANEGROWERS initiated a workshop to review and discuss recent R&D on nitrogen management in sugarcane, and the implications of this for the SIX EASY STEPS (6ES) program. Trial results on use of enhanced efficiency fertilisers were also presented. The target audience was productivity services staff, SRA, and others providing advice to growers on nutrient management.

It was clear from the workshop that the 6ES program, in combination with the 6ES toolbox, represents best practice nutrient management, and that any general reduction in rates below 6ES recommendations will threaten production and profit.

The 6ES toolbox provides guidance on those particular situations where the growers could consider refinement of N rates, e.g. on some sodic soils or with some last ratoon crops.

Alternative approaches to deriving N rates based on concepts like block yield potential are not evidence-based and produce recommendations that are not consistent with the field trial data that underpins the 6ES program.

The workshop heard how the recommendations from the 6ES program are based on N response curves that come > 80 seasons of yield data (total cane, total sugar) from field plot experiments (located across the sugarcane districts), and > 60 years of yield data from commercial-scale strip trials.

The workshop also heard that enhanced efficiency fertilisers (EEFs) can improve the efficiency of nitrogen use but their effects vary across sites and seasons. Once the large data set from the EEF60 project is fully analysed by SRA, industry will have access to a guide that helps growers identify situations where an EEF is most suitable.

It was clear from the meeting that the collective research and extension effort needs to return to a focus on complete nutrient management and improvement of soil condition, rather than the current heavy focus on nitrogen rates. ■

Following CANEGROWERS' lobbying, the government recently announced a review of their Reef Water Quality Plan farm practice targets.



Burn Ashburner
Senior Manager - Industry
CANEGROWERS

Good decision making – critical to success

Farm business management is a critical aspect of any cane-growing operation, and one which all growers undertake whether they like it or not.

Delivering the CANEGROWERS-TAFE Pricing Essentials workshops has reminded me of the importance of growers being focused on the business side of growing cane.

We all make decisions all of the time and, in the main, they work out OK. Even choosing to do nothing is a decision and may even be the right decision depending on the circumstances.

Understandably, most of us don't spend a lot of time analysing how we make these decisions or what might be influencing our actions.

But perhaps we should because the fact is decision-making is a skill. This means it can be practiced and refined. It also implies there are steps or a process that can be followed to guide decision-making.

Having examined many farm budgets over the years, it seems to me that the big difference between profitable farmers and the rest of the industry is their ability to make the right decision at the right time.

This can be seen in ABARES sugarcane financial surveys, where the cost of inputs per hectare are similar across farms, but yield, and hence income and profitability, is not. This implies that growers are investing in inputs, fertiliser for example, but not getting the return. Simple marginal economics says that if you invest one dollar in fertiliser you expect to get more than a dollar return in income.

In the Pricing Essentials workshops, based on figures from QSL, we show that growers who have forward-priced have made up to \$2.50 per tonne more than those that have not.

The average figure we provide for the cost of production case study in the Pricing Essentials workshop shows the cost of fertiliser in the range of \$5-\$6 per tonne of cane.

This means that in order to match the benefit from forward pricing through reduced input costs, growers would need to slash their fertiliser bills by half, with no corresponding loss in yield.

That's a tall order and probably not achievable, but it highlights how working on your pricing and making good decisions can be very profitable.

The other thing that stands out at these workshops is the complexity of a cane farming business due to the number of people that growers need to interact with and the range of skills needed to get good business results.

One issue that is frequently raised but is not part of the workshop, is the need for succession planning. Information on the Grains Research and Development Corporation website shows that succession planning is one of the greatest risks to the farmers.

If you would like any information on the CANEGROWERS-TAFE Pricing Essentials Workshop or advice on succession planning, please contact your district office. ■

|| Decision-making is a skill, this means it can be practiced and refined ... making good decisions can be very profitable.



Warren Males

Head - Economics
CANEGROWERS



Come on Queensland – let's price water efficiently

The National Water Initiative (NWI) provides an important framework which guides policy reform in relation to one of Australia's most scarce resources – water.

In all communities, water is a fundamental resource. But in rural and regional Australia, including many cane growing districts, it is the lifeblood that sustains economic activity.

Reflecting this, the NWI is designed to instil confidence – the confidence to invest and confidence in the long-term sustainability of local communities.

In the NWI Agreement, States and Territories committed to establish water access entitlements and planning frameworks that adhere to specific principles on the basis that this would enable the sustainable use of water for a variety of purposes: social, environmental and economic.

CANEGROWERS recognises and acknowledges the use of water for each of these purposes.

Economic use of water

Within each purpose, it is important that rules around the allocation and pricing of irrigation water are designed to ensure the economically efficient and sustainable use of that water.

With prices reflecting the cost of sourcing and applying the water, irrigators naturally apply water to its best use, taking account of their production systems, the value and needs of different crops, the rotation of those crops and changing weather patterns and climate conditions.

It is a concern that the Queensland Government has elected to walk back from this approach to pricing irrigation water.

CANEGROWERS welcomes the Queensland Government's announcement that water charges for sugarcane growers will be reduced by 15%.

However, the second part of that same announcement, a 50% reduction in water prices for fruit and vegetable growers represents a significant departure from NWI pricing principles.

The two-tier price approach means that farmers who grow both sugarcane and fruit and vegetables and pump irrigation water from the same source and through the same infrastructure will face a different price depending on which crop the water is destined to irrigate.

This has created a significant incentive for farmers who irrigate crops in Queensland to switch crops. CANEGROWERS does not question that some sectors of agriculture may need additional support in response to the challenges raised by COVID. However, we do question how the support is provided.

To ensure integrity and confidence in Queensland's water pricing arrangements, CANEGROWERS calls on the Queensland Government to reaffirm its commitment to the National Water Initiative and implement water pricing policies that promote the economically efficient and sustainable use of water, by reducing all irrigation water prices by 50%.

Water prices should signal the prudent and efficient cost of delivering water, leaving irrigators to choose how to best use that water. Prices should not be set on the basis of the crop or paddock to which the water is applied.

Come on Queensland – let's price water efficiently! ■

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

CANEGROWERS calls on the Queensland Government to reduce all irrigation water prices by 50%. Prices should not be set on the basis of the crop or paddock to which the water is applied.



The rewards and risks of farming

The pursuit of a rural lifestyle and farming business can be very satisfying and rewarding, both from a personal, and occasionally, a financial perspective. Farmers are the backbone of the nation and I think the recent troubles with COVID-19 have further enhanced the importance, reputation, and necessity of a viable, sustainable and profitable farming sector.

Regardless of the respected status of farmers generally, governments of all persuasions seem bound by the many calls from largely non rural communities to continue to impose rules and regulations around operation of farming businesses. On top of these ever-increasing set of laws regulating almost everything that happens on a farm, there are many of my legal colleagues who will encourage and willingly pursue claims for damages and compensation against farmers who have been going about their farming businesses.

The relevant valid laws of the day must be complied with, otherwise there arises a real risk of liability to prosecution, fines, penalties, and in some cases common law action for damages and compensation. As a general rule, insurance policies are unlikely to cover exposure to department compliance prosecutions, creating a real risk of significant financial impact for farmers.

Here at CANEGROWERS, as a service to members, we regularly provide advice and assistance, and occasionally representation, to growers who have unfortunately found themselves at the wrong end of a department prosecution, or defending a common law damages claim. These prosecutions and claims in the rural sector are not uncommon and the following are some recent examples of such action being taken against some farmers, including several cane growers:

1. February 2019 - a banana farmer was fined \$4000 plus costs of \$1295 for failing to ensure a suitable combination of operator protective devices is provided, maintained and used. No conviction was recorded. The incident concerned the death of a farm worker from a tractor roll over.
2. April 2019 – a member of a family partnership operating two rural properties was fined \$60,000 plus costs of \$1289 for failing to meet his work health and safety duties. No



By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS
Legal Advisor



conviction was recorded. The incident concerned a worker being injured from a coil of fencing wire falling from a crane.

3. August 2019 – a partner of a sugar cane harvesting business was fined \$35,000 plus costs of \$1596 for failing to meet his work health and safety duties. No conviction was recorded. The incident concerned a worker being seriously burned during cane crop and trash burning operations.
4. October 2019 – a farm manager to sugar cane farmers was fined \$30,000 plus costs of \$1596 for failing to meet his work health and safety duties. No conviction was recorded. The incident was the same incident as in example 3 so both the harvesting contractor and the farm manager were separately prosecuted.
5. September 2020 – a farmer was fined \$16,000 for failing to comply with electrical safety duties. No conviction was recorded. The incident concerned a worker (and the defendant) being seriously injured from electric shock when a grain auger came in contact with power lines.
6. October 2020 – a farm produce packing business was fined \$65,000 plus costs of \$1096 for failing to meet work health and safety duties. No conviction was recorded. The incident concerned a back packer worker who died from a heat related illness whilst picking pumpkins and watermelons in north Queensland.
7. November 2020 – a sugar cane harvesting contractor company was fined \$150,000 plus costs of \$1099 for failing to comply with work health and safety duties. No

conviction was recorded. The incident concerned a worker being crushed to death between a haul out vehicle and a stationery fuel trailer when attempting repairs to the haul out.

8. November 2020 – a headstone manufacturing business was fined \$3600 plus costs of \$850 for failing to keep a hazardous chemical register. No conviction was recorded. Although not really a rural case, cane growers have similar requirements around chemical storage and registers.
9. April 2021 – a grower was fined \$42,000 plus costs of \$4425 for 2 breaches of environmental laws and 1 planning law. No conviction was recorded. The incident concerned the placing of waste (building rubble and concrete) in a water way without relevant permits and approvals.

The above case examples show that prosecutions can and do occur. Farming generally and cane growing in particular is a very worthwhile and valuable occupation. Farmers need to be aware of the potential risks for prosecution and court action if the farming activities are not carried out in compliance with the relevant rules and laws.

(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 07 3864 6444, for free initial legal advice. ■

Member survey

CANEGROWERS is working on a new member survey designed to evaluate member needs, business and industry outlook, and satisfaction with CANEGROWERS advocacy, products and services.

The data collected will build on previous surveys, providing the organisation with some useful insights into your business needs and the importance of activities performed as part of your membership.

It's always interesting to look back at past surveys, and a quick look at the information gathered in 2010 shows that 11 years on, many of the issues raised are still relevant.

In their responses to the 2010 survey, growers listed securing the future of the industry, a decline in the number of young farmers, a lack of succession planning, and sugar marketing among their top concerns.

These issues are still relevant today, although CANEGROWERS has been taking steps to address these concerns. Succession planning and engagement with younger growers is a high priority for the organisation. The industry has also come together to work on a revitalisation strategy to support a positive industry future, and CANEGROWERS has secured grower choice in marketing and has created the Marketing Information Service to help with sugar pricing.

Of course, there will always be issues to manage, such as the cost of production and the environment, however community and a place to belong will continue to play an important role for CANEGROWERS. The new survey will help to evaluate these needs and ensure our values are reflective of the membership.

Leveraging your environmental stewardship

In the May edition, I discussed how managing environment, social and governance criteria such as greenhouse gas emissions is becoming increasingly important.

There are new and emerging opportunities for agriculture in the areas of natural capital and carbon trading which could provide additional revenue for growers. Smartcane BMP has the potential to leverage these opportunities.

The Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship's Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot (the C+B Pilot) is a component of the Australian Government's Agriculture Stewardship Package. The package will create new market-based mechanisms that reward farmers for improving environmental outcomes on agricultural land.

As part of the 2021 Federal Budget, the Australian Government said it would deliver \$32.1 million in new funding to trial new programs to increase biodiversity on farms in the form of a trial platform to enable the trading of biodiversity and emissions abatement credits from revegetation.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said this investment extended opportunities to reward farmers for biodiversity stewardship and comprised:

- \$22.3 million to deliver a pilot program to protect and manage existing high value native vegetation
- \$5.4 million to implement an Australian farm biodiversity certification scheme
- \$4.4 million to establish a Biodiversity Trading Platform.

Mr Littleproud said the government is expanding its original support for agriculture biodiversity stewardship of \$34 million to create market opportunities for farmers who look after biodiversity. ■



STICKER SPOTTER COMPETITION

Our sticker spotters are out looking for vehicles proudly displaying a CANEGROWERS bumper sticker.

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

**999 ZCT 029 SWX
349 XCZ 936 VMC**

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

How to enter:

- ✓ Make sure your CANEGROWERS bumper sticker is on your vehicle
- ✓ Check the next *Australian Canegrower* magazine for a list of number plates
- ✓ Contact CANEGROWERS Brisbane office to claim your prize **07 3864 6444** or info@canegrowers.com.au



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

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 **22 June 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



JOHN DEERE 2013 Model, 3520 Wheel Harvester, 9,075 machine hours, JD 375 HP engine 1,500 hrs from rebuild. 15" x 8 blade standard chopper system, plastic fuel tank, external touch screen on the console. Standard whole topper. Good Condition.

CASE 1999 – 2000 updates Track Harvester, Tilt cabin, Komatsu 325 HP, recent engine work, 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. Good Plant Cutter.

HBM Single row 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. Tungsten Hard Faced on Wear Areas. New seal plates, Clamping Bars & Dowels with kit.

Graham Twyford
48 Central Park Drive, Paget, Mackay
Mobile: +61 (0) 418 742 696
graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au
www.gtmachinerysales.com.au

Mossman-Tully

2 x HBM plant cutters with toppers, been shedded, \$1,000 + GST each. Fieldmaster finishing mower, 5000 series, 2.7m cut \$12,000 + GST. Ph: 0417987228.

GCA-1050 Hooded Sprayer \$20,000; M100 4WD Tractor PAVT 18.438 Rear/14.928 Front Wheels \$20,000; 5 Furrow Hodge Rev Plough \$1,500. (all GST Inc) Ph: 0429652235.

MSW 3 tonne S.S. fertilizer bin, pour on top or side dress, New Coulters, \$5,500 (GST Inc). Ph: 0438642195.

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

2014 Miller Nitro 5240 3270 hours. 4400L tank, 400L rinse tank. Hyd shift from 3m to 4m centres. 4 wheel steer. 26m Boom with 250mm nozzle spacing. Set up to take Irvin Legs. Ph: 0427238320.

5T dual side tipper on hyd remote; cane stick planter cutting machine; 4 x stick planter trailers; cane plant V-blade on 3-pt linkage; 7 tyne ripper/grabber-4 tyne ripper/3 tyne grabber on 3-pt linkage; Yamaha Kodiak 400 quad bike; Howard 90" rotary hoe; Toft 6000 harvester; 1T 2 row plant fertiliser box on 3-pt linkage. Ph: 0418972705 (Silkwood).

INTERNATIONAL 766 2WD Tractor 10 hp, fitted with a forklift. 5724 hrs, New radiator recently fitted. \$9,000 + GST o.n.o. FORD 5000 fitted with front loader. This machine has had a new instrument. Cluster fitted but the tractor has done about 5,000 hrs of work. \$8,000 + GST o.n.o. Both tractors are in good condition, run well and have good tyres. Ph: 04019728126 or 0740933962.

Howard four blade square plough in good condition with new cutting edges. Always kept in shed \$4,800 Inc GST. Ph: 0427665759.

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

Howard AH80 Rotary Hoe, Ripper and Crumble Roller \$4,000 and Plant cane Confidor Applicator \$300. ONO Prices ex GST. Ph: 0419988158.

Herbert River-Burdekin

Don 20 plate drag offset with hydraulic ram, no hoses. Ph: 0747776148.

Mackay-Proserpine

Case JX1090U high rise spray tractor. 6ft clearance, Air Cab, 3 brand new tyres, 2x 600L underbelly tanks with hydraulic boom covering 7 x 1.8m rows. Strongly built with duplex chain on the drive. Willing to sell as a whole or without the tractor, offers. Ph: 0427504118.

2 Ellis shielded sprayers, never used, \$600. Hodge Cutaway, GC, \$600 incl. GST ONO. Hodge double row curly tyne grubber, 1.25 inch tynes, very strong, GC. \$1650 incl. GST ONO. 3pl bag lifter, no ram, \$550 incl. GST ONO. Wrecking Deutz 8006, all parts available. Ph: 0427504118.

Bonel Plant Cutter with topper attachment, GC, offers. Don Gough Planter, GC, offers. Hardy 900L spray tank, electric controls, 9m hydraulic boom, newly reconditioned pump, \$6000 incl. GST ONO. 6ft Howard Slasher, deck is a bit rusty but still useable, \$2200 incl. GST ONO. Heavy duty 3pl stick rake, GC, \$1100. NH rims and centres, brand new, 380/85R38, \$1100 incl. GST. Ph: 0427504118.

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

MF50H backhoe; 2-wheel drive, 4in1 bucket with quick release hydraulic outlets to run



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

other functions \$9,900.00; MF165 2-wheel drive tractor \$6,600.00; Howard 120" rotary hoe with crumble roller \$7,700.00; Hodge single row cutaway \$550.00; Superior twin fan trash extractor \$550.00; 4 x rims 18.4x34 with dual spacers and tyres \$275.00 each; 2 x rims 18.4x30 with cast centres and tyres to suit Ford 5000 \$825.00 each; Howard slasher 6ft EHD \$6,600.00. Ph: 49591750 or 0401165694.

Moller billet planter, good condition. \$6,000. Ph: 04428186261 or 0417393142.

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

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

Harvesting contract at end of 20/21 season. Includes JD570 Fulltrack Harvester, 3 x MAN TGA390 trucks w/ Griffcam 10T tippers, 4 x CASE Powerhauls & misc harvesting equip. To be sold w/ 50,000 tonnes + cut. Harvesting 90,000 tonnes this season. Ph: 0410664890.

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

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

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

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

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

1995 Cameco, tracks sprockets and rollers done 35000 tonne, track hubs done 22000 tonne, swing out radiator, extended elevator, some spares with sale including new elevator chains, \$50000 +GST. Ph: 0407595745

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Bonel Trash incorporator-\$7,000; Austin Truck with 6 tonne tipper bin-\$5,500; Massey Ferguson 1085-\$3,000; LG 6 tonne tipper bin-\$5,500 (All prices exclude GST). Ph: 0419577110.

2 rear tractor tyres 520/70R38. 40% tread left \$500 for both. Ph 0402085833 or 0407114555.

6820 John Deere with 9 tonne elevator Newton bin. Set of half tracks to suit Massey Ferguson 305. International 9 yard self-loading scraper. Ph: 0488415781.

Austoft 7000, 1995 model, L10 Cummins motor, Hydgood, \$50,000. Ph: 0437805260.

Baldwin GTCR 30 plate, 32 inch disc, excellent condition \$38k + GST neg. Ilgi disc tiller, 3TPL 6 metres, new condition \$35k + GST neg. Hodge multi-cultivator 3 row, excellent condition \$14k+ GST neg. Gessner 3 row stool splitter. 2 tonne bin excellent condition \$26k + GST neg. KUHN EL282 - 400 cultitiller excellent condition \$24k + GST neg. Ph: 0477704134.

Ford 8401 tractor, 2x Ford 7000 tractors, 3x LNG 6 ton single axle tipper bins, 3 inch 2 in 1 Avoca double reel water winch, 4 inch Avoca 2 in 1 heavy duty water winch, Massey Ferguson 65 high clearance, 4,500

litre diesel fuel tanker - is a complete trailer. Ph: 0427598333.

Farm vehicles for sale: International S Line 12 tonne Tandem Tipper Truck with Cummins engine. Starts and drives but poor general condition. No rego, no roadworthy, sold as is. \$5,000.00. 1993 Nissan Navara ute, diesel. Starts and drives but poor general condition. No rego, no roadworthy, sold as is. \$1,000.00. Ph: 0435026622.

Break Pusher in very good condition used only 3 times no longer needed. \$2,200.00 INC GST. 3 metre Tortilla Rotary Hoe in excellent condition bearings in main box done 200hrs ago and side gears and bearings done around 400hrs ago, full set of new

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Apr 2021)	Month to date (1 May-24 May)	Year to date	Jan-May
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	676.4	51	2127.4	2152.2
Mareeba Airport	152.6	3	782.6	1552
Cairns Aero	845.2	33.2	2100	1552
Mt Sophia	1281	115	2891	2483.6
Babinda Post Office	883	139.2	2911	3053.6
Innisfail	841.6	109.8	2649.4	2512.4
Tully Sugar Mill	921	172	3662.8	2945.5
Cardwell Marine Pde	205	40.5	1993.1	1608.3
Lucinda Township	658.2	29	1609.6	1596.4
Ingham Composite	784.4	20.5	2837.1	1582.8
Abergowrie Alert	81	12	1425	1073.9
Townsville Aero	99.6	0	854.6	864
Ayr DPI Research Stn	129.2	3	860	700.6
Proserpine Airport	108.2	8.4	829	1044.5
Mirani Mary Street	79	5.3	616.9	1015.4
Mackay MO	175.6	62.2	838.6	1120.5
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	55.8	5.4	402.8	1240.7
Bundaberg Aero	37.2	7.4	237.2	556.2
Childers South	57.2	60.2	299.6	468
Maryborough	81.4	69.2	431.2	654.8
Tewantin RSL Park	155.8	116.2	891	881.5
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	153.2	70	815	1001.5
Nambour DPI - Hillside	189.6	125	798.4	1056.8
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	112.2	108	814.7	605.1
Murwillumbah Bray Park	154.7	127.9	1117.1	931.8
Ballina Airport	249.6	39	1169	932
New Italy (Woodburn)	249.6	55.4	1034.3	745.7



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.

blades to go with sale. \$11,000 INC GST.
Ph: 0417785832. Bundaberg area.

Trail behind 2400 Litre Spray tank with 11 Metre Silvan Boom attached. Has new pump used only one season \$4,400.00 Inc. GST.
Ph: 41598174 - Bundaberg area.

New South Wales

3 Blade 12" Chopper Drums for set cutter.
Ph: 0402049645.

Wanted

STL shares. Ph: 49503921.

3 Row Fertilizer Box, 2 or 3 tonne, Drop on Top, in Good Working Condition.
Ph: 0404604101.

STL shares wanted. Best price, quick cash payment. Ph: 0408448227.

Property

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.

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres all up. Teemburra water, 2 pumps & licences, plus 32,000 gallons an hour underground bore. Machinery/irrigation shed. 2x 4" soft hose irrigators, farm lasered, underground main throughout. 2 sidings adjoin farms. Access to farm from Pleystowe School Rd & Formosa's Rd. Selling due to health reasons.
Ph: 0408733793.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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



BUYERS BEWARE

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

Want to sweeten your sugar profits?



Information & education
Workshops, videos and newsletter updates



Expert insight
Price and production forecasting



Independent service
Does not favour one marketer over another

Sugar Market Updates now available

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



CANEGROWERS
INSURANCE

CANE COUNTRY WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

CANEGROWERS Crop Insurance

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



Accidental Fire



Hail Damage



Transit Damage

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

✓ Farm

✓ Business

✓ Liability

✓ Motor & Fleet

✓ Home & Contents

✓ Landlord & more...

WWW.CANEGROWERS.COM.AU/INSURANCE