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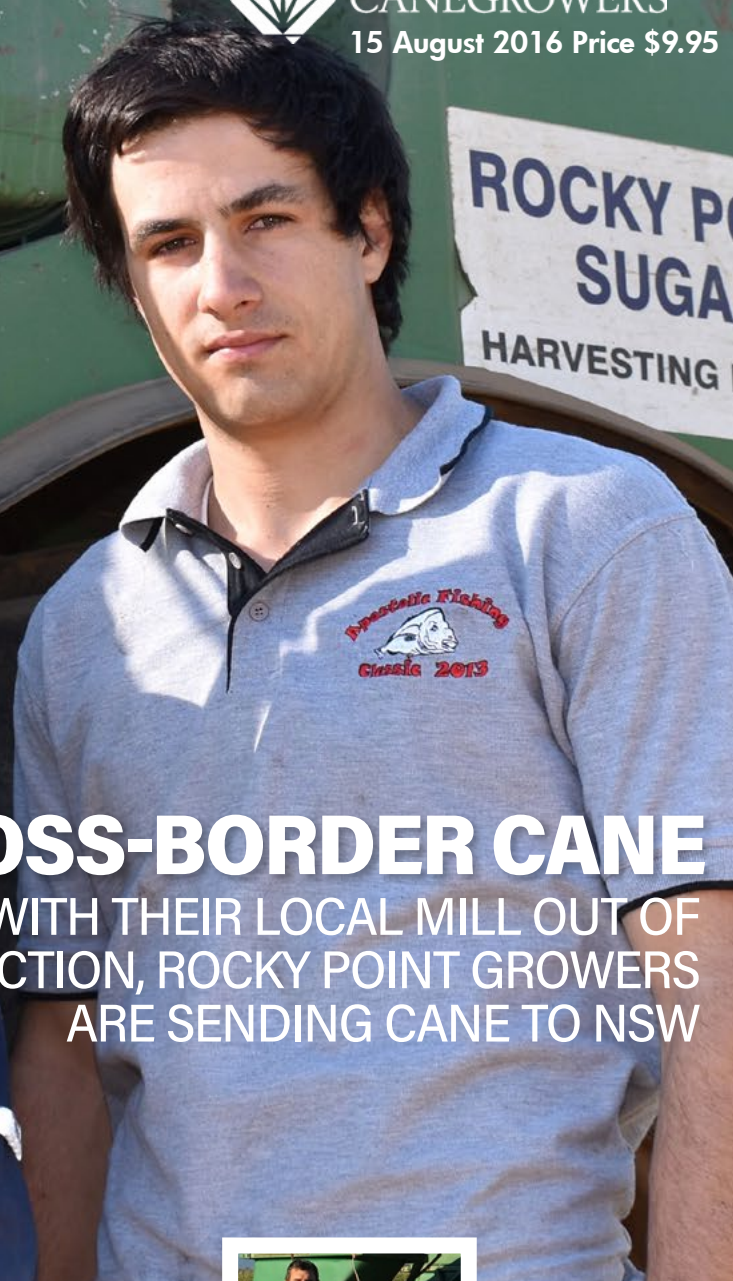
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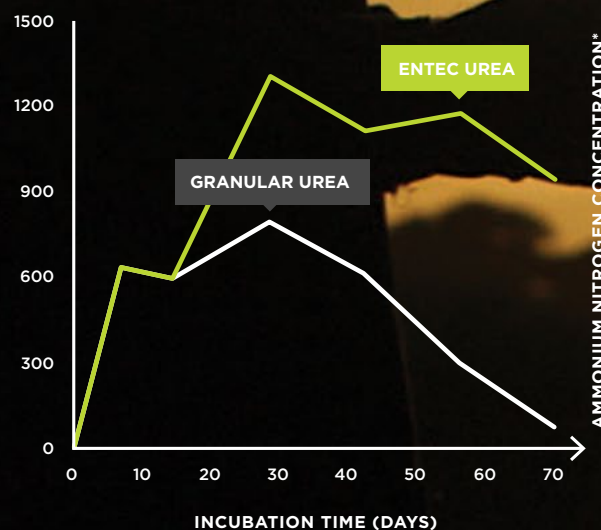
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This experiment was conducted with urea in a moist acidic chromosol (Pin Gin) soil at 25 °C (pHw 4.5) (60% water filled pore space). Source: Suter et al. (2008)
*Unit of Measure is micrograms (µg NH₄⁺ N/g soil)

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Time to stop the posturing and make real choice work

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

“Success is based on a true partnership between millers and growers.”

As the days and months pass, the level of angst among growers particularly in the Wilmar mill areas continues to rise, as their much needed Cane Supply Contracts for 2017 and beyond are not yet in place.

Aside from growers' concerns that without these contracts their future is unclear, the opportunity to benefit from the current high price environment is being constrained.

I want to respond to Wilmar's public complaint that the *Real Choice in Marketing* legislation was not of their making but was forced upon them. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact is Wilmar created this situation largely by its own hand.

Without reference to growers in April 2014, Wilmar decided to exit QSL putting at risk a marketing system that for decades had provided a sound platform for growers to invest strongly in the industry.

Success is based on a true partnership between millers and growers. Wilmar claims it has a partnership with its growers, yet in a true partnership it would have considered the interests of its partners – the growers. Rather, it pursued its marketing manifesto based on its own corporate self-interest.

In addition, grower representatives, in a last ditch effort to avoid legislation, offered a marketing deal that would have given Wilmar and other marketing companies most of what they were seeking. Wilmar, the Australian Sugar Milling Council and other milling companies rejected the offer.

It has been our observation that in every negotiation Wilmar has been absolute in demanding its way with marketing. This seems to be their corporate strategy.

We reject absolutely the notion that the legislation is unworkable. Wilmar has chosen to make its proposed marketing structures unnecessarily complex. Others have found more straightforward means of providing grower choice.

Great credit must be given to MSF Sugar which, despite its displeasure with the legislation, is now on the cusp of finalising contracts. Attitude is everything and MSF has chosen to act in the spirit of conciliation. MSF has shown the right attitude.

Whatever strategy Wilmar is attempting to run out, it is clearly not working with growers. I have never seen growers and grower collectives so united in ensuring they receive fair marketing terms.

On another front, the Federal Government's Productivity Commission Report into aspects of Australian agriculture makes for some interesting reading.

Amongst other things, the Productivity Commission asserts that the *Real Choice in Marketing* legislation should be scrapped as it claims it has inhibited investment, prevented structural reform and that farm scale in Australia is low by international standards.

It beggars belief that any independent review of the legislation could arrive at such conclusions.

Had the Productivity Commission been doing its job, it would have found that the deregulation of the Queensland sugar industry had resulted in growers losing investment confidence, growers losing market power, growers not participating in value adding and large monopolies stripping growers of long held marketing rights.

The *Real Choice in Marketing* legislation has actually created the proper environment for competition in marketing services and actually allowed growers to properly participate in a deregulated industry.

The ultimate insult is to assert that little structural reform was occurring in the Queensland sugar industry. That borders on the absurd.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

LOCALS APPOINTED TO WATER ROLES

Chair positions for the local management of eight rural channel irrigation schemes in Queensland have been filled.

Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply **Mark Bailey** said local management was designed to use local knowledge and know how to reduce costs, increase productivity of the irrigation schemes, and add value to the agricultural sector.

"The people who know the most about their water supply are locals," Mr Bailey said. "These changes will empower local communities and encourage the growth of Queensland's agricultural industry."

The 2016-17 state budget committed a further \$6.9 million to provide total funding of \$8.9 million for Stage 3 of the Local Management Arrangements Project.

"This stage involves agreeing to final terms for transitioning ownership and control of the Theodore, St George, Eton and Emerald schemes to local management and control," Mr Bailey said.

"Locals from the Burdekin-Haughton, Mareeba and Lower Mary schemes are also carrying out further investigation and are preparing revised business

proposals on how those schemes could operate under local management."

The appointments are:

- **Annette Smith:** Emerald
- **Geoff Kavanagh:** Eton
- **Luke Stower:** St George
- **Elizabeth Alexander:** Theodore
- **Maurice Maughan:** Bundaberg
- **Mario Barbagallo:** Burdekin-Haughton
- **Joe Moro:** Mareeba-Dimbulah
- **Geoff Wormwell:** Lower Mary

The appointments of the remaining board members are currently being finalised.

Mr Bailey said the Local Management Arrangements Project empowers local communities by allowing local growers to control key water infrastructure.

"This is a unique opportunity for the schemes that transition to local management to be owned and operated by their users, ensuring long-term productivity and contribution to our regional economies," Mr Bailey said.



CHINA PRODUCTION SLOWS

The sugar industry in China is struggling due to high production costs, the elimination of government support prices and import competition.

An assessment by the United States Department of Agriculture found most sugar mills are operating at a loss and some mills are closing while many sugarcane farmers are turning to other more profitable crops – particularly in Yunnan, Guangdong and Hainan provinces where provincial floor prices have been cancelled.

The report says the industry in China has had four consecutive years of operating losses and production has fallen 2.15 million metric tonnes (MMT) in the past year.

Consumption is forecast to expand by 1.7 7% to 17.8 MMT in 2016-17. Official and unofficial (smuggling) sugar imports are forecast to reach 7.9 MMT in 2016-17. In 2015-16 China imported 134,967 tonnes of sugar from Australia.

PRISONERS HARVEST CANE

In Fiji, prisoners are being used to harvest sugarcane in the country's west.

The Fiji Rimes reports the inmates were deployed after farmers voiced concerns about a shortage of cane cutters during public consultations with government over proposed legislative changes.

The industry has estimated it has suffered more than \$70million in losses as a result of Cyclone Winston in March.

CHILD LABOUR DROPS

The WorldVision Development Foundation has reported an 86% drop in child labour on sugarcane plantations in the Philippines.

The organisation had run a five year project of interventions to help communities and especially parents find other sources of income (such as livestock raising) and a catch-up education program using volunteer teachers.

The Cebu Daily News has reported that an estimated 54,479 children stopped working as farm labourers after the aid group's effort in sugarcane areas.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Queensland Government says its latest data shows tree clearing is continuing in environmentally-sensitive catchment areas of the Great Barrier Reef at disturbingly high levels.

The 2014-2015 *Statewide Land Cover and Tree Study* (SLATS) shows the rate of clearing in the catchments had increased by 46% since 2011-2012 and totalled 108,000 hectares.

Environment Minister **Steven Miles** said the high level of land clearing threatened the Reef.

"This vegetation is vital in reef catchments because it holds riverbanks together, meaning sediment isn't flushed onto the Reef," Dr Miles said.

"Sediment making its way to the reef, settles on the coral and suffocates it."

The Government has proposed changes vegetation management laws which at the time of publication were being opposed by the LNP Opposition with the crucial independent MPs yet to indicate how they would vote.

AgForce has held rallies in Townsville and Brisbane against the amendments.

It has accused the Government of selectively using statistics in the SLATS report saying only 0.2% of the woody vegetation cover is being cleared annually in Queensland.

The reality is that everyone, including farmers, graziers, developers, all levels of government, the resources sector, traditional owners, tourism operators and members of the community must be part of the solution to protect and preserve the Great Barrier Reef now and into the future.

General President **Grant Maudsley** said the Government had ignored the fact

that its data has shown an increase in Queensland's wooded vegetation cover of more than 400,000 hectares in recent years.

"The agriculture sector is doing its bit to improve water quality through the roll-out of Best Management Practice programs which help farmers benchmark their business against the best industry standards using the best available science," he said.

"The reality is that everyone, including farmers, graziers, developers, all levels of government, the resources sector, traditional owners, tourism operators and members of the community must be part of the solution to protect and preserve the Great Barrier Reef now and into the future."

To read more on this issues, read the CANEGROWERS Environment Manager Matt Kealley's Spotlight column on page 10.



Road access rules set to change

From 1 September 2016, the requirements for access to public roads for wide, class 1, agricultural vehicles and combinations are expected change.

Growers need to be aware that the changes will come in the form of two gazetted notices

Firstly, a notice for the Zone 1 area north of Granite Creek (Rockhampton) is expected to effectively allow access to major and minor (council) roads for agricultural vehicles up to 5.0m wide.

Secondly, the current trial notice is expected to become a permanent notice. This allows access to critical roads (including the Bruce Highway) for agricultural vehicles of 3.5m to 4.0m

Industry guidelines are being drawn up as a pre-requisite and the exact conditions of these notices will be communicated to growers as soon as they are available.

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

By CANEGROWERS district offices

Mossman

To Week 8 Mossman Mill has crushed a total of 219,266 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 10.68 CCS. Mossman growers have supplied 158,514 tonnes of cane for an average of 9.99 CCS and Mareeba growers have supplied 60,752 tonnes of cane for an average of 12.50 CCS.

The weather conditions so far this year have really suppressed the Mossman CCS. Rain in Week 7 saw the mill shut down for the week.

The Mossman Show Cane Display was well supported this year, well done to all growers who contributed, with a special mention and congratulations to Royce Scmazzon for winning Champion Exhibitor and Most Successful Exhibitor.

Tully

The sun was shining for the Tully Show held on the last weekend in July. The cane exhibit was awesome this year given that field conditions were not favourable for getting cane stools for the exhibit. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all those who made the effort to represent our industry.

Harvesting and crushing continued over the show day for the first time in many years, a reaction to the large crop and lost time in the season.

Harvest and crushing rates are increasing as the ground dries out, but there is a long way to go. With the warm conditions the crop is still growing and is currently in the order of three million tonnes. CCS has been affected by the weather and is about one unit below last year, although there are now some signs that it is on the rise.

The community is hoping for success of locals Madeline Cowe, a finalist in the Miss World competition, and Ashleigh Southern, at the Rio Olympics. We're also hoping for a long spell of dry conditions.

Innisfail

Rainfall across the district has continued to cause interruptions to the harvest. Mill operations have been affected but the crush rate has been excellent when the mill has had cane to crush. On 4 August, South Johnstone Mill recorded its second highest daily throughput of 13,731 tonnes, the highest since 2015.

Growers are making a huge effort to plant as much as possible despite the impact of the wet weather.

Negotiations for the 2017 Cane Supply Agreement have been completed and a special sign-off day has been organised for Wednesday 24 August. This will enable growers to sign-off on all documents required to participate in grower choice arrangements. Whether they can actually participate or not will depend on approval by the BIM Group of the negotiated MSF Sugar/QSL On Supply Agreement.

Burdekin

Harvesting and crushing operations resumed in the Burdekin with all four mills crushing again by Monday, 1 August. Inkerman and Invicta experienced some restart challenges, but all mills have since settled well under clear skies after more than two weeks of weather-induced delay.

Ground conditions were still very wet early in the week are improving quickly with the sunny, windy weather.

As Wilmar's Burdekin production figures for the first week back had not been released at time of writing, an estimation based on daily loading

advice indicates that the first week of resumed operations may have resulted in a throughput of approximately 340,000 tonnes harvested and crushed.

As at 8am Friday, 5 August the mills had crushed a combined total of almost 1.4 million tonnes of cane for the season, which equates to about 17% of the crop estimate.

CCS levels when compared to last year are depressed as a result of the wet weather but are increasing steadily and the season average is now about 12.4 CCS.

Herbert River

Generally favourable weather has enabled the mills to be fully supplied since Sunday 31 July although harvesters are being challenged to find dry soils. Mill reliability is an ongoing issue.

Showers during the annual Australian Italian Festival didn't dampen spirits but threw some further challenges to harvest and transport logistics.

Overall everyone is working well together to get on with the harvest. Planting preparations are resuming as field conditions allow.

Daily CCS is edging upwards but

remains well behind where the Herbert needs to be to achieve the five yearly average for its relative payment pools.

The low CCS is prompting a review of estimated seasonal average CCS for relative payment purposes that will be implemented with the delivery advance increase timed for 18 August.

Negotiations on terms for a Cane Supply Agreement to implement Grower Choice are poised to tackle the differing terms of the parties after higher level discussions between the CANEGROWERS C4 Alliance and Wilmar on 3 August.

Mackay

The three Mackay mills resumed crushing after the previous week's wet weather to crush 96,445 tonnes for the week with a PRS of 12.19. Marian Mill commenced on one train on Wednesday before moving to two trains.

Farleigh and Racecourse mills commenced crushing on Thursday, and a staggered start was necessary as fields became accessible after the wet weather.

To date the mills have crushed 916,285 tonnes at an average PRS of 11.77 for the 2016 season. The crop estimate today remains 5,400,000 tonnes, however a reforecast is currently in progress.

Isis

As of the 4 August Isis Mill had processed 301,614 tonnes for the season. With Week 6 at 54,014 tonnes by the 4 August, we expect 64,000 tonnes to be processed by the close of the week. Week 5 achieved 67,925 tonnes as drying conditions assisted harvest rotation to regain momentum but unfortunately further time was lost with the mid-week rain of Week 6.

Week 6 CCS of 13.22 brings the Isis seasonal average up to 13.03, improving on the Week 5 mill average of 12.99. The highest individual CCS for Week 5 was 15.18 achieved by a South Kolan grower who supplied KQ228 second ratoon.

CANEGROWERS Isis presented a display of historical ploughing equipment, books

Growers are aiming to maintain a workable set of arrangements for the preferred marketing entity, QSL, whereas it seems Wilmar is intent on controlling the growers' share of the sugar until it is loaded aboard ships for its final journey to QSL's customers. Wilmar appears to be the only mill owner holding out for such control.

Growers are maintaining solidarity in support of this critical structural issue for their long term interest after unanimously rejecting Wilmar's draft agreements at a series of report back meetings on 25 and 26 July.

Crush statistics: Farleigh: 32,092 tonnes, Marian: 31,566 tonnes and Racecourse: 32,787 tonnes.

Plane Creek

No cane was crushed at Plane Creek Mill again last week. Paddocks continued to dry after the considerable rainfall received in mid-July.

Crush Statistics to date:

Cane Crushed 172,460 tonnes

Average bin weight 3.84

CCS 12.09

and photographs at the Childers Cultural centre over the 30-31 July as part of the Childers Festival. The display was well attended with many guests commenting on how impressed they were by John Kerr's *Only Room For One: A history of sugar in the Isis district* publication.

On 3 August Reef Trust III cane, horticultural and natural resource groups met to commence planning primary frameworks to deliver program activities through to 2019. With many changes to the previous programs there is much work required to achieve overall objectives. As we get closer to contracting we will keep our growers informed as to how the new program will be delivered.

New Manager

CANEGROWERS Isis has appointed Donna Sheehy as its new office manager. Donna commenced duties on 1 August, taking over from Wayne Stanley who is retiring after 46 years in the industry.



Bundaberg

The Bundaberg Sugar mills achieved the best throughput of the season processing 88,302 tonnes of cane during Week 7. Millaquin mill crushed 52,399 tonnes with an average CCS of 13.63 units and Bingera crushed 35,903 tonnes with an average CCS of 13.05 units.

High yielding KQ228A continues to perform very well accounting for 33% of supply, averaging 13.64 units. This is the highest average CCS in a variety for the week and the highest CCS at 16.10 units for a block of plant cane in the Bingera area.

Other major varieties are Q240A (20% supply) at 13.40 units and Q208A (16% supply) at 13.21 units.

Growers have commenced preparing selected blocks for spring planting. Excellent ground moisture and healthy planting material should produce good germination.

Maryborough

As at 8 August, MSF has crushed 170,704 tonnes at CCS of 12.88. Last week the mill crushed 43,053.76 tonnes at CCS of 13.10. Major varieties performed as follows : Q208 (49%) 13.24, Q232 (9%) 12.82, Q238 (6.5%) 12.82, Q240 (15%) 13.15 and Q242 (6.5%) 13.13.

Estimate is holding at approx. 770,000 tonnes. Growers are busy with land preparation for planting with some already underway.

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Smartcane BMP: facilitators work on improving the accreditation process for growers

Smartcane BMP facilitators from the north and central Queensland regions had much to talk about when they met in Townsville earlier this month.

With 123 farms now accredited in the industry program for profitability, productivity and sustainability, and many more working towards that goal, the facilitators shared their experiences, successes and frustrations, while also working on improvements to the accreditation process.

"It was a very productive meeting and everyone headed home with increased optimism and enthusiasm," Smartcane BMP project manager Mick Quirk said.

Pictured: Terry Granshaw (Burdekin), Deb Telford (Innisfail), Rebecca Stone (Mossman), John Barbetti (Tableland), Nick Stipis (Tully), John Turner (MAPS), Maria Battoraro (Herbert River), Sandra Henrich (Cairns), John Eden (Mackay).

Haven't yet contacted your local facilitator to start the benchmarking process? Head to the Smartcane website today: www.smartcane.com.au



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Matt Kealley

CANEGROWERS Manager -
Environment

“Certainty around a sensible and sustainable vegetation management framework is required so that farmers can manage their properties and businesses effectively.”

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The log jam continues

The Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 is expected to be reintroduced into parliament this month.

The debate on this Bill has been very public and at times highly politicised since it was introduced to parliament on 17 March 2016.

In summary, the Bill intends to protect the health of the Great Barrier Reef and reduce carbon emissions by:

- Reinstating the protection of high-value regrowth on freehold and Indigenous land;
- Removing provisions permitting clearing for high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture;
- Broadening protection of regrowth vegetation in watercourse areas (category R) to cover all Great Barrier Reef catchments;
- Reinstating compliance provisions.

This Bill was referred to the Agricultural and Environment Committee of the Queensland Parliament but members were unable to agree on a way forward. Instead, the Committee made five recommendations and presented these back to the State Government.

This has led to further discussion on the Bill and uncertainty around how vegetation management laws will affect the day to day operations of agricultural businesses.

AgForce has been particularly vocal and has organised protest rallies including a march on Parliament House on 4 August to coincide with the opening of the Queensland Exhibition.

SLATS

On 7 August, the Deputy Premier Jackie Trad released the 2014-2015 *Statewide Land Cover and Tree Study* (SLATS) which indicates the rate of clearing in the Great Barrier Reef catchments had increased by 46% since 2011-2012. 108,000 hectares were cleared in Reef catchment areas in 2014-15, which represents over a third of the vegetation cleared statewide.

The 2014-2015 SLATS report found:

- The total statewide woody vegetation clearing rate was 296,000* ha/year compared to 153,638 in 2011-12,

- The clearing rate of Great Barrier Reef (GBR) catchments was 108,000 ha/year, increasing by 46% since 2011-12,
- The clearing of highest conservation value vegetation (remnant) was 114,000 ha/year, compared to 34,590 in 2011-12,
- Only 29% of the mapped woody vegetation clearing had previously been cleared one or more times since 1988, and
- 91% of cleared woody vegetation was replaced by pasture with the remaining 9% replaced by crop, forestry, mining, infrastructure and settlements.

The release of the SLATS report and the focus on the Great Barrier Reef has created further tension between agriculture and the government, particularly between AgForce and the Queensland Government.

NEXT STEPS FOR BILL

The CANEGROWERS position on vegetation management hasn't changed. The Bill should be rejected in its current form. Certainty around a sensible and sustainable vegetation management framework is required so that farmers can manage their properties and businesses effectively.

It appears at this stage that the State Government is unwilling to amend its proposal despite the views from agriculture. CANEGROWERS believes the Bill will be debated when parliament resumes on 16 August.

However, the future of the Bill will be determined by the cross-bench. The successful passage of the Bill in its current form would require support from MPs Billy Gordon, Robbie Katter, Rob Pyne and Peter Wellington.

CANEGROWERS is of the view that the current framework forms a solid foundation for cane growing and agricultural production in Queensland. Further, CANEGROWERS believes it has the ability to strike the right balance between proactive management of vegetation and protection. Constructive discussion can resolve this.

Web tool for fertiliser use avoids money down the drain

A new online tool called SafeGauge aims to help sugarcane growers plan and manage fertiliser applications to stop the nutrients and their money being wasted by washing off-site.

Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef Dr **Steven Miles** said stopping fertiliser getting into waterways is good for productivity and good for the environment.

"The tool can also assist those growers participating in the industry-led Smartcane Best Management Practice program," he said.

SafeGauge was developed by the Reef Water Quality program in the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP), the Department of Science, Information

Technology and Innovation (DSITI) and the National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture at the University of Southern Queensland.

DSITI Principal Scientist **Phil Moody** features in a YouTube clip introducing SafeGauge <http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/tools-farmers/#tools>

"SafeGauge uses information about the soil type, rainfall patterns and other climate factors for the area to determine the risk of fertiliser loss based on those factors," Dr Moody said.

"Cane farmers can use a nutrient calculator, like NutriCalc, to work out the right amount of fertiliser to apply to meet the crops needs, then use SafeGauge to help work out which fertiliser product to use and when to apply it to reduce losses.

"The user sees the result presented like a car speedometer – it estimates whether the farmer is facing a low, medium or high risk of loss based on the time of year, and helps them understand

how effectively the fertiliser might do its job to nourish the crop," he said.

Sugar Research Australia's Executive Manager, Technology, Dr **Peter Allsopp**, said SafeGauge was a great complementary option accessible through its nutrient rate calculator, NutriCalc.

"SafeGauge was successfully field-tested late last year," he said. "SRA is currently showcasing the product in cane-growing areas alongside NutriCalc and the industry-endorsed Six Easy Steps method of nutrient management.

"Farmers want the fertiliser to get into the plants where it can do the best for productivity and can't escape through gaseous losses to the atmosphere, leached into the groundwater, or washed away in runoff."

The 2013 Scientific Consensus Statement reported that a significant proportion of the total dissolved inorganic nitrogen load reaching the Great Barrier Reef lagoon from human activity was from fertiliser applications in sugarcane growing areas.



BMP TRAINING COURSES

irrigation essentials in the southern region

By Andres Jaramillo, Adoption Officer, Brandon

Southern region growers and advisors were recently given the chance to brush up on irrigation knowledge through the Smartcane BMP program with SRA's adoption officer (irrigation) **Andres Jaramillo** and irrigation consultant **Steve Attard**.

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) is continuing its support for the Smartcane BMP program with visits to Maryborough and Childers between the 19-22 July.

SRA delivered a similar course in the Burdekin in April 2016, and both were well attended with plenty of positive feedback.

The organisers met with industry advisors prior to the delivery of the growers' events to make sure that the local issues were discussed during the courses.

Input from regional BMP facilitators, and staff from the Productivity Services is always sought to ensure the content is relevant for each sub-region.

Over 52 people attended both sessions. Representatives from MSF Sugar, Netafim, ISIS Sugar, DNRM, Bundy Sugar, and Isis Productivity Limited were among the participants, which included greater than 40 growers.



These events are designed to help growers and irrigation managers to develop skills and understanding of the fundamentals of soil-water-plant relationships in order to be better able to undertake best management practices on their farms.

The course covers topics on irrigated soils, sugarcane water requirements,

irrigation monitoring and scheduling, and energy savings.

Courses will be next offered in the Central and Tablelands regions between August and February 2017.

For more information contact Andres Jaramillo on (07) 4783 8612.

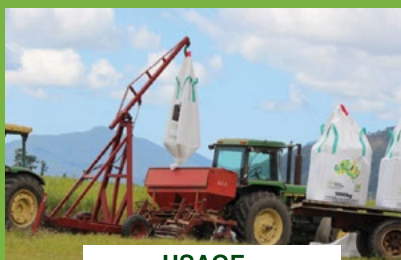


...helping our industries and farmers reduce and recycle agriculture waste in an efficient, environmentally friendly manner.

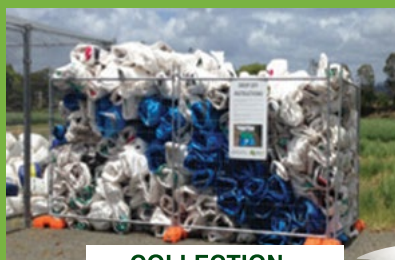
www.farmwasterecovery.com

Farm Waste Recovery facilitates the collection and processing of plastic waste from industries across the agriculture sector, in regional and remote Australia.

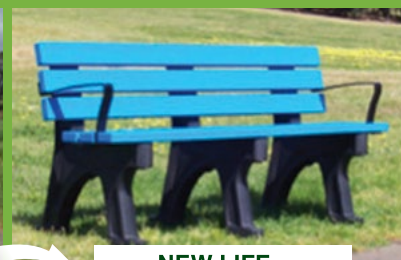
THE PROCESS



USAGE



COLLECTION



NEW LIFE

Irrigation efficiencies on show at MSF open day

A subsurface drip and centre pivot irrigation setup on an MSF Sugar farm near Mareeba is contributing to increased water use and operational efficiencies.

Growers, suppliers and agricultural science students were shown the benefits of irrigation technology during a recent open day hosted by MSF Sugar, Netafim and Lindsay International.

MSF Sugar has returned a former failed Diesel Tree farm at Tabacum to profitable cane land and is using subsurface drip and centre pivot irrigation to drive agronomic advantages on the property.

The aim of the open day was to demonstrate that adopting new technologies can help increase the return per hectare on a grower's investment in irrigation equipment and water.

MSF Sugar agriculture general manager **Trevor Crook** said the initiative demonstrated how best management practices designed to create sustainable environmental benefits can also increase productivity and income.

"Due to the irrigation setup, the team at MSF Sugar Tablelands Farms has increased control over offsite impacts on the waterways," Mr Crook said.

"We can control and automate irrigation cycles and have greater ability to accurately monitor water, pesticide and nutrient use at the block level.

"It uses a delivery system known as 'fertigation' which delivers dissolved mineral fertilisers to the roots of crops in the field using irrigation water.

"This means efficiency in nutrient management, time and labour as well as greater control over crop performance.

"By maintaining moisture levels in the crop root zone we can significantly reduce the use of weed control

chemicals, which also reduces costs and limits potential off site impacts.

"Our goal is to increase the adoption of new and improved efficient irrigation systems on cane producing farms," Mr Crook said.

Pictured: Agronomist Rik Maatman discusses drip irrigation with growers.



Our Objective

The key objective of Farm Waste Recovery is to provide a model in which packaging waste generated from farms or agricultural operations can be correctly disposed of in an efficient, environmentally friendly manner.

Who is Involved?

Farm Waste Recovery employs a simple model that works on the basis of engaging the following stakeholders across a particular industry:

- Industry operators/producers
- Industry manufacturers
- Industry associations
- Local Governments/Councils

Current Farm Waste Recovery partners



RESULTS TO DATE

- Around 247 tonnes, representing 82,333 bags collected and available for processing into re-useable plastic
- Resource recovery of sufficient plastics to make over 1,300 park benches or similar products
- Reductions in potential damage to the surrounding coast line and Great Barrier Reef from incorrectly disposed of bags
- Support from Queensland to Tasmania state governments and local councils
- Engagement with all councils between Mossman and Sarina, with the establishment of 23 collection sites accessible by local farmers
- Support from the Fertiliser retailers & resellers acting as effective collection locations
- Engagement with local processors of the Fertiliser Bags, providing local employment opportunities for 7 additional staff during program

How can I get involved?

To find out more go to
www.farmwasterecovery.com
 or email: stephen@farmwasterecovery.com
 Or call **Farm Waste Recovery** on 0499 053 255





By Greg Beashel
QSL CEO and Managing Director

“In what was an undeniably tough year on the markets, I am pleased to advise that QSL again surpassed the average market.”

Marketer's impact critical in tough markets

Following the industry-wide discussion and debate about marketing choice during recent years, I'm sure I don't need to remind you of the importance of marketing and the implications it has for your bottom line.

Your marketer's decisions determine a range of costs and profit-drivers in the sugar value chain, including when and how much you can price, the ability to leverage storage, finance arrangements and costs, and the mechanisms used to help manage both production and price risk.

The 2015 season certainly put raw sugar marketing and pricing teams around the world to the test, with a fifth year of surplus driving ICE 11 prices below 11 US c/lb and resulting in an average price for the season (passive management benchmark) of \$A369.06 net IPS.

While high prices can often help mask the true extent of poor marketing and pricing performance, it is when prices are low and the market is in surplus that a strong marketing team can make the difference between keeping your head above water or taking a loss.

In what was an undeniably tough year on the markets, I am pleased to advise that QSL again surpassed the average market during the past season, with a weighted average of \$A388.67 Net per tonne IPS.

Our 2015-Season pool results were as follows:

2015-Season Passive Management Benchmark ICE 11 = \$369.06 (Net \$A/ IPS tonne)

	Gross \$A per mt IPS	Shared Pool allocation	Net \$A per tonne IPS	Performance <u>above</u> average market benchmark
2015 QSL Harvest Pool	\$382.96	-1.42	\$381.54	\$12.48
2015 QSL Actively Managed Pool	\$414.35	-1.42	\$412.93	\$43.87
2015 QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool	\$407.66	-1.42	\$406.24	\$37.18
2015 QSL Forward Season Pool (2-Year)	\$436.58	-1.42	\$435.16	\$66.10
2015 QSL Forward Season Pool (3-Year)	\$442.13	-1.42	\$440.71	\$71.65
Total 2015 QSL Managed ICE11 Pools	\$390.09	-1.42	\$388.67	\$19.61
2015 QSL US Quota Pool	\$695.04	-80.2	\$614.84	As of 30 June 2016

The information in the tables and in the pricing and marketing updates is of a general or summary nature only and is designed to give you a high level update on QSL's marketing and pricing activities. While all care is taken in the preparation of this document, the accuracy or completeness of the information in this document cannot be guaranteed. Past performance is provided for reference only and may not be indicative of future performance. QSL cannot guarantee the performance of any pool. Pricing for QSL's pools which are described as indicative, only become final on or after 30 June each year. Cost and charges may vary from year to year. The information in this document does not constitute financial product or investment advice, nor does not constitute a recommendation to invest in any of the pools described above.



QSL's performance in a challenging season reiterates why the work of your marketer and how effectively they represent you in the global market is so important.

It is no easy job and it is one that QSL takes very seriously, at all times having regard to the best interests of the farming families and milling companies we serve.

And as we work now to manage the implications of a wet harvest in an improved pricing environment, the impact of pricing and sales on our members remains at the forefront of our minds in every element of our business.

THE 2016 SEASON

The current 2016-Season raw sugar market has been producing much more favourable pricing opportunities for Australian producers, with highs to date above 20 US c/lb.

This has primarily been driven by a tempering in global production estimates and ongoing weather concerns for producers in the Northern Hemisphere.

It augurs well for a move to the long-awaited global deficit of raw sugar, and so we remain confident that the recent improvement in prices is a sustained market increase rather than some kind of short-lived price anomaly.

Below is an overview of indicative pricing for our current pools, as of 29 July 2016. Please note, the figures quoted are Gross \$A/tonne IPS and do not include an allocation from the QSL 2016 Shared Pool, which is not finalised until 30 June each year.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

When assessing your marketing options for the 2017 season, it's important to consider who you can trust to be your partner in selling and pricing one of world's the most volatile soft commodities.

- *Does your marketer have a track record of performance and sound market management?*
- *Are they transparent regarding their performance and do they keep you abreast of your results throughout the course of the season?*

- *Do they publish their results throughout the season and provide information that will allow you to easily judge their performance?*
- *Do they provide a price matrix that shows the impact of market moves on forecast prices?*
- *Can you trust them to balance pricing opportunities with the potential implications for your business?*

As a pass-through organisation that returns all net value generated to the industry we serve, QSL has no corporate conflict of interest.

Our imperative is clear – maximising returns as we work to serve the long-term interests of the Qld sugar industry.

While growers can and should debate the merits of each potential raw sugar marketer, what remains abundantly clear is that sugar marketing is so much more than just securing a sale.

And as such, the terms of the On-Supply Agreements (OSA) currently being negotiated under the new marketing choice legislation have significant implications right across the growers' value chain, particularly in relation to financing costs, the payment of advances, storage management and pricing opportunities.

QSL believes it is imperative that when defining and enabling a grower's right to Marketing Choice within the Cane Supply Agreement (CSA), the OSA's key terms are also incorporated.

This alignment between these important documents would certainly help OSA negotiations by providing a clear and fair contractual platform to deliver Marketing Choice as dictated by legislation, provided for by the CSA and ultimately delivered by the OSA.

Register now for 2017 Marketing Choice with QSL. Visit our website at www.qsl.com.au to register online or call 3004 4400 to make an appointment to discuss our 2017-Season products.

2016 QSL Pool	Gross \$A per tonne IPS
Harvest Pool	\$509.18
Actively Managed Pool	\$542.17
Guaranteed Floor Pool	\$457.11
2-Season Forward Pool	\$475.76
3-Season Forward Pool	\$494.24
US Quota Pool	\$768.65

As of 29 July 2016

CROSS-BORDER CANE

With the Rocky Point Mill out of action, southern Queensland cane growers have overcome logistic and biosecurity hurdles to send their cane south to NSW for crushing.

By Wayne Griffin

It has been a frustrating start to the season for growers in southern Queensland's Rocky Point district. While wet weather has played havoc with the harvest up north, clear skies and cool temperatures are providing the perfect conditions for cutting cane in the south. Despite this, Rocky Point's harvest fleet is at a virtual standstill due to ongoing problems with the co-generation power plant that supplies electricity to the local mill.

It's not all doom and gloom, however, with CANEGROWERS, Biosecurity Queensland and NSW's Condong Mill coming up with a plan to haul 40,000 tonnes of standover cane south for crushing and kick-start the harvest in Rocky Point.



Pictured: (main) Standover cane being harvested at Anthony Skopp's farm in Norwell; (above) CANEGROWERS Rocky Point director Tony Huth; (right and P17) The enclosed bins being used to cart cane into New South Wales for crushing at Condong Mill.



Mill stoppages are nothing new to Rocky Point cane growers.

In 2015, breakdowns at the 30 megawatt power plant that supplies the mill put the brakes on harvesters countless times and almost cost local growers their best crop in a decade.

So when the co-gen's cracked boiler finally lost its certification in February, it didn't come as a huge surprise.

Some even hoped it might force the plant's owners to address ongoing maintenance issues and pave the way for a smoother 2016 harvest.

Seven months on and those hopes have been replaced by anger and fear. Not only is the power plant still inoperable, but the Rocky Point Mill, Australia's last privately owned sugar mill, is on the brink of closing down permanently.

"It's a shocking situation, people are frustrated, depressed, angry," local grower and CANEGROWERS Rocky Point director Tony Huth said.



The co-gen owners, Sydney-based First Pacific Capital Underwriters (FPCU), need \$5 million to carry out essential repairs necessary to getting the plant (and mill) back up and running.

"The problem is the co-gen doesn't have the money to fix the boiler and because the mill is small, Queensland's smallest, it doesn't have access to the funds to fix it either," Tony said.

"Co-gen has asked growers to tip in over a million dollars, but with the way it has been going over the last few years that could easily be money down the drain."

It's a big ask for the district's 40 growers, most of whom would have to secure bank loans to fund repairs.

"We're talking about it, but we'll just have to see what happens," Tony said. "We certainly won't be the first ones to put money in, we'll be the last, and only if they get enough backers to make it work. Even then we'll have a long list of conditions that have to be met before we'll ask growers to risk their money."

PRESSING PROBLEM

Before growers could even contemplate funding repairs to the plant, they had a much more pressing issue to contend with - the 40,000 tonnes of standover cane in urgent need of harvesting.

With the mill out of action, getting the two-year-old cane off the paddock required creative thinking.

CANEGROWERS, Biosecurity Queensland, Rocky Point Mill and NSW's Condong Mill put their heads together and came up with a viable, if unconventional solution - hauling the cane 90km down the Pacific Motorway to Condong in NSW.

"It was a fair bit of mucking around to get it all sorted," Tony said. "There were new biosecurity regulations to deal with and we needed permits to cross two different quarantine zones."

Rocky Point is also designated a high-risk fire ant area, so even though fire ants will not live in cane (and very few

nests have been detected on headlands to date), as part of the biosecurity requirements bins had to be modified to ensure they were fully enclosed.

"Biosecurity Queensland has been really helpful throughout this whole process," Tony said.

"Matt Kealley (CANEGROWERS Environment Manager) has also been a huge help, liaising with the right people at Biosecurity Queensland to get all the permits we need, as quickly as possible.

Continues page 18...





Rocky Point father-son team Anthony and Nick Skopp are hoping the mill and co-gen owners can find a solution to get the 2016 harvest back on track

"As for Condong Mill, as far as I'm concerned they have been fantastic.

"Condong didn't have to get involved at all, this wasn't their problem, but they did get involved and have done everything they can to make it work.

"They've agreed to take the standover cane and have indicated that if they can get their own season wrapped up by the end of November they'll take more of our cane.

"We'll have to work out the logistics and ultimately someone will have to pick up the bill but best case scenario, there's the potential there to get another 80,000 to 100,000 tonnes crushed."

ANGER AND FRUSTRATION

While growers are grateful for the hard yards put in by their local CANEGROWERS representatives, and the assistance of Condong Mill and Biosecurity Queensland, they are also



becoming increasingly concerned that the potential demise of the power plant.

And they're angry at what they see as being kept in the dark by the mill owners.

"There's a lot of people angry at what's gone on," said Anthony Skopp, a third generation grower, with 160 ha of cane.

"We were being told by the mill right up until about two months ago that everything was going to be fine and that the mill would be up and running in time for the start of the season," he said.

"It's great that we're cutting the standover cane but that's only a very small part of the crop.

"We should be cutting 27 bins a day in our harvest group, instead we're cutting six to 14 and even that is only for a few days and then it moves on to the next farm so they can get some of their two-year-old off.

"You put a lot of money into producing a crop but if you can't get it off the paddock, then there's no income from it.

"Most growers aren't able to absorb the costs without the income, so what happens?" Anthony said.

His son Nick has just recently started out in the contract harvesting side of the industry, making a sizable investment in a new harvester.

"We've got a good crop, perfect conditions - it should be really busy time



Gavin Pahlke waits patiently for his turn to cut standover cane

for him. Instead the harvester is sitting idle because we can't cut," Anthony said.

"We went into this with our eyes open. We knew there was the possibility something like this could happen, so I look at it as a learning curve for Nick. And of course we're still hopeful that things will pick up."

Anthony's neighbour Gavin Pahlke is equally upset at the failure of both the mill and co-gen owners to resolve the ongoing issues with the power plant.

"Ultimately we've signed a contract saying the mill will take our cane from July 4th," said Gavin, a fifth generation farmer who grows 325 ha of cane over four farms.

"The problem with the co-gen boiler is not my problem, that's a problem for the power plant and the mill, and they've known about it for a long time.

"If my harvester breaks down, I get a mechanic in and pay him to work all night if necessary in order to get it running again.

"That's what I expect of that co-gen plant, not waiting for months, years even, until we're in this situation before they start worrying about it.

"They're playing silly buggers at my expense and at the expense of every grower in the district, and they might just destroy the local cane industry in the process."

Hunt for lost papers

The Queensland State Library wants sugarcane families, particularly in the Mackay district, to search cupboards and storage boxes for copies of an old periodical.

The Canegrower Weekly was published in the 1930s but the Library only has two issues.

It wants to locate and preserve more of them in its historic collection to stop this insight into business and community life in the Mackay area being lost forever and to make them available to researchers.

If you think you can help, contact the Library on qldmemory@slq.gov.au



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Smartcane BMP:

Tableland growers prove program works for farms of all sizes

By Neroli Roocke

Cane growers on the Tableland have their eyes firmly on the future as they move through the accreditation process for Smartcane BMP.

And the sugarcane industry's best management practice program has proven it works for farms of all sizes with a certificate presentation for three recently accredited growers.



Rajinder Singh, Claude Santucci and Jon Dixon represent very different farming operations – a large family-owned farm business, a smaller family farm and the Tableland mill owner MSF Sugar which has 2,750 hectares of cane in the region.

The Tableland accreditation means MSF has 75% of its Queensland farming land accredited in the three core modules towards its target of 100% accreditation by the end of 2017.

"BMP accreditation proves that a business is operating sustainability and responsibly meeting economic, social and environmental needs," CANEGROWERS Director Rajinder Singh explained.

"It is important to satisfy community and consumer needs."

Rajinder has 241 hectares under cane on a farm which, like more than 70% of the district, doesn't drain towards the Great Barrier Reef. Instead any water heads west towards the Gulf of Carpentaria.

"Reef regulations are not a driving force," he said of his motivation to be accredited.

"The sugar industry has been

challenged to prove its environmental credentials but the benefits of BMP are much wider.

"Growers should rise to the challenge and prove beyond doubt that our industry is world class in both growing operations and environmental impacts."

For Claude also, a move by big sugar

For a business focused on maximising productivity, and profitability, BMP is the first essential step

customers such as Coca Cola to give preference to sugar with sustainable production credentials was a motivator.

"Some of the people we sell sugar to now are demanding environmentally sustainable production methods and that will probably only get more intense as time progresses," he said.

"So I thought if this is the future, I will jump on the bandwagon early get it happening."

Claude's family produces around 11,000 tonnes of cane a year from two farms and has a track record of reading industry signals and making changes.

They made the switch to sugarcane after 50 years of growing tobacco.

By the time tobacco farming ended in Queensland in 2003, the Santucci family was ahead of the game.

They may be around 60 kilometres from the coast but Claude has the environment in mind as he farms.

He was required to comply with the Queensland Government's regulated Environmental Risk Management Plan (ERMP) process in 2010.

"We're in the Barron River catchment which all flows down into Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef lagoon, so chemical, sediment and nutrient runoff is a significant issue, particularly when you can have 200mm of rain," Claude said.

"We have to accept our responsibilities to the environment.

"Instead of continuing down the regulatory path, a more voluntary system like BMP where the grower ►



“Some of the people we sell sugar to now are demanding environmentally sustainable production methods and that will probably only get more intense as time progresses.”

and industry have more say in how we manage it is better than the authorities telling us what to do and how to do it.”

While the big picture may have been the motivation, Claude Santucci and Rajinder Singh say there are clear benefits of the BMP process in their day to day farming operations.

“Accurate farm input records are the heart of any BMP and this data is key to making good business decisions,” said Rajinder who currently cuts 120 t/ha on his farm but has a goal of 140 t/ha.

MSF Sugar too has a target of improving yield from 200,000 tonnes or 87 t/ha this season to 250,000 tonnes by 2020.

The company says that to achieve its business objectives it needs to improve in all areas and Smartcane BMP helps to prioritise decisions.

“For a business focused on maximising productivity and profitability, BMP is the first essential step,” Rajinder says.

“BMP accreditation doesn’t require electronic record keeping but ultimately electronic records will allow much easier analysis, linking soil tests to inputs applied and yields achieved.”

His farming system can be described as controlled traffic, minimum tillage and break cropping on 1.9m row spacing.

Dual rows are planted on pre-formed raised beds using disc openers.

“Precision agriculture technology has been developing for more than a decade. It is becoming viable to identify discrete management zones within paddocks,” Rajinder said.

“This allows for variable rate applications further enhancing the efficiency of applied inputs.”

Claude agrees that BMP will mean his future farm management decisions will be better informed.

“I’m now more conscious of having a better record keeping system and taking the time to record every job in the field, whether its irrigation or fertiliser or working the soil,” he said.

“Now whenever I do something I make a note in my notebook or in the record keeping book that came from the Smartcane program.”

Claude is thankful for the assistance of local Smartcane BMP facilitator **John Barbetti**.

“I collated a lot of the raw data and he helped me to get it together and format it so we could present it to be audited,” he said.

“I thought I’d do it now to take advantage of having John available rather than wait a year or two and the support might not be there.”

Rajinder believes some of the current industry and government support is under-utilised by growers.

“CANEGROWERS is providing a lot of resources to make the process easier and with time and experience the accreditation process is continually being streamlined to make accreditation easier without compromising its integrity,” he said.

“There is a lot of flexibility in the BMP process. Things such as GPS and electronic records are not mandatory although they do make it easier to link soil tests to inputs applied and yields.

“A grower does need to justify that their farming practice is not leading to unjustified movement of nutrient and chemicals off farm and it is not in the farm’s economic interest for this to be happening in any case.”

Rajinder says a good starting point is to start to record chemical, nutrient, and water applications at a block level at the time of application to ensure critical data is ready to be presented for accreditation.

“A good local BMP facilitator is key to getting growers accredited,” he said. “Without the assistance of John Barbetti it would have been a much more difficult and lengthy process.”

To contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator head to the Smartcane website: www.smartcane.com.au. ■

Pictured: Tableland growers Jon Dixon (MSF), Rajinder Singh and Claude Santucci receive their Smartcane BMP accreditation certificates from local facilitator John Barbetti (green shirt).

SUGAR HIGH

why it's not as bad as you think!

By the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance Nutrition Team



Mary Poppins famously sang that a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down. Much has changed since Julie Andrews delivered those words in 1964.

Today, the pitchforks and flaming torches are out in force by those who want to see tough legislation against its use and taxes on sugar loaded products introduced. But is sugar the great villain in modern society that it has been made out to be?

Obesity causes disease, not sugar

The list of diseases caused by obesity is grim. Type 2 diabetes, cancer, gallbladder disease, cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, stroke, insulin resistance, and atherosclerosis are all directly linked.

But, as stated on the Victorian Government's Better Health website, it is obesity that causes these diseases - not sugar.

"Having too much sugar is not the only reason for obesity or being overweight, but it does add to the amount of kilojoules in food," the website states.

"Eating too much of any food, without doing enough exercise, will cause you to become overweight."

A study by researchers at the University of Otago, reveals that there is no direct link between sugar and obesity.

The data suggests that the change in body fatness that occurs with

modifying intake of sugars results from an alteration in overall energy balance rather than a consequence of sugars directly.

Sugar is not the sole cause of obesity

Federal MP George Christensen represents that part of Queensland's sugar belt that is in the Dawson electorate.

He himself sports a larger belt than most and freely admits he is overweight. But he doesn't blame the cane product.

"I'm no poster boy for health and fitness," admits Mr Christensen. "But sugar is not the only nutrient to blame for obesity and that point has been made previously by the Dietitians Association of Australia." (quoted in an article published by *The Land*)

Our kids aren't running enough

Many children today much rather be inside with a video game controller in their hand than outside.

The 2007 Australian National Children's Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey revealed that children are exceeding screen time guidelines (time spent watching television or playing video

games) with two-thirds of children exceeding the maximum limit of two hours per day.

"The increased range of sedentary activities such as television, videos and computer games is often suggested to be a major contributor to the problem," the Dietitians Association of Australia website states.

The science of sugar

To put it simply, the body is unable to distinguish between sugars occurring naturally in foods and refined sugar added to foods, breaking them both down in the same way.

Nutrition experts say that by watching overall energy content of our diet, having a wide variety of nutritious foods and exercising regularly, sugar in moderation can be enjoyed as part of a healthy lifestyle.



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WD Tractor 120 HP. 1,967 Hrs. Front
suspension, Linkage & D/Bar fitted.

**NEW ! BILLET PLANTER 2500 Immediate
Delivery. In Mackay NOW.**

**USED ! HBM Billet Planter. Narrow
elevator, New Stainless Fertiliser boxes.
Very Good condition.**

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

**WRECKING CAMECO 1996 Track
Harvester. No engine, walking gear or
topper available.**

**IN STOCK NOW 12, 10, 8 & 6 BLADE
DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS Suit
'05 to current 3520 CAMECO/JD. Tungsten
Hard Faced on Wear Areas. New seal
plates, Clamping Bars & Dowels with kit.**

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www.gtmachinersales.com.au

Classifieds

Mossman –Tully

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

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

7 tyne Lely ripper and roller drawbar. \$15,000 + gst. Ph: 0427327977

Toft 5000 swinging knife wheel machine including some spare parts. Ph: 0418154557

Gessener stools splitter Fert Box \$14000+GST Ph 0428 562 509

Herbert River – Burdekin

JCB 185-65 with 12 tonne Tully Welding Works elevator bin. 17.5 x 25 tandem axles. P.O.A. Ph: 4777 4793

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)

Valtra 6400 4WD tractor - 100HP, air-con cab, 2004 model, 3700 hours, good

condition. \$30,000 (inc gst) ONO. Ph: 0418710958 / 49503048

1 off 1/2 cubic metre 3 point scoop \$230 + GST. Ten chain of 4" soft irrigation hose suitable for water transfer \$200 + GST. PH: 0400 908 812

Massey half-tracks, have been on Toft 6000, \$500. Phone 0448 525 022.

Hodge 5 tyne ripper, \$800. PH: 0448 525 022.

Bundaberg - Rocky Point

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

Two Roll on roll off cane trailers, tandem, carry 6 ton bin one has pto winch and one is


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3 metre width, 28 discs, All bath bearings
 \$11,000 plus GST (\$12,100 incl GST)
 Other size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m, 2.5m, 3m & 3.4metres.
 3 point linkage offsets available also



New Heavy Duty SLASHERS

2.1 metres width \$3,300 incl GST
 Other sizes available are 1.2m, 1.5m & 1.8m

Johnny Farming Company
 Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 535 887 (John)
 or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)
 133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm)	
	7 days to 9am 01.08.16	Year to date 08.08.16	Year to date	Jan-Aug
Mossman	0	0	1395	1795
Mareeba AP	0	0	402	731
Cairns	0	7	1026	1655
Mt Sophia	3	20	1832	2725
Babinda	0	30	2597	3517
Innisfail	25	29	2453	2967
Tully	0	0	2767	3433
Cardwell	0	5	1696	1716
Lucinda	1	5	1740	1753
Ingham	Tce	5	1622	1631
Abergowrie	0	0.1	1084	1488
Townsville	0	0	907	898
Ayr DPI	0	0	493	743
Proserpine	0	0	1186	1077
Mirani	0	1	1192	1183
Mackay	0.2	24	1368	1240
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0	1555	1344
Bundaberg	0	10	685	686
Childers South	0	7	666	585
Maryborough	0	9	656	822
Tewantin	0	6	887	1270
Eumundi	0	10	811	1231
Nambour	0.2	3	806	1222
Woongoolba	0	18	393	960
Murwillumbah	0	47	1090	1154
Ballina	0	79	1021	1350
Woodburn	0	72	610	1035



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.

hydraulic. \$4000 and \$3000 plus gst. Ph 0419 270 981

Gandy Box on 2" toolbar little use \$750, J I Case 1194 tractor 49hp 3 speed, PTO approx 3000hrs - \$8500, Janke Precision Planter 4 row, suit soy beans, peanuts, cowpea, etc. - \$6750, cotton king \$250, Rawlings 24 plate 24" trailing offsets \$5000, 1 tonne Bag Lifter \$1200, 4 Wheel inline finger wheel rake \$200, 900 litre Cropland sprayer with 10.8 metre boom, 11 x 1.25" coil tynes on 2.5" toolbars (old fert box) \$900. Ph: 0418 874 615

Michelin Agribab radial tyres on rims to suit Massey Ferguson. Rear 18.4/34, 90% thread, \$1500 +gst each. Front 14.9/24 on rims, 90% thread \$900 +gst each. Ph: 0407 699 779

Year 2000 Miller Nitro Sprayrig, Machine hours (6600), Engine hours (1500) has a new engine, All hydraulic motors and pumps have been reconditioned, 4500L stainless steel tank, Variable spray rate controlled, 48ft boom with quick hitch, includes 9 Irvine leg droppers, adjustable from 5ft to 6ft row centres, Stainless steel wet boom at 50cm spacings, 6ft clearance, Air conditioned and carbon filtered cab, Reversing cameras \$60 000 no GST, Phone after 5pm- 0409 895 533

Wanted

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

Disc ratooner to suit 1.6 metre rows - Hodge or similar. Ph 0407 969496
4wd tractor 120 hp.ph 0407 054 417

Land plane (some repairs okay) and belt spreader. Ph: 0427 120 499

For Hire

Dropdeck with ramps. Move harvesters and tractors. 20 & 40ft container pins. Ph: Shane: 0428 007 955 or Mick: 0438 167 545

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-Proserpine - Harvesting contract wanted. Ph: 0429 840 029

Contract planting. 2-row self-propelled planter, adjustable widths 1.5m-2m, 8" shutes, shirtan-lorsban sprays, GPS, liquid fertiliser, Toft 7000 Harvester, feed modified, rubber rollers and 2x10tonne rear elevator bins, Phone Bill - 0417 633 077

Cairns region - Seeking work in the cane industry. New to the area. Honest, reliable, hard working, loyal. Very safety conscious, very willing to work long and flexible hours. Contact Graham on 0478 099 579

Mackay area - Seeking work. Haul out driving experience. Mechanical fitter. Call 0428 984 666

Property

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

84Ha, 70.5Ha, 8Ha. Hwy access, old house+services, suit cane/cropping. Fitzroy Basin, 15min cane siding/20min Mill. Ph 0438784684

Wanted to lease, cane farm in Bundaberg area minimum 100 acres. Ph 0409 223 445

INGHAM: Cane Farm for sale. Hawkins Creek. Total area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6ha. Shed, electricity & water. Genuine enquiries Ph. 0407635175



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