

Electricity regulator encourages Ergon to liaise with irrigators on prices

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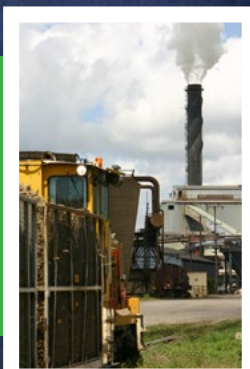
CANEGROWERS

12 September 2016 Price \$9.95

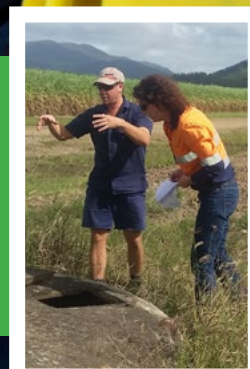
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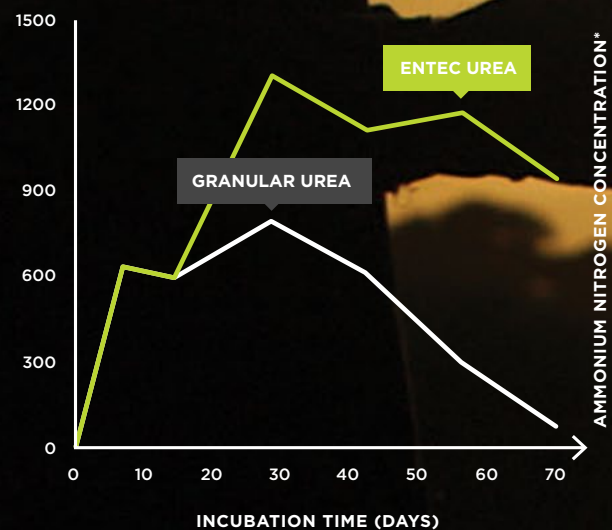
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This experiment was conducted with urea in a moist acidic chromosol (Pin Gin) soil at 25°C (pHw 4.5) (60% water filled pore space). Source: Suter et al. (2008)
*Unit of Measure is micrograms (µg NH₄⁺ N/g soil)

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Cover picture: Isis grower Bevan Manderson has turned to overhead centre pivot irrigation as a means of keeping down water and power costs in Queensland's driest cane-growing district.

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Bright Future: \$500m plan for cane-powered Queensland homes puts paid to mill scare campaign

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

The recent announcement by MSF Sugar of its plan to commission up to four green power stations is significant on a number of fronts.

Green power stations, often referred to as co-generation plants, burn renewable cane fibre known as bagasse to produce green electricity.

MSF's announcement is significant as it confirms a long held view that the future of the sugarcane industry is one in which the sugar cane plant can provide multiple income streams other than sugar crystals.

The Australian sugar industry has been under cost pressure for decades. Our historical remedy, and one that is still applicable today, is to increase yield and production to offset inflationary costs.

As yield increases prove harder to capture, it makes good sense to generate as much value as possible from the cane plant as it is processed.

Whilst any announcement of investment in value-adding for the sugar industry is welcome, there is often a mistaken perception that growers are direct beneficiaries of these projects.

The current cane payment systems have not matured to reflect the need for grower recognition of the value of the cane plant. I am not suggesting that a grower share of these investments should be mandated, but these are the types of commercial discussions that growers and millers look set to have in the future.

The other significance of this announcement is that it proves very clearly that milling investment has not been shelved since the Real Choice in Marketing legislation was passed.

Only two weeks ago Wilmar, in its public statements around the Productivity Commission hearings, indicated it had shelved plans for a \$75 million sugar terminal. That announcement is sounding more and more like political posturing rather than reality.

MSF is outlaying \$500 million of capital in this industry **AFTER** the Real Choice legislation was introduced. The stars have not fallen out of the sky, instead this situation highlights once again that life after the legislation is all about attitude. MSF has the right attitude!

WILMAR - QSL

On the subject of marketing, the recent decision by Wilmar to break off On-Supply Agreement negotiations with QSL is a bitter blow to Wilmar growers.

Again it seems the issue of attitude is driving this decision. Growers under the Real Choice in Marketing legislation are entitled to determine the marketer of their choice.

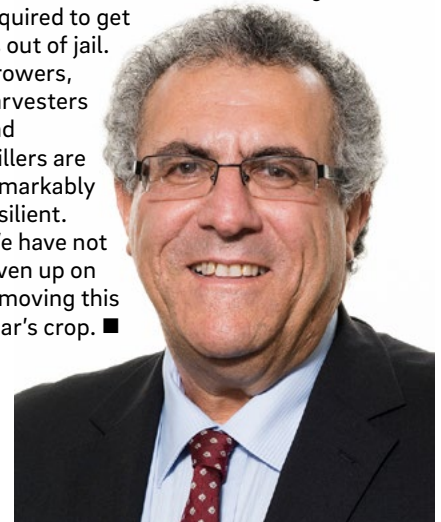
Wilmar believes that it will allocate the choice to growers on the basis of what is best for its own corporate interests.

It appears the interests of growers, whose livelihoods are directly impacted by the marketing of Grower Economic Interest sugar, are of secondary concern to Wilmar. Once again, attitude is everything!

I urge Wilmar and QSL to get back to the table as soon as possible. Wilmar telling its growers that QSL is no longer an option is only bolstering solidarity and unity among growers. The overwhelming number of Wilmar growers want genuine marketing choice. It is time for Wilmar to deliver.

2016 CROP

Getting this year's crop off looks likely to become a desperate race against the clock. With only around 40% of the crop in, the next few months will be critically important. More than anything else, a bit of good luck and some divine intervention might be required to get us out of jail. Growers, harvesters and millers are remarkably resilient. We have not given up on removing this year's crop. ■



“It proves very clearly that milling investment has not been shelved since the Real Choice in Marketing legislation was introduced.”



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Wide vehicle road access secured

A sustained CANEGROWERS campaign has secured road access for growers needing to move wide agricultural vehicles.

A five-year notice has been gazetted giving access to nearly all roads in Zone 1 north of Gympie for agricultural vehicles and combinations between 3.5m and 4.0m in width.

The notice is called *Queensland Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (Coastal Zone 1) Dimension Exemption Notice 2016* and it can be read here <http://bit.ly/2culZwu> and a summary here <http://bit.ly/2c8ni4j>

It allows for:

- Access to critical roads including the Bruce Highway with travel of no more than 5km in a single trip with an agricultural pilot and portable roadside signage,
- Access to major and minor roads with two agricultural pilots OR one agricultural pilot and roadside signage, and
- The ability to directly cross all roads without a pilot up to 5.0m width.

CANEGROWERS negotiated hard with the Queensland Police and Department of Transport and Main Roads to reach agreement around the gazetted notice which avoids the requirement for growers to apply for individual permits.

Growers are urged to comply with all of the conditions of the notice and use the appropriate signage and pilots when moving wide agricultural vehicles.

Failure to do so could jeopardise the future of such an arrangement and put the grower in a position of liability should there be an accident.

CANEGROWERS has made a member's only deal with Artcraft in Townsville for signs. Your CANEGROWERS membership number must be provided to get the special prices.

The company can be contacted by phone on 4774 5255 or by email at tnvsales@artcraft.com.au

CANE LAND SALE

A group of 40 cane growers in the Rocky Point district are putting more than 6,000 hectares of farmland on the market.

Developers are already expressing interest in the land, between the Gold Coast and Logan, for housing, tourism, medical and educational facilities.

CANEGROWERS respects that all growers, as business owners, are best placed to make the right commercial decisions for their particular situation.

The Rocky Point district has long faced difficulties around urban encroachment and performance of the farming system and supply chain.

CANEGROWERS wishes growers taking this decision well in the future and would hope that, should they realise the outcome they are seeking, they choose to relocate or continue to invest in the industry.

HARVESTING PROJECT FIRES UP

Four sugarcane growers have been appointed to a committee to ensure the benefits of a Sugar Research Australia led harvesting losses project flow through to industry.

The research will tackle the challenge of reducing the loss of sugarcane during mechanical harvesting, estimated to cost the industry \$150 million per year.

SRA has appointed consultant Bernard Milford as project manager to coordinate the \$5.5 million project.

The Research Management Group includes growers Michael Deguara, Joe Marano, Vince Russo and Mario Raccanello along with milling representatives.

Work will start with investigations into cane cleaning in conjunction with low-loss harvesting, machinery modifications to reduce stool damage and improve cane feeding, sensing tools to give feedback on the quality of the harvesting job, and improvement of a software tool to assess the financial benefits of different harvesting strategies.

Additional work will be commissioned on advice from the Research Management Group, but is likely to include economic analyses across the sugarcane value chain and initiatives to encourage adoption of harvest best practice.



MSF: \$500m green power project will boost grower income

MSF Sugar has announced a massive \$500 million investment in the future of Queensland's sugarcane industry, with the Thai-owned miller unveiling plans to build four green power plants across the state by 2021.

The four-year project, which will commence in May 2017 with the construction of a \$75m co-generation plant at MSF's Tableland Mill, is part of the company's planned diversification into the field of green electricity and bio-products, MSF chief Mike Barry said.

"We've got a clear vision to drive for much higher value products, a diverse range of revenue streams and (to be) much more sustainable in terms of the outlook," Mr Barry told ABC's Queensland Country Hour reporter Charlie McKillop.

When asked what the move meant for growers, the MSF chief was unambiguous - "ultimately, more revenue," he said.

"My belief is that the growers have got to be paid more per tonne of cane."

"Unless we can achieve more revenue per tonne, we're unable to give them more, so it's up to us to invest, capitalise on the technology that's out there and convert that into higher revenue overall per hectare."

"My belief is that the growers have got to be paid more per tonne of cane."

The Tableland co-gen plant, which is scheduled for completion in June 2018, will use 100% renewable cane fibre, known as bagasse, to produce 100,000 megawatt hours of electricity - enough to power every house in the Tableland region.

Growers would be incentivised to produce particular varieties of cane, "as we look to get crops that are more aligned to where the outputs are, such as in this case, higher fibre canes," Mr Barry said.

If the Tableland project proves successful, MSF plans to build three more green power plants at its Mulgrave, South Johnstone and Maryborough mills.

The miller is also pushing ahead with plans for its \$600m Mary Harbour development project.

Thai owner Mitr Phol has given MSF Sugar the green light to seek the Fraser Coast Regional Council's approval for the 177 hectare lifestyle development, which would have a man-made harbour as its centrepiece.

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CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

By CANEGROWERS district offices

Mossman

In Week 12 Mossman Mill achieved its best throughput not only of this season, but many previous seasons. 48,438 tonnes of cane were processed at an average crushing rate of 352 tonnes/hr, bringing the total tonnes crushed to date to 389,276. Mill average CCS was 11.09.

Coastal growers supplied 282,173 tonnes of cane for an average of 10.46 CCS, while Mareeba growers supplied 107,102 tonnes of cane for an average of 12.78 CCS.

Cairns Region

The recent fine weather has come to an end and we are once again receiving rain throughout the Gordonvale-Babinda area.

The fine weather was well utilised, however, with some planting being achieved during the week or so of sunshine.

Cane Supply Contracts for those growers supplying South Johnstone Mill are being signed, although members continue to voice their

frustration at the progress of the On-Supply Agreement.

The CCS at Mulgrave continued on a slow upward trend with the season to date average sitting on 10.4, well below the region's five year average.

Both South Johnstone and Mulgrave mills continue to cut above estimate. This, combined with the wet weather, has season-length issues foremost on stakeholders' minds.

Innisfail

Growers took full advantage of a break in the wet weather to harvest the crop and complete planting.

Since the last report, crushing has progressed well with just over 33% of the current estimate crushed and it is approximately 124,000 tonnes ahead of this time last year. The official estimate has been revised upward by 8%.

CCS is improving but will not rise much

above 11.25 for the season unless there is a miracle.

The sign-off day for the replacement 2017-19 Cane Supply Agreement and Grower Pricing Agreement was very successful.

Despite it being a very busy time of the year, more than half of all members came into the office to collect or sign the documents. The remaining

members have been contacted and we have been progressively collecting the documents, with only 20 remaining.

The next phase of the Reef Trust funding is being rolled out through WTSIP and positions for nine extension officers have been advertised. CANEGROWERS Innisfail is aiming to host one of those officers.

Tully

The relatively wet winter is finally behind us. Despite the conditions, harvest and crushing has progressed with almost 40% of the crop off, but there is still a long way to go. The heavy crop and wet conditions have had a negative impact on CCS with the season to date sitting 0.5 units below last year's 11.62.

Planting has also been affected and growers and contractors are working hard to finish that job.

BMP facilitator Nick Stipis is concentrating on helping growers with record keeping so that they can achieve accreditation in the January to May period when farm work is not so frantic.

Members were updated on the negotiations for a Cane Supply Contract for 2017 at a well-attended grower information meeting held earlier this month. A further meeting is planned later in September.

Herbert

Intermittent showers are visiting most nights and early mornings. This continues to make it difficult for our harvesting sector to chase reasonably firm paddocks and headlands that will support the haulout traffic without too much damage.

CCS remains disappointingly low reflecting that the crop hasn't really entered a ripening phase.

Planting remains very much behind schedule overall with an ever decreasing window of opportunity whilst wet paddocks prevail.

Fortunately for some there have been a few breaks in the dryer parts of the district that have allowed fallow areas to be planted but overall less than 50% of fallow has been area planted.

The mill advises that the crop should be crushed by 22 December.

This is based on the revised crop estimate of 4.6 million tonnes and a crushing profile incorporating lower hourly rates and slightly better mill availability than the original budget.

It is clearly in everybody's interest to send in the best specimen of harvested cane that conditions allow, so the available crushing time window is used most gainfully with the best sugar content under prevailing conditions.

A Collective Cane Supply Agreement for 2017 and beyond is the main preoccupation for the organisation, as Wilmar persists in dragging the chain for an On-Supply Agreement with the growers preferred marketer QSL.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River welcomes the appointment of Jonathan Pavetto by QSL to liaise with Herbert River growers in regard to QSL's intended offering to

Burdekin

Just 32% or 2.6m tonnes of the crop had been crushed at the end of Week 12. At the same time last year 3.7 million tonnes or 54% of the crop had been crushed.

The rain delays, together with an official estimate revision upward to 8.7 million tonnes, indicate an end date of 24 December for the north bank mills and early to mid-January for the Inkerman Mill.

Headland talk is all about how much standover there will be. Wilmar has indicated they have no plans to transfer cane from Inkerman Mill to any of the north bank mills at this time.

Two of the Invicta Mill's locos derailed recently, one due to a farmer laying road base to improve a road crossing and the second derailment in the mill yard after the loco hit a rake of full bins.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin representatives spoke at the recent Townsville Productivity Commission public hearing into the Commission's

growers once an On-Supply Agreement is finalised.

After some initial training with QSL, we will see Jonathan working with growers to address any queries they may have about forward pricing and QSL's offering in particular.

The recently re-shaped Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership is currently advertising for eleven jobs, mainly in extension positions, under the Commonwealth-funded Reef Trust Phase 3 project.

Under this project the sugarcane industry, in partnership with Terrain NRM, has been awarded a contract to deliver a significant part of the overall Reef Alliance package to cane growers across the Wet Tropics region.

draft report on the Regulation of Australian Agriculture.

We advised that we had considered the draft report and we supported many of the recommendations made.

However, we have major concerns relating to the Commission's draft recommendation 11.2, which puts forward that the Queensland Government should repeal the amendments made by the *Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Act 2015* and we strongly endorsed that this be removed from the report.

Working in tandem with representatives from CANEGROWERS Herbert River, Cairns and Tully we provided the growers' perspective on why the legislative changes were made and the potential impact of the changes being repealed.

We also took the opportunity to inform the Commissioners of the full circumstances regarding what we perceive as misleading information contained in Wilmar's submission to the Productivity Commission, dated 18 August.

Mackay

The three Mackay Sugar mills crushed 205,246 tonnes of cane for the week, with an average PRS of 12.96. Scheduled maintenance days were executed at all three factories. The major downtime for the week ended 4 September was for a split bagasse belt at Marian Mill.

Mackay Sugar has crushed 2,003,261 tonnes to date this season with an average PRS of 12.32.

The crop estimate has risen to 5,600,000 tonnes. The focus remains on throughput performance to maximise the rate through the factories.

Crush statistics for each mill are: Farleigh 75,706 tonnes, Marian 64,268 tonnes, Racecourse 65,272 tonnes. PRS for the week was 12.96.

Proserpine

Light rain throughout the district has continued to play havoc with harvesting operations over the past few weeks, with throughput further hampered by mechanical issues at the mill.

The longest stop was necessary to install a temporary bypass as the result of a broken pressure feed chute on No. 2 mill.

Despite these setbacks, almost 173,000 tonnes were crushed over the past fortnight, bringing the total throughput for the season to date to 560,161 tonnes.

CCS declined for almost a week as a result of the rain, but has steadily recovered to previous levels.

The average season to date CCS now stands at 12.45, which is a full unit below the same time last year.

The Operations Review Committee met in late August to review the 2016 season estimate and as a result the forecast has been increased from 1.71 to 1.80 million tonnes of cane. This has pushed the expected crush completion date back to 15 December.

Plane Creek

In the week ending 3 September, Wilmar Sugar's Plane Creek mill processed 64,918 tonnes of cane bringing the season to date total to 435,879 tonnes.

This throughput was second the highest for the season to date. However, wet field conditions continued to plague the harvest, with 17 hours of mill stoppages as a result.

The mill praised harvesting contractors who, under challenging conditions, were still providing relatively high bin weight averages.

At this stage 31% of the crop has been harvested. CCS for the week was 12.99 units, with a season to date average of 12.57.

Continues page 8...

Bundaberg

Showers persist across the region, disrupting cane supply. Most are under 10 mm and falling every fortnight. This is not giving the already wet ground a chance to dry.

As of last week, Millaquin was at 40% and Bingera at 35% with an average CCS of 13.5. This time last year we were at 52% and the CCS was 14 and 14.1 respectively. Millaquin is performing very well and with no more rain delays will finish around 20 November and Bingera in the second week in December. These dates are a best guess and may move a little. The estimate is still increasing at both mills.

Following discussions with Bundaberg Sugar we have agreed to commence overtime crushing at Bingera. Two extra shifts will operate every second Sunday, weather permitting. Every harvesting group will operate and will get around 70% of their normal allocation. The public holiday on 3 October will be worked at both mills with normal daily allocations.

Isis

As of 4 September Isis Mill had processed 602,763 tonnes for the season. The half a million tonne milestone was crossed during Week 9, with 69,605 tonnes processed for the week and a further 65,412 tonnes processed in Week 10.

Rains have eased locally allowing harvesting to regain momentum. However, cane quality figures demonstrate that field conditions are still a challenge, with fibre up around 15% and ash figures just above 2.25% in Week 9.

CCS is on a steady rise, with the season average climbing from 13.15 in Week 8 to 13.31 at the end of Week 10.

KQ228 still dominates in terms of supply and CCS, with the stand out CCS in Week 9 being 15.86 from first ratoon KQ228 by a grower at South Kolan.

In Week 10 an Alloway grower achieved an impressive 16.83 from first ratoon KQ228.

Spring planting is well underway. With warm air temperatures, regular showers and soil temperatures around 17°C, many growers are choosing the clean plot cane from IPL to take advantage of the excellent planting conditions.

Rocky Point

Rocky Point growers continue to send standover cane to New South Wales for crushing. At the end of Week 6, a total of 7910 tonnes has been crushed with an average CCS of 12.87. While it's slow going, this is our only option at present.

Growers have agreed to assist the cogeneration plant via a Cogen Rescue Package Loan in an effort to get it supplying steam and power to the mill before the end of the 2016 season.

We are hopeful of crushing at least half our crop at the Rocky Point Mill before the end of December 2016 and to start pricing some sugar to take advantage of the current high prices. ■

New South Wales

The harvest in all three NSW mill areas is progressing well with 40% of the forecast crop harvested as at 28 August. Recent rain across the entire region did halt the harvest for several days. All three mills are operating efficiently with CCS levels above budget. Despite the recent rain, field conditions in most areas are quite good with growers reporting that damage to blocks harvested after the rain was nowhere near expected and they should be able to save most of these areas. Planting will be delayed while growers wait for fields to dry out enough to enable preparation works to take place. There is an expectation that further rain will be received over the spring period which will hamper efforts to replant crops.

The construction of the Pacific Motorway through Harwood and Broadwater mill areas is progressing at a rapid rate. A substantial area of caneland has been lost to the new road and there will be major changes to drainage and access routes. The transport of cane to the mills for processing is being impacted upon and the industry is working closely with the construction companies in an effort to minimise the impacts.

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Our regional managers live and work in your communities, because we believe you should have someone available to visit you at your home or business and we pride ourselves on being able to deliver that.



Our RM's understand the issues facing the cane growing industry - from ensuring biosecurity measures are upheld, to access to transport, water pricing and government red tape.

They also understand that you'd probably prefer to be doing anything but meeting your government obligations in paying your super. That is why they'll provide members and CANEGROWERS employers with one-on-one support with anything super related.

To organise a chat at work or over a cuppa, find your local regional manager's contact details by visiting the regional managers section of our website. ■

Assessment of new management strategies for **MARGINAL SOILS IN MACKAY**

By Jarrod Sartor, SRA Adoption Officer, Central Region

Sustainable soil management practices are vital for a profitable farm business. For years, growers have been using mill mud, ash, lime and gypsum to ameliorate and improve the condition of their top soil. For many farms, though, the problem isn't just the top soil but also the sodic subsoil beneath.

In August, SRA's agronomy team led by Dr Barry Salter established a trial in Marian to assess subsoil amelioration strategies.

Associated with Project 2015/007: *Assessment of new management strategies for marginal soils*, this project is looking at farming systems that improve soil health and productivity.

In the central region, 30% of cane is grown on marginal sodic soils.

These subsoils are typically compacted, with poor aeration, poor drainage and a reduced water holding capacity.

These characteristics lead to poor root growth and overall poorer yields.

Initial work by Maryborough Cane Productivity Services and the Delivering Agricultural Goals Group (DAG Group) in the southern region identified the benefits of sub-surface ameliorant application, particularly when dealing with sodic subsoils.

SRA's agronomy team will aim to validate the findings of this initial work, which suggests the subsoil application of organic matter has a long lasting positive benefit on yield.

"The compost opens up a window into the subsoil to improve root penetration, nutrient uptake and moisture availability"

The DAG Group found the application of compost boosted yield by 10% when applied at 15-20t/ha, 350mm below the surface.

One of those who supported the work conducted by the DAG Group was MSF agronomist Andrew Dougall.

"The compost opens up a window into the subsoil to improve root penetration, nutrient uptake and moisture availability," Mr Dougall said, explaining that that is what they believe gave them the boost in yield.

SRA will explore eight treatments; an untreated control, surface applied mill mud at 60t/ha (wet weight), bare ripping, deep placement of fertiliser, mill mud-ash at 20t/ha (wet weight), compost at 10t/ha, mill mud-ash and compost together, and gypsum at 6t/ha.

The trial consists of 32 plots (eight treatments by four replicates). Deep placement treatments were possible due to an implement specifically designed for the project.

"We hope to get a noticeable improvement in productivity and find a commercially adoptable practice for farmers on these marginal soils," said research leader Dr Barry Salter.

Wilmar Sugar is also investigating a similar concept. Mill mud is placed in a shallow furrow then centre busted, followed by hilling up.

This is seen as an option for incorporating mill mud at depth in a commercially affordable way.

These trials are being run through various Wilmar milling regions from the Herbert River to Plane Creek.

No matter what results come from this project, it is easy to see that having a greater focus on the subsoil in cane farming will be an interesting subject in the future.

For further information contact Jarrod Sartor on 0477 316 503 or email jsartor@sugarresearch.com.au. ■

Pic: Mill mud sub-surface applicator





Warren Males

CANEGROWERS Head -
Economics

“Last financial year there were 677 accidental contacts with Ergon’s powerlines. 73 of these happened in the agricultural sector, with 23 attributed to the sugar industry.”

CONTROL LOAD TARIFF

proposed trial could provide a price solution for irrigators

Over the past 12 months, CANEGROWERS has devoted significant resources to securing more sustainable electricity prices for irrigators. So it was pleasing to see these continuing efforts acknowledged in the Australian Energy Regulator’s (AER) draft decision on Ergon’s Tariff Structure Statement.

The AER has now, “... encouraged Ergon to liaise with its irrigation customers on the issue and consider the potential for more discreet tariffs that target irrigators’ demands”.

CANEGROWERS will work closely with Ergon as it prepares its response to the AER draft decision.

We are also working with Ergon, the Department of Energy and Water Supply and Queensland Treasury to design a control load tariff trial.

In this trial the supply of electricity would be guaranteed for a minimum period, around of 18 hours per day, possibly longer depending on network constraints.

If successful, this tariff could be a possible solution to the unsustainable prices currently facing irrigators.

Further details will be shared as plans for the trial are developed.

LOOK UP AND LIVE - Don’t pay the ultimate price for electricity

As well as discussing important pricing issues, Ergon has provided some potentially life-saving information during a safety briefing to its Agricultural Energy Forum.

Ergon’s regional electricity distribution network covers 97% of Queensland and comprises over one million poles and 180,000 kilometers of powerlines.

So it’s not surprising that many of these poles and wires cross farms.

Glen Cook, Ergon’s Senior Advisor for Community Health and Safety, has a simple message for farmers and all

land holders, “When working near powerlines, look up and live”.

Last financial year there were 677 accidental contacts with Ergon’s powerlines. 73 of these happened in the agricultural sector, with 23 attributed to the sugar industry.

Unfortunately, that’s 31% of all accidental contacts in the rural sector.

You are probably well aware that the maximum extendable height of the extractor on a cane harvester could be as much as 7.5m (yours may differ).

But did you know that the lowest sag point of the powerlines crossing your farm could be just 5.5m?

CANEGROWERS wants farmers and farm workers to make it home safely to their loved ones at the end of each day.

We encourage you to be vigilant when working near powerlines, power poles and the stay wires that support these poles.

Please take all necessary precautions to avoid accidental contact and please look out for your fellow workers and the community.

Ergon is happy to offer safety advice to growers.

This advice is free and can be obtained by calling 137466 or emailing safetyadvice@ergon.com.au

Ergon will provide information in relation to:

- The voltage and height of lines
- Any control measures required to work safely in the vicinity of lines.

A couple of key tips to remember when working in close proximity to power lines:

- *Maintain the mandatory three (3) metre exclusion zone, and*
- *Have a safety observer or 'spotter' watching the operation of the machines.*

Not only is having a spotter a good idea, it is a mandatory requirement of Queensland's electrical safety regulations.

"Of the 677 incidents reported last financial year, not one occurred when a spotter was in place," Mr Cook said. "With a spotter the incidents simply do not occur."

Another great idea is to have any powerlines crossing your farm marked by Ergon.

Once marked, the position of the powerlines will be properly identified and highlighted, making life easier for machinery operators and spotters alike.

Ergon has also developed some functional safety stickers for all machinery (pictured below).

You can pick these up from your local CANEGROWERS office or order them online from Ergon.

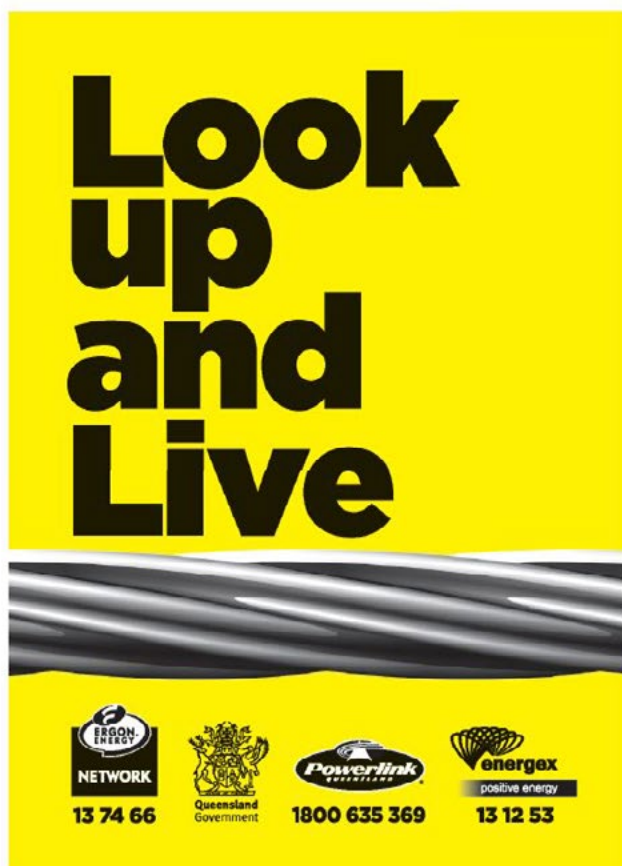
Use them on all your farm machinery, in particular cane harvesters and haul out vehicles.

Simply write the machinery's extended reach and also its stowed height for travelling on the stickers for your operator's easy reference.

The stickers also display Ergon's key "Look up and Live" message, the safety observer (spotter) area and the three metre exclusion zone. ■



Windscreen low tac sticker 100mm x 140mm



outside view looking through glass



inside view from inside vehicle



ON FARM AUDITS: WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

An on-farm audit for Smartcane BMP accreditation is an independent assessment of your records and other documents to confirm that these are consistent with industry best practice.

Until now, the local Smartcane BMP facilitators have been uploading examples of farm records for an auditor to assess via computer.

On-farm audits are more efficient, as the industry auditor can talk with the grower directly and clarify any questions on the spot.

The job of your local Smartcane BMP facilitator will not change – they will continue to guide and assist you to benchmark your practices and to gather and organise the records and documents needed to achieve accreditation.

When the facilitator thinks you are ready for an audit, they will complete a checklist to confirm you have everything required and send this to the Smartcane BMP program manager.

The program manager will organise a date for the audit that suits you, the facilitator and an industry Smartcane BMP auditor.

On the day, the facilitator and auditor will arrive together at the agreed time and sit down with you to talk about your farming system.

They'll go through a sample of your fertiliser, chemical and, where applicable, irrigation records.

This is followed by a drive to see parts of the farm and any relevant gear such as the fertiliser applicator and chemical storage.

When finished, the industry auditor will let you know if there are any issues that could affect your accreditation, but this will be a rare occurrence given that the facilitator has previously ensured your records and other evidence are in order.

The process will take about two hours for a non-irrigated farm and up to three hours for an irrigated farm.



The industry auditor will then type up a report which is emailed to the program manager who then communicates the result to you and the facilitator.

If there are any minor issues, such as Material Safety Data Sheets that are out of date, this can be remedied quickly and verified locally by the facilitator.

Industry auditors have a job to do in the accreditation process but are not there to judge or badger. They are simply an independent set of eyes and ears, observing your records and farm and hearing about how you farm.

Pictured: (above) Industry auditor Lana Shoesmith checks that Mackay grower Phil Deguara's paperwork is all in order during an on-farm audit. (Below) Phil explains various aspects of his farming practices as part of the audit process.



Faster, easier BMP accreditation audits

Farm visits by Smartcane BMP's team of industry auditors are streamlining the accreditation process for busy cane growers.

Mackay district growers John and Phil Deguara have three farming units, a Brightly home farm of 250 ha plus two lease farms totalling 45 ha and another share farm of 45 ha.

A visit by an industry auditor meant they could all be assessed for the program's three core modules on the same day.

"It was so much better than trying to collate a whole lot of documents, passing them to the facilitator and then having to go back and forth with questions," Phil said.

"It was much easier to just show the auditor what we are doing on farm.

"The properties are all farmed on the same principles, with controlled traffic, so anything the auditor wanted to see we could find the proof or more information right then and there."

Continues next page ►

Industry auditor Lana Shoesmith spent three hours on the Deguara's farms.

"We started in the office and went through our recording program on the computer for fertiliser and chemical use," Phil explained.

"It's easier to show someone how it works than try to print it off. You really have to see it working to know how it all fits in and works with our farming system.

"Then we went out and looked at the chemical shed and spray tractor, planting and harvesting equipment, basically everything and we went for a drive around the farm and looked at the different operations."

Phil is recommending the on farm audit process to other growers.

Both John and Phil are now accredited in Smartcane BMP's three core modules, adding their weight to the industry drive for productivity, profitability and sustainability.

For more information on Smartcane BMP visit www.smartcane.com.au



Autonomous tractor offers glimpse into farming's future

Growers could soon be working the fields from the comfort of their office chairs, with Case IH becoming the latest agricultural machinery manufacturer to unveil its programmable, driverless technology.

The futuristic concept vehicle, rolled out at a Farm Progress Show in the United States this month, offers a glimpse into the future of precision farming.

This crop tractor can run autonomously with a wide range of field implements.

"A farm manager can supervise the activities of multiple machines via a

mobile tablet interface while he tends to other tasks or even operates another vehicle," Case IH's Rob Zemenchik said.

"Multiple autonomous tractors can work as one fleet or simultaneously in multiple sub-fleets assigned to separate fields, each assigned with preprogrammed maps and prescriptions.

"You could have one tractor pulling a plow followed closely by another one operating a planter.

"The opportunities for efficiency are substantial," he said.

Bob knows overloading can make his quad bike unstable.



That's why he doesn't load more than the bike can handle.

Find more rider tips at qld.gov.au/rideready

Ride ready.



Authorised by the Queensland Government, George St, Brisbane.

Wilmar urged to share full OSA terms

Wilmar's recent public statements regarding their On-Supply Agreement (OSA) negotiations with QSL have led many growers to believe that Wilmar has offered QSL OSA terms for Marketing Choice on a traditional Free-In-Store basis (FIS). This is not the case.

By Greg Beashel
QSL CEO and Managing Director

Traditional FIS title arrangements are when, upon payment, the title of sugar is transferred to the purchaser free of any encumbrance or conditions, i.e. the buyer is free to do what they like with it.

However, the quasi-FIS terms Wilmar has proposed would have QSL pay in full and accept title for the growers' economic interest in sugar (GEI Sugar) when it arrives at the terminal, but would see Wilmar retain the control of that GEI sugar until it was exported.

While QSL would own the growers' GEI Sugar we would have no control over that sugar's management while it is in that terminal.

It's like buying a car but being told by the salesman when and where you can drive it.

This is just one of a number of aspects of Wilmar's current OSA proposal that is unacceptable to us and that has consequences for the growers who would use such a system to market with QSL, and as a result, assume the risks and costs associated with it.

If Wilmar is genuinely committed to negotiating an OSA, then we think the best way to progress things is for them to make their full OSA proposal – not just selective elements – available to growers so that they can make an informed decision regarding their Marketing Choice options.

Should Wilmar choose not to accept this request, we see no impediment to growers seeking to include the terms of the OSA in their Cane Supply Agreement (CSA) on the basis that the Marketing Choice provisions of the *Sugar Industry Act* do not prescribe the form of a CSA

or the OSA to be entered between the mill owner and the GEI marketer.

QSL'S POSITION – AN OVERVIEW

- *The current On-Supply Agreement (OSA) terms put forward by Wilmar are, in our view, commercially unreasonable and force unnecessary costs and risk onto growers who choose to access QSL's services under Marketing Choice.*
- *We currently cannot share the full details of our concerns publicly due to the confidentiality arrangements Wilmar requested we observe during the negotiation process.*
- *Wilmar's selective release of proposal elements does not provide a full and complete understanding of the proposal's implications for growers. For example, their quasi-Free-In-Store (FIS) title terms would have QSL pay in full and accept title for GEI Sugar when it arrived at the terminal, but would then see Wilmar still retain control of that sugar until it was exported.*
- *We reject Wilmar's contention that controlling sugar owned by QSL is necessary because QSL is the operator of the terminals – we have a long and successful track record of serving multiple marketers.*
- *In order to progress negotiations and provide substance to their recent claims to growers, we believe Wilmar should make the full terms of its current proposal available to growers so that they can seek certainty over the terms on which Wilmar will deal with GEI Sugar Marketers.*

QSL Market Report

By Shaun Tupou, Treasury Analyst
Current as of 5 September 2016

Sugar

WHAT HAPPENED?

Raw sugar futures continued to churn over familiar territory, trading over a well-worn 19.50 to 21 US cents/lb range throughout August. Recent activity appears to be driven by the large spec position (326,000 net long) while commercial entities remain on the sideline awaiting further fundamental news. The latest Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association (UNICA) report for the second half of August showed the sugar-to-ethanol production ratio and Total Recoverable Sugar (ATR) levels were higher, but with overall production forecasts largely unchanged there was little reaction in the market to the release.

GOING FORWARD...

While the Brazilian crush continues to produce the goods, the market's attention is being turned to the global raw sugar deficit. With Thailand and India less likely to assist in floating the expected deficit, China is best positioned to assist on a more significant scale. Whispers that the Chinese Government was going to release 1 million metric tonnes of sugar were quelled as it released 500,000 tonnes at the end of last week (prompting local sugar prices to rally). If China is to continue to release stocks, we believe it will be slow and calculated.

WHAT COULD CHANGE?

With China now releasing stocks we question estimates around the timing of a trade deficit. This will rely heavily on how much and how frequently China releases sugar. Watch this space.

Of course any further updates on Thai and Indian weather and crops will provide the market some new food for thought.



Currency

WHAT HAPPENED?

It was a resilient month for the Australian dollar, grasping at an RBA rate cut and mention of a possible rate hike in September by the US Federal Reserve. The RBA cut interest rates to 1.5% in their August meeting – offering little forward guidance and a dialled back assessment on Chinese growth. Meanwhile Fed speakers suggested that, "... the case for an increase in the federal funds rate has strengthened in recent months ...", also alluding to the fact that these comments are consistent with a possible rate hike in September.

GOING FORWARD...

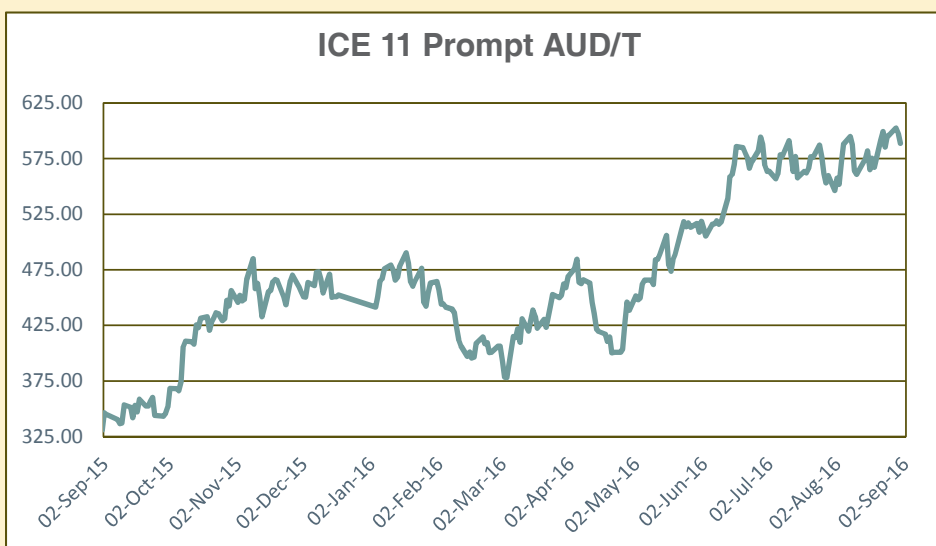
Looking ahead, we expect to see the AUD come under pressure, with US inflation and labour market improvements lifting near-term rate-rise pricing. The RBA meet on Tuesday with a particular focus on any commentary around further rate cuts going forward. Locally we also see trade balances and GDP as key events. A quiet week for US data alongside Chinese Consumer Price Index and Producer Price Index due out this week.

WHAT COULD CHANGE?

We maintain the view that there is still a lot that can change. Global commodities have turned a corner and are in recovery mode, with macro events to the end of the year supporting a lower AUD.

NOTE: This report contains information of a general or summary nature. 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 product or investment advice. 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.

ICE 11 Contract	Latest Settlement	Monthly Change	High	Low
Oct-2016	20.18	1.14	20.94	18.71
Mar-2017	20.77	1.32	21.37	20.00
May-2017	20.25	1.37	20.69	18.50
Jul-2017	19.73	1.35	20.05	18.05
Oct-2017	19.47	1.33	19.70	17.85
Mar-2018	19.34	1.31	19.49	17.79
May-2018	18.79	1.15	18.87	17.40
BRL/USD	3.2834	11.79%	3.2983	3.1141
Ethanol Parity	14.97			



	Settlement	Change	High	Low
AUD/USD	0.7582	-0.64%	0.7588	0.7581

CURRENT COST DRIVERS	PROMPT (Oct16) A\$/mt	2017 SEASON A\$/mt
Current Market	\$587	\$568
Sugar Fundamentals – Global (exc. Braz)		
Sugar Fundamentals – Brazil		
Macro Issues/Specs		
AUD/USD		

Source: Bloomberg

ISIS GROWERS EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY TO LOWER ELECTRICITY COSTS AND BOOST IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY

By John Flynn

As rising electricity tariffs continue to impact on the bottom line for irrigators, cane growers in the Isis milling district are taking steps to maximise the efficiency of their irrigation systems.

Bevan Manderson has successfully introduced a low pressure overhead centre pivot irrigation system to the steeply contoured terrain of his farm in the Red Hill Farms district near Gin Gin.



Isis is one of Queensland's driest cane growing districts, where about one metre of rain can be expected in a good year and farmers depend on water purchased from SunWater through the Bundaberg water supply scheme to irrigate their crops.

2015 was not a good year!

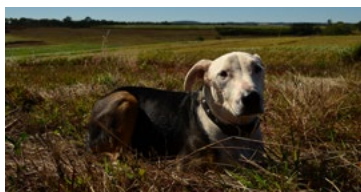
The impact on the crop was obvious as Bevan took the *Australian Canegrower* on a tour of the farm, where a new 330 metre-long Bauer centre pivot irrigator was in its first full season of operation.

"It's a fairly dramatic difference between where there's no water going on to where there is water going on," Bevan said.

"Hopefully over the coming years I'll be able to install something on those ends to pick up that tonnage and utilise those blocks a bit more without creating too much more work."

Making the shift from high pressure water winch irrigation to low pressure overhead irrigation has been a strategic exercise in water use efficiency.

Installation of a centre pivot irrigator has allowed Bevan to scale down to a smaller 22 kilowatt pump in the pumping shed.



Pictured: Bevan Manderson's \$200,000 investment in an overhead centre pivot irrigation system is proving a success with the irrigator moving effortless over his undulating property in Queensland's driest cane-growing district.





It's using significantly less electricity than the older and larger pump that serviced the water winch system to irrigate 80 acres (32 hectares) of cane beneath the pivot.

Funded with assistance from the Australian Government Reef Programme (formerly Reef Rescue) and with a price tag in the range of \$200,000, the centre pivot irrigator represents a substantial investment.

"That's what you're aiming for really, just to stop that runoff, stop your nutrients running away, stop your water running away and watering your crop at the same time. This thing does it."

It's an investment Bevan is confident will pay for itself, over time, in electricity savings and boosted tonnage, with the added tick of approval for environmental stewardship.

"Power-wise you get really good efficiency gains, but not only that, you get a lot gentler watering across the farm because you're not trying to put everything on with that inch and a half or inch and a quarter nozzle," Bevan said. "It's not all going in one place all the time, it's a more even water."

"You can follow the pivot and monitor that it's not giving you excess run-off, you can bring it down to virtually no runoff at all."

"That's what you're aiming for really, just to stop that runoff, stop your nutrients running away, stop your water running away and watering your crop at the same time. This thing does it."

By coincidence, the day of the visit was ideal for demonstrating the benefits of using low pressure overhead irrigation in windy conditions.

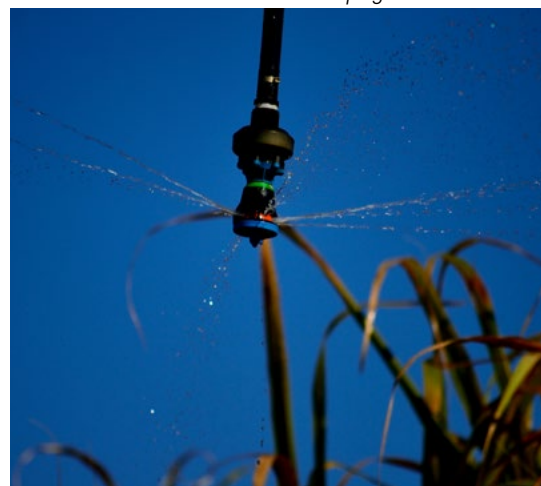
Despite competing with consistent wind gusts in the range of 30km/hour, the rotating emitters on the low pressure

overhead system produced minimal spray drift and maintained a uniform application of water on the crop.

It was a clear contrast to using water winches which are prone to spray drift and are labour intensive to operate.

"With the prevailing winds being south-east most of the time, the winds blow straight up and down the rows and in some years where it just blows and blows it was nearly impossible to water, you couldn't get anything done," Bevan said.

Continues page 18...





Watch our Virtual
Bus Tour to the
Manderson farm
[www.youtube.com/
canegrowers](http://www.youtube.com/canegrowers)

"So we started looking at whether we could put one of these in and eliminate that problem. After a fair bit of investigation we settled on the Bauer and went with that."

The change in irrigation systems brought with it some fresh challenges. The first and most obvious challenge was to determine if the overhead system could negotiate the contoured terrain of the district.

"It walks over this country like it's dead flat, there's really no problems with it."

Pictured: Isis Productivity Limited agronomist Andrew Jakins uses an ultrasonic water flow meter to monitor the irrigation system. (P19) Andrew discusses the system with Bevan Manderson and CANEGROWERS Isis manager Wayne Stanley.

Obstacles to negotiate included an old railway line and a steep hill at the far extremity from the pumping station.

"It walks over this country like it's dead flat, there's really no problems with it," Bevan said. "The only problems we've come up with has been variation in pressures and that's something we've had to work with.

"It hasn't been unsolvable, it's just a matter of trying things and testing and learning to work with it."

With a pressure gain of 30psi on the descent there was little need for pumping as the irrigator walked down the hill, given the emitters were essentially being gravity-fed.

However, on its uphill track, the pump speed needed to be ramped up to ensure consistent pressure at both ends of the irrigator.

The solution was a variable speed drive that would alter the speed of the pump motor, depending on the position of the pivot on the farm.

A pressure sensor also needed to be installed at the far end of the irrigator and a telemetry system linked to the

pumping shed so the pump speed could be increased automatically.

"The problem we had once we installed the variable speed was that there was nothing to tell it, tell the motor, where the pivot was. It didn't recognise it was down on the flat or up on the hill," Bevan said.

"It was a case of having to manually operate it, which wasn't in our best interest anyway so we got onto the local firm again and they came up with this telemetry system.

"It is basically an aerial and a pressure sensor. It sends the signal back to the pump station and it picks it up there and tells the motor what speed to run at."

ULTRASONIC FLOW METER TO BOOST WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Working closely with cane growers in the Isis district, CANEGROWERS Isis and Isis Productivity Limited are playing a key strategic role in the industry-wide drive for improved water use efficiency.

Part of that cooperation is an ultrasonic water flow meter purchased by Isis Productivity Limited using funds made available through the

Rural Water Use Efficiency – Irrigation Futures program.

Featuring technology more commonly found in a medical imaging centre, it uses an ultrasound system to measure the flow of water.

The meter works by clamping two transducers to an irrigation pipe. A gel is placed on the transducers which then pick up particulate flow in the water. By measuring the particulate flow in the water, it's possible to determine the actual rate of flow within the pipe.

Coupled with new pressure gauges that were also purchased with RWUE-IF funding, it's now possible to obtain accurate data on loss of flow and streamline irrigation systems to minimise pumping requirements and therefore energy use.

"The concept behind that is to see where losses occur in the system," agronomist **Andrew Jakins** explained.

"We can take this measurement, we can take pressures within the pump shed itself at varying points on the inlet and outlet side of the pump and see where any losses might be occurring in the system.

"Vice versa, once we get into the paddock we can look at pressure readings taken from the irrigation application equipment such as centre pivot and see what loss is occurring between the pump itself and the actual delivery method at the other end."

It's an example of the sugar industry working to make most efficient use of energy and water and in the process delivering strong environmental outcomes.

"The local sugar industry has come together and recognised that through the Water Use Efficiency program we can gain funding to buy apparatus to help the growers understand where they're losing efficiencies either through energy use or water use," outgoing CANEGROWERS Isis Manager **Wayne Stanley** said.

Making more efficient use of water is crucial from an economic perspective for growers whose margins have been cut by the rapidly rising cost of electricity.

In a place where growers depend on irrigation – and irrigation requires



energy – reducing input costs is now a matter of survival.

"The situation is that electricity prices have risen more than 100% in the past seven years and that's not tolerable for growers," Mr Stanley said.

"Rain usually provides 50% of the crop's water requirement but that can vary season to season depending on the climate and recently we've experienced very high irrigation costs because it was a dry year.

"So the situation is that we need to identify the efficiency gains that can be found and that's a situation that's going to be relieved probably by changing to low pressure water systems and smaller electric motors."

It's meant a busy time for the team at Isis Productivity Limited, visiting farms all over the Isis milling district to run tests on irrigation infrastructure using the ultrasonic flow meter to assist growers to streamline their irrigation systems.

This on farm story has been brought to you by the Queensland Government's RWUE Program



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Taking the class to the farm

A Year 10 class from St Mary's Catholic College in Cairns has investigated what makes a modern, productive sugarcane industry.

The students are studying food technology and as part of their course, they've visited the Meringa Sugar Research Australia site and the Behana farm of Michael and Jane Greenwood, the parents of their teacher Alison Frazer.

Student Rhiannon Casey-Cox wrote the following article for the Cairns Post newspaper:

At Mr Greenwood's farm we learned first-hand how sugarcane is grown with modern day machinery.

We now know the difference between trash blanket and plant cane, fallow and break crops.

It was interesting to see a very old tractor, which was once used to haul cane, sitting beside a new and improved John Deere with GPS systems,

We heard how farming practices have also changed so they are more environmentally sustainable and profitable.

We stopped by the beautiful Behana Creek and collected water samples, which would be tested on our return to school.

Our lunch was enjoyed by the creek, under the shade of 430 trees.

A second stop was made at Sugar Research Australia, Meringa,

A number of the staff generously gave of their time to explain how and why different varieties of cane are developed.

It was impressive to view the facilities used to pollinate the female flower with the male flower.

We also learned about ways scientific knowledge can help cane farmers reduce their impact on the environment.



THE SWEETER LIFE

and the role of sugar

By the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance Nutrition Team

There is a current strand of antipathy towards sugar in popular culture. An entire industry has sprung up pushing the notion that sugar is a dietary evil, responsible for a range of conditions from hyperactivity to cardiovascular disease.

But how responsible are these claims, why are they emerging after centuries of human consumption of sugars, and what do we know about the alternatives?

Free sugars - the sugars we add to food - have been a part of the human diet for centuries.

The precursor to granulated sugar derived from sugarcane was first processed in India in the fifth century.

Since then, claims about sugar have come and gone.

In the 1970s, the idea of children succumbing to a 'sugar rush' linked to ADHD gained traction.

This, and other hysterical claims about sugar over the decades have since been debunked.

The only arguments against sugar left standing are those that address questions of balance and excess.

The World Health Organisation guidelines acknowledge that, because

no reported evidence links the consumption of sugars found in whole fresh fruit and vegetables to adverse health effects, its recommendations do not pertain to the consumption of these foods.

What is often overlooked by the critics of plant-derived free sugars is that these products are chemically identical to the sugars in fruit and vegetables.

As with salt, fats and carbohydrates, it comes back to a matter of how much you consume and the overall 'health' of your diet.

A known quantity

Many well-known food writers talk about a holistic approach to food.

Know what you're consuming by preparing foods from scratch, eat a variety of foods from each of the five food groups and enjoy the occasional treat - goodness knows it's hard to resist a slice of grandmas' freshly baked cake!

The ongoing popularity of sugar substitutes confirms what we all know - the human palate is drawn to sweetness.

But if we don't use a regular table sugar to sweeten our food, what are we using instead?

Many of sugar's non-caloric replacements including both artificial sweeteners; aspartame and saccharin and natural sweeteners such as monk fruit and stevia, have attracted similar ire over the years.

Artificial sweeteners have been declared safe for consumption by government agencies however, as they have only been in circulation for a fraction of the time sugar has been around, there is naturally greater concern about their health risks and their potential to encourage poor dietary habits.

The sweet life

The place of sugar in moderation within a lifestyle that includes a healthy diet and regular exercise is hard to question.

Fixating on an individual ingredient of food such as sugar, when our modern diet is often kilojoule heavy and our lifestyles fairly sedentary, is overly simplistic.

As with most diet-related matters - common sense and moderation usually win out, no matter how unfashionable those ideas might seem in the current fad diet landscape.



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Mossman –Tully

Toft 6000 with Rotary Chop & Cat 3306DI Motor, good Billet machine. Mob. 0428 100 564

4m Agrator double drive Rotary Hoe, 200 x 100 x 9mm front tool bar, crumble roller, Good condition, needs some work. \$11,000 inc GST. Ph: 0428 561 197

Inter Row Cane Stripper MF Multi Power 178 2 double sided fans \$11,000. Ph: 40685168 after hours



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Mackay – Proserpine

12T SELF-PROPELLED 6x6 elev infielder VGC. 6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem GC. Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mason 9550 4-row precision vacuum seed planter GC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay)

Ford 8340 SLE 125hp 4wd g/c \$18,000. Ph: 0427 577 071

BUCKET (NEW) suit Backhoe or 5T Excavator: 650mm GP bucket, \$650 (including GST). Ph: 0419 700 761.

Valtra 6400 4WD tractor - 100HP, air-con cab, 2004 model, 3700 hours, good condition. \$30,000 (inc gst) ONO. Ph: 0418 710 958 / 4950 3048

John Deere 4730 self-propelled sprayer, hydraulic wheel adjustment, 100ft boom, chemical mixture tank, air compressor height adjustment, GPS ready. \$160,000 +gst. Ph: 0429 912 135

Toft 7500 Track Harvester - HBM Billet Planter - wide Elevator, double tipper bins on Trailer. Ph: 0438 654 784 or 0427 163 519

For Sale, Ripper Coulter \$2000.00 Phone 0447 006 371

185 CFM compressor valued at \$22,000 only done 1.8 hours. Kubota engine bargain priced at \$14,500. Ph 0407586815

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm)	
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	
	29.08.16	05.09.16	Year to date	Jan-Aug
Mossman	0	0	1442	1834
Mareeba AP	0.2	0.2	403	736
Cairns	0	2	1061	1689
Mt Sophia	0	27	1958	2800
Babinda	0	32	2844	3641
Innisfail	0.2	23	2688	3052
Tully	0	2	2943	3548
Cardwell	0	5	1726	1754
Lucinda	1	1	1794	1790
Ingham	10	5	1659	1671
Abergowrie	0	2	1117	1522
Townsville	16	0.8	928	908
Ayr DPI	6	1	505	752
Proserpine	1	11	1236	1098
Mirani	4	1	1209	1211
Mackay	7	6	1399	1256
Sarina (Plane Ck)	12	1	1584	1368
Bundaberg	4	10	706	722
Childers South	6	17	696	618
Maryborough	6	19	691	865
Tewantin	1	15	912	1334
Eumundi	0	14	843	1288
Nambour	5	12	854	1270
Woongoolba	36	0	429	1006
Murwillumbah	100	1	1208	1196
Ballina	53	5	1088	1411
Woodburn	74	4	691	1088



AustSafe Super



The industry super fund for rural and regional Australia.

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

Classifieds

Aluminum Flood Gates 40mm are available for sale. SX Coupler 5" x 4" to connect traveling irrigation Ph: 0408 776 914

2010 Full Track JD Cane Harvester. Fully maintained, working now. All walking gear NEW this year. Elevator floors & chains NEW as of start of season. 10 blade choppers. Open butt lifter roller. 2 foot extension on elevator. Rear mounted camera. \$250,000 (including GST) M: 0418 798 955

Toft 4000 rubber rollers 2100 engine hours good condition \$10000+gst. Ph 0427 010 082

4 ton side tipper with paddle roller used for planting \$3000+gst. Ph 0427 010 082

6 Lengths of class 6 PVC Pipes, 6 metres long, 200ml diameter with rubbers \$150 each or \$700 for the lot. Phone 0419705530

Bundaberg - Rocky Point

DROP-DECK, tautliner and flat top extendable for hire. 07 4159 8174 or 0417 004 717.

Michelin Agribab radial tyres on rims to suit Massey Ferguson. Rear 18.4/34, 90% tread. Front 14.9/24 on rims, 90% tread. \$3500 inc gst. Ph: 0407 699 779

Bonel trash incorporator fertiliser box, plastic bin, stainless steel worms, VGC. Ph: 0417 617 084

3ptl stickrake, 1 inch tynes preferred ph 0419 665 001

Wanted

TRACTOR TYRES of all sizes. 0418 775 698 all hours.

Bean Planter in good condition. Ph: 0428 188 836

Positions Vacant

OAKENDEN - Contractor wanted to harvest and plant small cane farm. Flat farm, close cart. 07 4958 5224 or 0428 575 787.

Work Wanted

MACKAY / WHITSUNDAYS REGION - Seeking haulout work, willing to travel. Own reliable transport. forklift experience, HR licence, UD licence. Past cane haulout experience. Reliable, hard working and honest. Please phone 0415 864 848 or email legendarydaddy86@gmail.com.

BURDEKIN REGION - Experienced farmhand seeking full-time work or haulout job. Keen, honest and reliable hard worker with HR license, forklift license, white card and chemical accreditation. Ph: 0417 682 797 or email John.jgreco127@yahoo.com.au

Property

INGHAM: Cane Farm for sale Hawkins creek area. Total area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6ha. Shed, Electricity & water. Genuine enquiries Ph. 0407 635 175.

OAKENDEN: Cane farm or sale. Irrigated, flat, no rocks, good soil, close siding for carting, close to town. Call 07 4958 5224 or 0428 575 787.

MACKAY: 1750 Acres, seven lots, Coastal flat freehold property. South of Mackay supplying Mackay Sugar. High rainfall area and endless potential for diversification. House and garage, equipped irrigation system, shed, machinery and equipment. Ph: 0407 157 792

MACKAY: 422 hectares, cattle and cane. Huge supply of water, absolutely drought-proof property, 120 mega-litre water license, right on the coast. Ph: 0407 157 792

HERBERT RIVER: Cane farm 60.73ha with machinery and 4 bedroom dwelling at 194 Lannercost Ext Rd, Ingham Ph. 40454321

WALKERSTON AREA: Cane farm for sale, fully irrigated, 42.5ha cane 3.6ha grazing Ph: 0418 185 663

Wanted: Cane Farm to Lease, prefer Plain Creek area. Ph: 0428 880 771



Spotted anything unusual?

NOTHING WILL PROTECT YOUR CROP BETTER THAN A GOOD HARD LOOK

Growers have an important role in keeping watch for exotic pests, diseases and weeds that could devastate the Australian sugarcane industry.

Early detection and reporting is the key to protecting farms, industries and the communities that rely on them. Every moment lost harms our chance of successful eradication.

If you spot anything unusual in your crop please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. The call is free (except from mobiles).

Visit phau.com.au/industries/sugarcane for further information and a list of the top priority cane pests.



Look, be alert, call an expert

HARVESTING SUPERVISOR - MARYBOROUGH FARMS

About MSF Sugar:

MSF Sugar is Australia's largest sugarcane farmer, second largest raw sugar exporter & the third largest miller. MSF Sugar has a 124-year heritage in Australia & our vision is to support the sugar industry of today & create the sustainable sugar industry of tomorrow through innovative & efficient cane farming methods, competitive sugar marketing & smart use of our resources to create new products & bio-energy.

Applications are invited for the position of Harvesting Supervisor - Maryborough Farms. The person will be a key member of the Agriculture team & will develop & lead harvesting operations to maximise crop value by implementing harvest best management practices & developing a high capacity team. This will include recruitment, training, capital & operational budgeting & financial management, continuous improvement in safety & efficiencies. The position is a full time salaried position based in Maryborough.

The successful applicant should have:

- Experience (5 years preferred) in staff organisation, development and supervision
- Strong ability to build relationships & networks for management & maintenance of harvesting operations
- Knowledge and experience in implementation and use of Safety Procedures & Systems
- Ability to operate within an IT based management and communications environment
- 'HR' class license (essential)

For further information or a copy of the position description, call:

**Tony Coutts-Smith on 0418 795 519 or email
msfagcareers@msfsugar.com.au**

To submit applications:

Email: msfagcareers@msfsugar.com.au

Applications close Friday 23rd September 2016

MSF Sugar which is Australia's third largest raw sugar producer, owns and operates four sugar mills and farms in excess of 11,000 hectares.

www.msfsugar.com.au

