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Cover picture: Cane train en route to South Johnstone mill as rain eases and crushing kicks off in earnest around the state

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Bipartisanship and consistency essential for growth

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

After an exceptionally long nine week election campaign, we now know that the LNP will form the next Federal Government.

However, given the close outcome of the election, it appears we are headed for a period of political instability.

The makeup of the Senate is still unclear and legislative agendas are likely to be contingent upon complex crossbench support for major reforms to succeed.

Given the potential for Senate gridlock, we are bound to see the fortunes of this government determined at the margins rather than by mainstream policy making.

As the well-known business saying goes, 'uncertainty is the single greatest enemy of investment'.

The unfortunate aspect of the current political stalemate is that it is likely to inhibit investment. That equally applies to the sugar industry.

I have constantly articulated the point that unless we see some consistency of policy-making and policy-setting then it is likely that investment decisions, particularly around renewable energy and biofuels, will be held over.

It saddens me that a feature of the political landscape that has gone missing in the last ten years is bipartisanship.

Substantial nation-building policy settings around biofuels, northern development, water resource development, vegetation management and the Great Barrier Reef are largely bereft of political bipartisanship.

For example, between them the ALP and LNP have announced enough water resource development projects to literally fill 100 Sydney Harbours, yet not one single project shared bipartisan support.

An opportunity has been lost for all.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

CANEGROWERS has strongly supported AgForce in their advocacy in relation to changes to vegetation management laws.

We too believe that the current legislative changes proposed by the Queensland Government are unworkable and will hinder the growth and development of

agriculture and the farming sector.

There is far too much inconsistency from government. On one hand we are told that we are to be the food bowl of Asia and that sugarcane will be the next frontier in biofuels and renewables.

I don't know how we are supposed to do that without clearing some vegetation.

We are not talking about indiscriminate broad scale clearing of land, but sensible selective clearing of vegetation.

The sugar industry will be affected on two fronts. Firstly, large scale greenfield developments of new mills with value-adding opportunities are unlikely to go ahead given that legislative changes proposed will prevent large scale clearing of land.

The other area of impact is where farmers are introducing cleared land or regrowth into their scale of cane farming. These legislative changes impact upon high value regrowth vegetation.

This alone will do significant damage to the sugar industry. If we can't grow our industry our unit costs escalate and we stagnate. CANEGROWERS will join with AgForce and other like-minded organisations to call on the government to recast these laws.

This is a time for sustainable growth, not a time for inhibiting the growth and development of agriculture. ■



“Unless we see some consistency of policy-making and policy-setting then it is likely that investment decisions around renewable energy and biofuels will be held over.”

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NEWS IN BRIEF

CSA NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

After months of uncertainty Wilmar has finally unveiled its proposal to address changes outlined in the *Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Act* passed by Queensland's parliament last December.

Earlier this month CANEGROWERS Collectives from the Burdekin, Herbert River, Proserpine and Plane Creek districts met with mill representatives in Home Hill where they received a presentation on Wilmar's proposed 'Grower Choice' Cane Supply Arrangements for the 2017-19 seasons. Wilmar also met with QSL to discuss its proposed GEI Sugar Sales Agreement.

These meetings and exchange of draft documents mark the commencement of discussions between Wilmar and CANEGROWERS Collectives on new cane supply agreements.

They also mark the commencement of negotiations between Wilmar and QSL on the terms of sales agreement that will facilitate grower choice in marketing GEI sugar.

At the first meeting Wilmar representatives made it clear that the complexity in the structure that it has designed reflects Wilmar's corporate policy and risk appetite, rather than being a requirement of the Act.

CANEGROWERS Collectives have now received Wilmar's proposed contracts and will meet with Wilmar representatives again in the coming days to take negotiations forward. ■

BIOLOGICAL FOCUS FOR CAIRNS CONFERENCE

The National Biological Farming Conference in Cairns in October will have sessions specifically for sugarcane farmers looking to reduce inorganic N inputs.

John and Michael Attard will share their story of reducing nitrogen to zero in their sugar production through the application of bio-fertilisers made on the farm.

They have created a range of different inputs and modified equipment to apply them.

Combined with retaining crop residues and monitoring mineral levels closely, they are showing promising yield results, and have saved considerably on irrigation pumping costs.

Joining them will be **Mark Savina** who farms in the sensitive Barron Delta north of Cairns.

He is intensely aware of his responsibilities to his urban neighbours and as the last farm before water discharges into the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon.

Mark is trialling different ways to stimulate microbial activity in his sugarcane paddocks and improve nutrient use efficiency.

His farm is also a stop on the pre-conference tour.

For details about the conference, visit the National Biological Farming Conference website. ■

RAVENSDOWN SHAREHOLDER PAYOUT APPROVED



Ravensdown shareholders will receive a \$0.447 per share payout following overwhelming support for a settlement at a recent shareholder meeting in Brisbane.

The resolution to pay out redeemable preference shareholders was passed by 99% of attendees at the 7 July meeting.

Ravensdown is now writing to all shareholders to confirm bank account details for payment.

Shareholders should contact Ravensdown using the contact details provided on that letter, if either the bank account details are left blank or are incorrect.

This will ensure that the payments to shareholders are completed accurately.

If your bank account details are correct, you do not need to do anything else. Payment will be made to this account automatically on 26 July 2016.

If the bank account field is blank then your bank account details are not on file and you will be required to e-mail arteam@ravensdown.co.nz by Friday 22 July 2016 with your account details.

If you have any questions regarding your payment you can call Beth Littleford, AR and credit team leader, on +64 3 371 1807. ■

NEW PAY RATES

The new financial year means new pay rates under the Sugar Industry Award 2010.

A table of the updated rates of pay for workers employed on sugarcane farms and in harvesting operations can be found via the home page of the CANEGROWERS website: www.canegrowers.com.au

Rates are set on a weekly, ordinary hours and contact basis for trainees and level 1 and 2 employees. ■

PROJECT 25

Putting the future of water quality back in growers' hands

Leading growers in the Cairns region are playing a key role in a pilot scientific program that could redefine our understanding of water quality running off cane lands.

For years, growers have been told their activities are harming the Great Barrier Reef through run-off of sediment, pesticides and fertiliser.

Research on the issue is often very broad or confined to individual plots. The results of this research are then modelled to predict the source of runoff and impact on water quality.

Farmers have grown increasingly frustrated due to poor communication between science and industry, with many growers first reading about research results in media articles that often paint the cane industry as villains, instead of as integral stakeholders whose practices are vital to protecting the Reef from damage.

However, a new project aims to change this dynamic and get growers back involved in the water quality improvement process.

"Project 25" is a water quality monitoring initiative launched by Environment Minister **Greg Hunt** in September 2015.

The project, which is funded by the Tropical Water Quality Hub of the Australian Government's National

"It isn't acceptable to have a researcher turn up, sample at the river mouth and start attributing blame. That's not incentive to progress to a better outcome."



TropWATER's Dr Aaron Davis takes water samples from the Russell-Mulgrave river catchment

Environmental Science Programme (NESP), focuses on using new technology to carry out detailed sub-catchment-scale monitoring of water quality in the Russell-Mulgrave river catchment, south of Cairns.

The project has been co-designed by cane farmers and scientists, and will be carried out in partnership throughout its entire three-year duration.

Project 25 will allow scientists to form a detailed picture of water quality impacts throughout the catchment based on real-world measurement.

This includes sampling at the boundary between tropical rainforest (where river water is untouched by human activity) and at key points through the river's course along the coastal plain, including before and after major urban infrastructure, such as the Gordonvale sewage facility.

All of this is designed to find out exactly what is going into the water and exactly where it is coming from.

Growers have been involved in Project 25 from its inception, with Tropical Water Quality Hub leaders meeting with growers and industry representatives, including CANEGROWERS' **Matt Kealley**, in Gordonvale earlier this year.

That involvement hasn't been limited to simply letting researchers onto their property, with growers like **Barry Stubbs** from Miriwinni playing a key part in the planning process by identifying the best sampling sites.

Barry said an accurate measurement of water quality was vital to the conservation process.

"We're starting from scratch with this one," he said.

"We must have accurate measurements because we don't know whether the problem is ours or someone else's. That's one of the reasons farmers haven't come on board to date, because they don't believe that what they're getting accused of is actually their problem."

The Tropical Water Quality Hub is managed by the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC) in Cairns.

RRRC managing director **Sheriden Morris** said the project has been designed from the very beginning to revolve around farmer input.

"When you try to look after the Reef, it's essential that the key players are involved, especially the cane industry. It isn't acceptable to have a researcher turn up, sample at the river mouth and start attributing blame. That's not incentive to progress to a better outcome," she said.

"Farmers all over have been putting in the hard yards for years, updating their practices through programs like Smartcane BMP and Reef Rescue. Where good progress has been made, there hasn't been sufficient recognition for that.

"When growers get ignored or demonised in the media, that breaks down trust and it's a poor outcome for everyone.

Project 25 is about putting the control back into the hands of farmers and making sure they're a key part of collecting the information and delivering conservation outcomes." ■



Matt Kealley

CANEGROWERS Manager -
Environment

“If the Bill is passed in its current form, some changes to the framework will be effective from the date the Bill was introduced, 17 March 2016.”

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT law changes not cleared

There is still no clear decision on the *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*, with the Agricultural and Environment parliamentary committee unable to agree on the proposed way forward.

Instead five recommendations have been made on the Bill which was introduced to parliament on 17 March 2016.

The *Reinstatement 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 (category C)
- 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. Category R regulations have been proposed for regrowth vegetation within 50m of a watercourse in the Burnett-Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef catchments.
- reinstating compliance provisions
- reinstating provisions in the Water Act 2000 to regulate against the destruction of vegetation in a watercourse under a riverine protection permit
- amending the Environmental Offsets Act 2014 in relation to determining impacts and Commonwealth offsets.

If the *Reinstatement Bill* is passed in its current form, some changes to the framework will be effective from the date the Bill was introduced (17 March 2016).

However, this has not occurred, partly because of the critique on the proposed Bill from the agricultural sector as well as the Queensland Law Society.

CANEGROWERS also provided a submission to the Bill and addressed the Committee in Brisbane on 3 June 2016.

CANEGROWERS' position, which is aligned with QFF, outlined concerns for the treatment of high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture and the broadening protection of regrowth vegetation in watercourse areas (category R).

The *Reinstatement Bill* was considered by the Committee through consultation, hearings and submissions.

The outcome was that the Committee was unable to agree on whether the laws should pass. Instead they have made five recommendations:

1. Ministers for State Development and Natural Resources and Mines explain to the House, during the second reading debate on the Bill, the consultation process that will be undertaken on the updated self-assessable codes, including details of who will be consulted.
2. Ministers for State Development and Natural Resources and Mines provide an update, during the second reading debate on the Bill, on the steps, including the associated timescales, that will be taken:
 - to improve the accuracy of vegetation mapping, and
 - to proactively engage with landholders to provide them with updated property maps of assessable vegetation which correct any inaccuracies.
3. That the element of clause 6 of the Bill, which inserts new section 67A into the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* to reverse the onus of proof in relation to vegetation clearing offences, be omitted.
4. That the Dept of Environment and Heritage Protection engage with the property, resources and development sectors to assess and establish the full impact of the proposed amendments to the environmental offsets regime in Qld.
5. Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef informs the House, during the second reading debate on the Bill, of the outcome of the assessment of the impacts, including potential costs, of the proposed amendments to the environmental offset regime and if any actions will be taken.

CANEGROWERS will continue to work with QFF and the state government to seek further clarity and ensure the vegetation management framework is workable for our members. ■

SMARTCANE MOVING TO ON-FARM ACCREDITATION AUDITS

A positive change is coming to Smartcane BMP with a quicker and more efficient on-farm auditing system being rolled out across the state

To date, audits have been done remotely, with the auditor examining evidence that has been uploaded to the BMP web site by the grower or the local BMP facilitator.

This is in contrast to every other farm-based accreditation program (such as cotton BMP, grazing BMP) which use on-farm audits.

On-farm audits are more straightforward and less time consuming, as the auditor is dealing directly with the grower and there is no need to upload records.

They are also more consistent with good auditing practice as the auditor

can select the sample of evidence, e.g. fertiliser records, to view.

From August this year, accreditation audits in Smartcane BMP will be undertaken on-farm by industry auditors. Once a grower is ready for audit, the local BMP facilitator will alert the BMP office and an on-farm audit will be scheduled. The local facilitator will accompany the industry auditor to the farm.

The on-farm audit includes a kitchen table session during which various records and other documents, such as the weed management plan, are checked. The auditor will drive around the farm to view and discuss aspects such as trash management, fallow management and chemical storage.

Three industry auditors have been engaged to conduct on-farm accreditation audits for BMP:

- *Lana Shoesmith - an experienced auditor who has been providing specialist advice to the Smartcane BMP program since its early days.*
- *Frank Hughes - a Business and Agricultural Trainer and cane grower. Until recently, Frank was the BMP facilitator in the Tully district and also undertook remote audits during that time.*
- *Cathee Miller - an experienced auditor who has worked in the grazing and sugar sectors.*

To ensure the process runs as efficiently as possible, Lana recently conducted five on-farm audits for BMP accreditation in the Mackay and Wet Tropics regions.

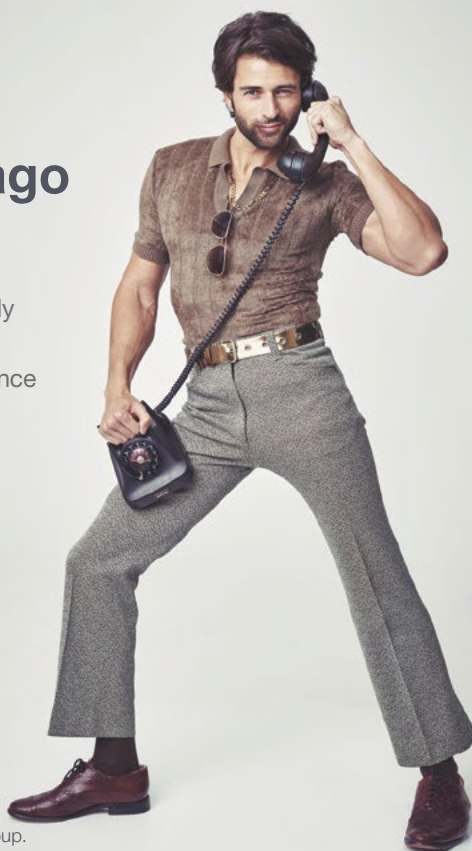
These went well, and have helped to improve the process further. The time required for an on-farm audit is 2-3 hours. ■

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CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

By CANEGROWERS district offices

Mossman & Tableland

As at week ending 10 July, Mossman Mill had crushed 128,115 tonnes and Tableland Mill had crushed 209,772 tonnes. Of this, Mossman Toll crush cane through Tableland Mill accounted for 104,066 tonnes.

Season to date CCS for Tableland 6000 series farm numbers was 11.75 and season to date for the Mossman and Atherton 5000 series growers was 9.77. Season to date CCS for MSF Tableland Mill growers was 11.90.

Tully

Harvest conditions are improving as Tully begins to dry out after the deluge in June.

With just over 380,000 tonnes harvested to date, the crop appears to be increasing in estimate and will provide a challenge for all to complete the harvest.

The weather has delayed early planting so it will be a busy time for farmers and contractors in the coming months.



Innisfail

It is expected that the current estimate of cane to be crushed at South Johnstone Mill (1,620,000) will be increased as results from cut blocks are indicating higher tonnes per hectare than originally estimated. The Industry Management Committee will meet at the end of July to consider any changes.

After a delay to the scheduled start, harvesting is underway, despite some continuing showers across the district. However, CCS results are being impacted and are struggling to improve.

Cairns Region

The Mulgrave area CCS remains low which is concerning. At the time of writing the weather has been sunny and warm with the last few nights registering as quite cool. Growers remain hopeful that this change will bring about an improvement to CCS.

Last week saw an average CCS of 9.63, which is unusually low for the Mulgrave area. Tonnes per hectare are coming in above the preseason estimates. Similarly those growers supplying South Johnstone mill have welcomed the change in the weather with planting now underway in across the region.

The Cane Supply Contract is not yet finalised, although progress is being made. Smartcane BMP record keeping workshops are being held again in mid-July following the success of the first round of workshops.

Herbert River

There has been some engagement with Wilmar by the CANEGROWERS C4 group alliance and their advisors representing Herbert, Burdekin, Proserpine and Plane Creek districts in regard to a Cane Supply Agreement governing all matters relating to the supply of cane and payment, including forward pricing, molasses gain sharing and Grower Choice of marketer.

The first meeting was held at Home Hill on 6 July and draft contract documentation was made available to grower representatives on 8 July.

Grower reps and their advisors are digesting the Wilmar proposals at time of writing and will be liaising with members in the near future.

Harvesting and Crushing Update

2016 harvesting operations commenced on Friday 24 June and the crushing season started with one side of Victoria mill on 25 June. Following a fairly troubled start for both field and factory operations over the first week, harvesters have been steadily improving their output over the week ending Saturday 9 July. The mill advises that the search for dryer harvesting conditions in the field is putting strain on servicing logistics to keep the three milling trains running.

CCS for the week is at concerning levels as some rakes have tested below 7 and below 6 for more than 2,000 tonnes.

Planting operations have been stalled for several weeks now due to the rain, but preparations for planting appear to be resuming.

At the end of week ending 10 July, seasonal CCS had only reached 10.07 with 166,106 tonnes crushed, which is around 10% of current estimated crush.

The hard work of growers working to achieve accreditation under the Smartcane BMP is starting to produce positive outcomes with 31% of the area under sugarcane cultivation in the Innisfail region now accredited under the Smartcane BMP program.

Growers are becoming increasingly frustrated at the delay in getting the

QSL/MSF Sugar negotiated On Supply Agreement ratified by the current milling companies supplying QSL. The delay has effectively prevented growers from exercising their choice of marketer for their Grower Economic Interest sugar.

A special urgent meeting for growers has been arranged for Tuesday 19 July commencing at 7.00pm at Sugar Heritage Centre, to provide an update of the situation and matters relating to grower choice marketing options.



Ingham Show - 8 July

The Ingham show cane exhibits were amazing this year, with incredible interest was shown for the Under 18 section.

Congratulations to the participants who went to the effort of bringing the exhibits in for presentation.

The stewards did a great job and must be thanked. Special thanks also to visiting Judge Greg Shannon whose efforts and sage advice were all very much appreciated.

A collage of photos can be seen on Twitter under @SheedySheedy. They have also been uploaded to the CANEGROWERS Facebook page.

This is one event that CANEGROWERS Herbert River sponsors proudly on behalf of the cane growing community.

Proserpine

After a delayed start because of wet weather, crushing at Proserpine Mill finally got underway on Friday, 1 July. However, with less than half the harvesting fleet operating, the first week's throughput was restricted to less than 15,000 tonnes.

Fine weather prevailed in the following week, with all harvesters operating allowing 77,000 tonnes to be crushed at a weekly average CCS of 12.09.

Harvesting conditions remain difficult due to the significant rain event in mid-to-late June, however blocks are beginning to dry down sufficiently to enable full supply.

More rain is forecast in the next week and this will likely reduce the number of blocks available for harvesting placing further pressure on a mid-November completion.

At this early stage, the crop is cutting slightly above estimate however the pre-season estimate of 1.71 million tonnes has not been adjusted.

The mill experienced a number of early, minor stops to rectify some mechanical issues, however overall appears to be performing well.

Plane Creek

Wilmar Sugar at Plane Creek crushed 66,431 tonnes for the week ending July 9 bringing the total to date to 121,687 tonnes for the season.

Field conditions improved slightly during the week with all harvesters harvesting by Thursday. Factory capacity was constrained for almost 11 hours of stops due to the harvesters being hampered by the wet conditions.

CCS average for the week was 12.22 units and the season to date sits at 12.05 units.

Continues page 10...

Pictured at the Ingham show: (Page 8) Greg Shannon and Lawrence Di Bella with Rhiannan, Tayla and Dimitty Harragon; (above) Don Murray and Heidi Clemments; (bottom right) Greg Shannon, Sibby Digiaco with Kurt, Mia and Eamon Serra; (bottom left) Don Murray, Chris Bosworth, Greg Shannon, Adam Douglas, George Murray, Darrin Harragon, Kelli Carbone and Santo Carbone.

Bundaberg

Wet field conditions have added to the problem start at Bundaberg' Bingera and Millaquin mills. The fire at Millaquin followed by wet weather left growers feeling anxious with how the 2016 season may pan out.

KQ228 continues to be the dominant variety and it is performing well this year. The highest individual CCS result was 15.50 units from KQ228 old ratoon. Variety Q240 (14% of supply) had a CCS average of 12.80, followed by Q208 (13% of supply) with a CCS average of 12.69 units and Q242A (5% supply) with a CCS average of 12.95 units.



Isis

The Isis crushing season commenced on Monday 27 June with a crop estimate of 1.28m tonnes. Crushing was delayed by one week due to rain, with good falls of over 50mm recorded in the Isis Mill supply area, making totals for the month of over 130mm.

In the first week, Isis Mill processed 33,076 tonnes of cane with a good average CCS of 12.87. The early season variety KQ228 made up approximately 54% of the cane supply recorded in Week 1. KQ228 was also the variety that recorded the highest individual CCS with 14.84 units (first ratoon).

Week 2 has seen 57,296 tonnes crushed with an average CCS of 12.85. Crushing in week 3 has also been consistent with over 9,000 tonnes being crushed each day and KQ228 still providing high CCS.

All harvesting contractors in the Isis Mill supply area are participating in harvester tracking for the 2016 season. This technology will provide information about harvester speed, time of operation, waiting time and extractor fan speed. The information collected will assist in improving bin delivery, cane quality and help to reduce cut to crush delays.

Maryborough

Maryborough Sugar Factory commenced crushing for the 2016 season on 4 July.

As at 11 July the mill has crushed 28,518 tonnes at CCS of 12.44.

The crushing has been interrupted by wet weather delays and some mill stoppages.

SRA will be holding an irrigation workshop on Wednesday, 20 July commencing at 8.30 am.

All growers are welcome to attend.



Clean up time!

The fertiliser bag recycling scheme is up and running again throughout Queensland's cane growing districts.

After a very successful trial, which started in September 2015, Farm Waste Recovery has once again secured the support of the state government, local councils, CANEGROWERS and manufacturers Incitec Pivot and Impact Fertiliser to recycle empty fertiliser bags that could otherwise become a waste hazard in the environment.

Last year 217 tonnes of packaging was collected, enough to make 1,200 park benches and similar products.

There are three opportunities to get rid of your empty fertiliser bags in 2016:

- *Council depots (check with your local council for locations)*
- *Fertiliser resellers (most will accept your bags back and the scheme will pick them up from there)*
- *On farm collection (if you have a large volume, someone can come and collect them)*

For more information call 0499 053 255 or visit www.farmwasterecovery.com.

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NEW BIOSECURITY PLAN

protecting the sugarcane industry

A collaborative industry partnership is helping to ensure Australia's sugarcane industry is on the front foot and prepared for any potential exotic pests.

To ensure its future viability and sustainability, Australia's sugarcane industry has undergone a rigorous biosecurity planning process to minimise the risks posed by exotic pests over the next five years.

The latest version of the *Biosecurity Plan for the Sugarcane Industry* was coordinated by Plant Health Australia (PHA) through investment from Sugar Research Australia (SRA).

It uses a new planning framework, and was developed through a partnership approach using government and industry resources and expertise.

The new plan formally identifies and prioritises both exotic plant pests (not currently present in Australia) and established plant pests, with a focus on managing future biosecurity challenges.

It is the result of an extensive analysis of exotic pests of sugarcane made by a group of sugar industry, plant health and biosecurity experts from government and industry.

According to **Alison Saunders**, National Manager for Horticultural Cropping at PHA, the group that PHA assembled to assess threats to sugarcane included representatives from CANEGROWERS, the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC), SRA, Productivity Services Organisations, and relevant state and territory agriculture departments.

"Australia is fortunate to have experts who thoroughly understand both exotic and endemic pests of sugarcane," Ms Saunders said.

"Many in the group have first hand experience in seeing the impact of these pests overseas, and in dealing with exotic threats that have previously impacted the Australian sugarcane industry."

The group systematically evaluated the risk posed by more than 240 exotic plant pests, which were then rated for their overall threat and then prioritised.



Large moth borer

SRA Executive Manager, Technology, Dr **Peter Allsopp**, said SRA had a strong emphasis on ensuring the industry was prepared for the threat posed by exotic pests and diseases.

"Biosecurity is a core focus of SRA's investment for Australian sugarcane growers and millers and it is a valuable insurance policy for the industry. The new biosecurity plan will support ongoing efforts by the industry to prevent new pests, diseases or weeds from harming the productivity of Australian sugarcane," Dr Allsopp said.

CANEGROWERS Environment Manager **Matt Kealley** said it is vital for the future of the industry to respond effectively to plant pest threats.

"This biosecurity initiative provides a great deal of protection for our industry," Mr Kealley said.

"We now know which pests currently pose the greatest risk to our industry and that will ensure that national biosecurity efforts are focussed and coordinated."

In addition to identifying the worst threats, the plan includes an implementation table that sets out biosecurity goals and objectives for the industry.

Endorsed by CANEGROWERS and Australian governments, the plan constitutes an agreed guide for biosecurity activities for industry and government over the next five years.

The Biosecurity Plan for the Sugarcane Industry (Version 3.0) is the first plan developed using PHA's new framework, one that aims to improve uptake of the implementation activities.

Mr Kealley said that CANEGROWERS was pleased that the new format sets out very clearly specified goals within set timelines, which has given more confidence that everyone in the partnership is committed to protecting the industry.

Ms Saunders said that since the new framework has proved to be successful, PHA will be using it for biosecurity planning for individual industries from now on.

The plan is principally designed for decision makers and more information is available from CANEGROWERS.

A hands on guide for growers to improve biosecurity on their individual farms is under development and will be released later this year. ■



By Bryce Wenham
QSL Finance Manager
Supplier Relations

“QSL is well positioned to capture the higher values from the recent raw sugar market strength.”

QSL well positioned to capture value

Like growers throughout the state, QSL has welcomed the recent strength in the raw sugar market, and our sales and pricing program is well positioned to capture these higher values.

We are also continuing to monitor the weather situation across the state as part of our ongoing production risk management strategy.

Here's an overview of our current marketing and pricing position as of 30 June 2016:

- The 2016 QSL Actively Managed Pool is approximately 46 per cent priced, with about 160,000mt unpriced.
- The 2016 QSL Harvest Pool is about 45 per cent priced with approximately 600,000mt unpriced.
- About 540,000mt of this tonnage is the Production Buffer. QSL must hold off from selling and pricing this tonnage until it is actually delivered. Due to the wet start to the season we have held off from pricing some of the in-season tonnage.
- The QSL Harvest Pool is well positioned to manage possible

production fluctuations in the crop. However, should the crop estimate hold then the pool is also well positioned to capture higher values that may be available in the market later in the year.

- QSL currently has sufficient sales to manage the storage profile, with approximately 570,000m tonnes of raw sugar yet to be sold.
- We also have a number of sales with alternative supply options, which help provide protection against any production shortfall while also providing opportunities to capture further value once the crop is delivered.

MANAGING PRODUCTION RISK

The wet start to this season's Queensland crush has seen many growers contacting QSL for information about our approach to managing this season's production risk and potential in-season falls in the expected crop. ▶





The QSL team seeks to carefully balance the need to secure strong returns to growers whilst appropriately managing the risk of a crop downturn due to inclement weather during the season.

We manage production risk in a number of ways, which we explore in more detail below.

OUR GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGE

The Queensland sugar industry stretches across thousands of kilometres of our state and is serviced by six Bulk Sugar Terminals (BSTs) dotted along the coast as far north as Cairns and as far south as Bundaberg, some 1300 kilometres away.

QSL leverages this geographic spread as part of its production risk strategy, managing the stocks delivered to the terminals at Cairns, Mourilyan, Lucinda, Townsville, Mackay and Bundaberg as one stockpile.

Our quality control system means that all of the sugar delivered to these BSTs meets required specifications, enabling orders to be filled from any one of these sites.

So even if one growing region has a significant downturn in production or a port is closed due to bad weather, sugar orders can usually be met and filled from other milling districts.

MONITORING PRODUCTION

QSL continually monitors the progress of the crop by working closely with our suppliers and growers in the field.

By monitoring the crop as it develops we can adjust our pricing and sales programs to mitigate the implications of any production variance.

This strong link to production is one of the key advantages of QSL being a producer-seller rather than a trader and is a point of difference that is highly regarded by our customers.

QSL'S HARVEST POOL

The third and most significant mechanism for managing production risk is the QSL Harvest Pool, which was designed specifically for this purpose and achieves it in a number of ways.

All growers supplying raw sugar to QSL's Pools are required to earmark at least 35 per cent of their expected production tonnage to the QSL Harvest Pool.

This initial attribution is used to help create a buffer tonnage – that is, a portion of the crop that is not priced or sold until it is received at the bulk sugar terminals.

This buffer is designed to absorb possible fluctuations in production that may occur during the course of a season and is essentially a stockpile of sugar kept on hand until late in the season to assist our industry to meet its sales and pricing commitments.

At an individual level, a grower's final production is used to fill their Committed Sugar allocations first (ie. Individual forward pricing, QSL's Committed Pools), with any production variations applied to their Harvest Pool allocation.

Each grower's allocation to the Harvest Pool is considered to be Uncommitted Sugar and so, outside a Production Buffer failure, the final amount delivered to the QSL Harvest Pool can vary without cost implications for that grower – they are just paid for the final amount delivered.

WHAT IF THE BUFFER ISN'T BIG ENOUGH?

The production buffer provided within the QSL Harvest Pool is designed to withstand a significant in-season crop decline.

However if the export sugar supply from all Suppliers of QSL-marketed sugar declines by more than the Production Buffer (e.g. following an extreme weather event during the harvest), depending on the circumstances, there may be costs to correct the export sales program to support the pricing undertaken for the actual raw sugar delivered in all remaining pools.

Any costs remaining, after any Suppliers who failed to deliver their raw sugar allocated to Committed Sugar Pools have provided financial compensation for that shortfall, would be passed to all suppliers of QSL-marketed sugar via an allocation from the QSL Shared Pool (i.e. the QSL Shared Pool element may be significantly negative, reducing the net price achieved by each Supplier).

A more detailed explanation of the QSL Harvest Pool is available from our website at www.qsl.com.au.



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SMALL GREEN BEAN

boosting soil health and farm profits across the dry tropics

by Amy Claireton

High prices have encouraged more growers in the dry tropics to expand their mungbean area in 2015–16, adding to the record-breaking Australian crop. This past season it is estimated that about 2500 ha of Burdekin country was sown with the small green bean in rotation with sugarcane and horticultural crops.

This tropical pulse crop adds an extra dimension of flexibility to sugarcane rotations in the north—boosting farm income and soil health. While not a completely new crop in the region it's only in the last few years that a significant number of growers have sown mungbean.

One grower with a number of years experience is MH Premium Farms manager, **Andrew Cross**, who reckons mungbeans have found a home in their business and farming system.

Having previously grown mungbeans on the family farms in northern NSW, Andrew was confident about the value of the crop to the cropping rotation, however he knew there would be some challenges when it came to getting the agronomy right in the dry tropics environment.

MH Premium Farms owns 410 ha in the Burdekin delta and another 710 ha along the Haughton River, south of Townsville.

The business has 900 ha under cane/legume rotation and 220 ha dedicated to grain cropping. Andrew has been managing the company's expansion in the Burdekin during the past six years. Other crops grown in rotation with cane on the corporate farms include aerobic rice, soybean and maize.

"We consider mungbeans to be the one of the most important crops in the rotation," says Andrew. "We average 1.8 t/ha and regularly achieve 2 t/ha crops—but I am convinced we can average

2.5 t/ha once we have really nailed the agronomy for this region."

Mungbeans are a quick crop, taking only 80 days from planting to harvest under irrigation in the Burdekin. Grown after sugarcane, mungbean provides an excellent opportunity to control grass weeds while earning a solid return.

"The real benefit of mungbean is clearly demonstrated through the crop's water use efficiency," he says. "Crops sown in spring require 4 ML of water but a return of \$310/ML is better water conversion than all other options including cotton, rice, soybean and cane. This will become even more important as water and energy costs increase."

Being a fast growing crop, mungbean can be successfully planted anytime from August to March in the Burdekin. Andrew plants mungbean in August and February, keeping in mind that it is easier to manage production risks at planting time than at harvest.

"As growers become more confident with mungbean they are more prepared to invest in inputs and then they are rewarded with better yields," he says.

Generally the rotation is cane, followed by mungbean, then another summer grain crop—usually soybean or maize—and back to cane.

"We aim to take out our old ratoons early in the season and plant mungbean straight away," says Andrew. ►



The real benefit of mungbean is clearly demonstrated through the crop's water use efficiency. Crops sown in spring require 4 ML of water but a return of \$310/ML is better water conversion than all other options including cotton, rice, soybean and cane.



Pictured: (top) MH Premium Farms manager in the Burdekin, Andrew Cross says legume crops like soybeans and mungbeans have proven benefits in their sugarcane operation; (below) black mungbean pods, ripe and ready for harvest.

"Planting the crop in August means we can harvest in November, before the wet season really sets in."

Andrew considers soybeans to be a safer option over summer with the crop ready to harvest in April and plant back to cane in May.

The farm system is based on 1.52 m centres and the rotation crops are sown in two rows 76 cm apart on the beds with a target plant population of 30 thousand plants/ha.

Crystal and Jade-AU mungbean varieties are well adapted to the Burdekin environment.

"Since the release of Crystal in 2008 we really haven't looked back when it comes to mungbeans in our farming system," says Andrew.

"We grow both Crystal and Jade now with the only difference really being

that Jade seems to perform better in slightly later plantings."

Andrew finds that Leichardt soybeans can be more difficult to establish but they perform well if there is rain around at harvest.

The white hilum variety A6785 is preferred for the higher value tofu market and is faster maturing than Leichardt so Andrew plants it later in the season when there is less chance of weathering damage.

Andrew has trialled chickpea in the past as a winter legume option but found that fungal diseases *Botrytis* and *Sclerotinia* were too difficult to control in the coastal environment.

As far as productivity goes the Burdekin is definitely world-class, with MH Premium Farms averaging 125 t/ha cane, 1.8 t/ha clean mungbean and 3.0 t/ha soybean crops. "To achieve this it is critical to get the timing right," says Andrew.



Continues page 16...



Water use efficiency and re-cycling

Water management is also extremely important the farm's operation.

The runoff from rainfall events and tailwater from flood irrigation is captured in recycle pits around the farms and reused. Water applied in each irrigation is generally 70 per cent effective, so capturing the runoff significantly improves the water use efficiency of the whole farming operation.

"We have around 15 to 20 ML of storage capacity on each of the farms, which gives us 4 to 5 days worth of 'free' irrigation water after rain," says Andrew.

Marketing

The farm's mungbeans are sold directly to Blue Ribbon Group and exported from the Townsville Port. MH Premium Farms has also invested in 750 t on-farm storage, which is used mainly for the other grains.

Timing of crop desiccation sprays is critical and Andrew stresses the importance of waiting until 80 per cent of the pods have turned black.

"Getting the timing of desiccation right has been an important part of us achieving 100 per cent processing or No 1 grade beans for the last three years," he says.

"We have seen good returns on our on-farm storage and expect to expand

our storage capacity to maximise our marketing options, particularly for soybean and maize," says Andrew.

Blue Ribbon Group grower services officer, Chris Richardson says the 2500 ha of mungbean harvested in the 2015/16 season is an increase of over 60 per cent on the area harvested the previous season.

"In 2014/15 many growers planted mungbeans for the first time," he says. "In 2015/16 we have seen many of these growers expand their area planted to mungbean and there have around 15 new growers, bringing the number up to around 75 mungbean growers in the Burdekin."

Research trials

Researchers like Stephen Yeates, CSIRO are also encouraging growers to avoid having crops maturing in February and March. He says the climate in the Burdekin spring is ideal for mungbean production with plenty of warmth and sunlight and abundant irrigation while avoiding the problems associated with a wet harvest.

"The other important consideration is the 'green bridge' situation that can easily occur if legumes such as mungbean and soybean are grown throughout the spring, summer and into autumn, enabling pests such as the bean fly to build up and easily move from crop to crop across the district," he says.

Andrew has participated in trials undertaken as part of the GRDC-funded Coastal Grower Solutions project over the last 4 years.

"An important outcome of this project work will be a best management production guide for mungbean agronomy in the dry tropics," says Andrew. "We need to determine the optimal planting dates and best row configuration to use on different soil types."

Soil constraints

"Soil sodicity and marginal nutrition are the main soil constraints on these farms," he says. "Sixty years of cropping in the Burdekin has run the soils down and we are seeing a good response to soil ameliorants and manures, particularly through improved soil structure."

"The soil nutrition benefit of growing legumes is relatively short lived given that we generally grow a plant crop and three ratoons in the cane phase, but the benefits for soil structure are longer lasting, especially following soybean, which has a deeper root system than mungbeans."

On the farms near the Haughton River, Andrew is undertaking a land development program to reduce the impact of sodic ridges that exist across many blocks.

The ridges were identified and mapped using EM survey, yield maps and soil coring equipment and then, using a laser bucket.

Non-sodic topsoil is stockpiled, then 30–40mm of the sodic subsoil is removed. The topsoil is returned to the block then gypsum is applied and the field levelled.

Andrew is also doing everything he can to build the organic matter levels in the soil to help overcome compaction and surface sealing tendencies of the soil, with the later due in part to the alkalinity of the water sourced from the river.

More information: Australian Mungbean Association www.mungbean.com.au ■

Pictured: Recycle pit – each farm has 15 to 20 ML of water storage capacity.

Case IH launches community support program

Supplied by Case IH

Case IH recently launched the Farmall Local Community Program, working with its dealer community to lend a helping hand to local charities and clubs in regional Australian towns.

For each Farmall machine sold up until 31 October, Case IH will contribute \$200 to the dealer's nominated local cause - a charity, sporting club, community project or even assistance to local fundraising.

The Case IH Farmall brand has been ingrained in the heart and soul of regional Australia since 1923 when its first legendary tractor was built, and is renowned for equipping farmers with its unified system of tractors and implements for plowing, cultivation and harvesting – all characterised by Farmall's revolutionary light design.

Today, it remains connected to rural Australia through the Case IH network of dealers, all of whom are part of, and strongly support, their local communities.

"We have a saying, that 'the heart of farming beats red', which serves as an important reminder that it's the farmers who are at the core of everything we do," said Case IH Communications Manager, Marian Wright.

"We want to improve lives on the land and in local towns, and as part of our commitment to dealers and their communities we are pleased to be working closely with dealers to provide support to local charities and clubs.

"Case IH understands that within each community there are numerous not-for-profit groups that need a helping hand to achieve their goals, and the program enables dealers to identify where they can lend support.

"We recognise the incredible, selfless work that is done by volunteers to help others in the community, and we know that our dealers and their staff are very enthusiastic about being able to make a real difference to the lives of those who need it most, in some cases that's customers, neighbours or friends."



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Boomerang spray hoods

SELECTING THE BEST NOZZLES

By Allan Blair, Jack Robertson and Marcus Bulstrode
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, South Johnstone.

BACKGROUND

The Boomerang spray hoods are a popular and efficient method of applying Glyphosate or any non residual herbicide to the inter row of sugar cane.

A number of growers have contacted the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries expressing difficulties setting up the hoods.

Most issues were associated with excess dripping on the skirts at the edges of the hood as well as small droplets (drift) being produced and leaving the confines of the hood.

Lido Tomasin, a canegrower from Tully kindly made his spray rig available for testing.

After a number of tests we were able to develop the following suggestions and recommendations to optimise the performance of the boomerang hoods.

Each hood was supplied and fitted with flat fan nozzles (yellow 110 (02) XR Teejets®) operating at 2 bar pressure.

NOZZLE ORIENTATION

- It is extremely important to orientate the nozzles correctly under the shield.
- Ensure that the centre nozzle is aligned with the front face of the hood.
- The side nozzles should be set so they cover the maximum distance possible under the shield. This is almost parallel to the front face of the side of the hood. (See Figure 1)

You may have to operate the sprayer and turn the nozzle at the angle where there is a minimum amount of droplets hitting the inside of the hood.

Remember, if you are testing the nozzle orientation always operate the hood using clean water so you can adjust the nozzles for obvious work place health and safety reasons.



▲ Figure 1

Orange lines showing nozzle orientation under the hood



▲ Figure 2

Photo demonstrating excess application at the edges of the hood when using 110° flat fan nozzles. For clarity purposes the test was done on a bitumen road.

◀ Figure 3

Photo demonstrating excess application at the edges of the hood when using 110° flat fan nozzles. For clarity purposes the test was done on a bitumen road.

NOZZLE SELECTION

DAF found it difficult to successfully set the hood up with the 110° XR Teejet® fan nozzles without causing excessive dripping from the edges or skirt.

Most dripping was at the edges closest to the cane stool which is of concern. (See Figures 2 and 3)

The 110 degree flat fan nozzles were then replaced with 80 degree low drift fans (Teejet Driftguard®).

Subsequent tests found that this reduced the dripping from the hood edges or skirt to almost zero.

Visually there were hardly any noticeable fine droplets being produced from the 80 degree Drift Guard® nozzles, (See Figure 4).

Both the original XR Teejets® and the Drift Guard® nozzles were both operated at 2.0 bar pressure.

▼ Figure 4

Low drift D80 degree Drift Guard® nozzles. Note reduction in dripping at the skirt when compared to figure 3.



Other manufacturers produce similar spray nozzles with equivalent performance to those selected in these tests.

The two adjustable side hoods (Figure 5 - page 19), were difficult to adjust without producing too much overlap with the main shield. ►

These small adjustable hoods are for use in wider row spacings of 1.8 to 2.00 metres. They produced excessive dripping at the edges even when fitted with 80 degree nozzles.

Our suggestion is to move them out on the adjustment bar to almost the maximum width and use an 80 degree low drift fan on a 100 mm extension inside the hood. 65 degree nozzles are suitable however they are difficult to obtain.

On this machine the row nozzles was fitted with air induction fans.

This particular component of the sprayer requires adjusting and fine tuning whilst in the field.

Much will depend on the row profile and bed heights. Ensure in your set up that there is minimum overlap into the inter row.

Usually a desiccant such as paraquat is used in the cane row and if accidentally applied to the inter row it will prevent the uptake of the glyphosate or other non- residuals.

Figure 5



SUMMARY

The boomerang spray hoods are a very useful tool in reducing the amount of residual herbicides applied to the inter row.

Like most spraying equipment it is supplied with generic spray nozzles unless otherwise specified.

To improve the performance of the hoods we suggest the following.

1. Replace the 110 degree fans with a low drift 80 degree flat fan.
2. If purchasing, specify 80 degree low drift flat fans for the hoods.

3. Insert an 80 to 100 mm extension in the side hoods and use 80 degree low drift flat fans.

4. Remove the side hoods if they are not required. This reduces the weight of the row tracking components of the sprayer.

5. Do final adjustments in the crop and in particular observe where the row nozzles are spraying. Adjust to minimise inter row application of desiccants such as paraquat.

DAF thanks Lido Tomasin for the use of his sprayer and tractor for the tests. ■



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Irrigators Energy Savers Program

targets significant energy savings for a
Queensland sugar cane farm

PROPOSED
SOLUTION 

Potential
energy
savings

15%

Key facts

Farm / Industry

Sugar cane

Location

Childers

Irrigation

Travelling gun

Pumps

Centrifugal

Solution

Proposed:

Replace selected motors
and install variable
speed drives

Farm profile

The farm, located in the Childers area, cultivates sugar cane and uses broadacre irrigation. The site is divided into a number of zones, each with its own irrigation system which consists of soft hose, high-pressure travellers connected to a dedicated pump. Water is delivered to the farm by a water distribution system.

The operation of the irrigation systems varies according to the season, the weather conditions and the age of the plants in the different zones. As the systems deliver a constant flow of water, the volume of water delivered is modified by changing the irrigation time.

Current irrigation

The irrigation system comprises:

- Soft hose, high-pressure travelling gun irrigators that deliver a constant flow of water to each zone with each fed by a centrifugal pump ranging from 37kW to 45kW.
- One of the 37kW pumps has already been upgraded to variable speed drive control with a radio frequency pressure transmitter at the water gun discharge.
- A central distribution pipe that feeds each of the irrigation pumps from the incoming supply to the farm.
- One 11kW booster pump that lifts water from one site on the farm to a zone at a higher elevation. This is only required when the pipeline pressure is low from other downstream usage.

Action

An energy audit for five typical examples of the pumping systems evaluated:

- installation of variable speed controls
- replacement with more energy efficient drive units.

Results

Of the above energy saving opportunities, two initiatives were identified with savings of 15% and a payback period of 3.2 years (approx).

The energy audit report recommended replacement of three pump motors that were ageing and no longer efficient with new high-efficiency motors as well as installation of variable speed drives on two pumps.

The other pump systems were considered to be operating efficiently and viable upgrade options would depend on future maintenance or replacement. Plans to upgrade irrigation equipment to suit crop growth as well as irrigation cycles may influence future investment decisions.

The Irrigators Energy Savers Program is funded by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Recommendations

The energy audit recommendations are summarised below:

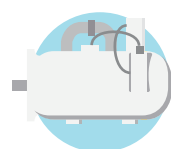
Solution



Replace motors and install variable speed drives on selected pumps

Est. energy savings (kWh/annum)	35,612
Est. operating cost saving	\$9,983
Est. cost to implement	\$32,039
Payback period (years)	3.2
Est. demand reduction (kW)	20
Est. energy savings	15%

Forecast savings in pump operating costs



Existing system



Upgraded system



Reduction in operating costs

Annual pump operating cost	\$60,822	\$50,839	-
Cost to implement	-	\$32,039	-
Operating costs for first 4 years	\$243,288	\$235,395	\$7,893
Annual pump operating cost for years 5 to 10	\$60,822	\$50,839	\$9,983
Total pumping costs for 10 years	\$608,220	\$540,429	\$67,791

Farmer feedback

Recent feedback from the farm owner indicates willingness to progress with implementation of the audit recommendations. Completion is forecast by August 2016.



Case studies

To see how other agriculture businesses are saving energy and costs, go to www.qff.org.au/energysavers

Tips for healthy teeth

By the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance Nutrition Team



Teeth are incredibly important. Other than the obvious role of chewing our food, teeth have a cosmetic role, as your smile can define your facial appearance. They also impact on overall wellbeing and longevity, as people with poor oral health often experience poor overall health.

Risks to our teeth

Tooth decay is the most prevalent health problem among Australians, according to a 2013 report into oral health and dental care in Australia.

According to Professor **David Manton**, Deputy Chair of the Australian Dental Association's Oral Health Committee, tooth decay is determined by how frequently we snack and how long our teeth are exposed to food at any one time.

"This doesn't mean just lollies and fizzy drinks; this includes foods that are high in natural sugars or starch," he says.

"Every time we eat, our teeth are exposed to the sugars in food. The bacteria in our mouths (plaque) use these sugars to make acid, and if teeth are exposed to this acid long enough holes develop. This is known as tooth decay."

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Tooth-friendly foods

While Prof Manton warns against consuming too many sugary foods, he says there is no need to completely eliminate them.

"No one is saying people should never be allowed to eat sugary foods again. Rather, when choosing snacks, be aware of how much sugar is in them, and, more importantly, reduce the number of times these foods are eaten and make sure they are eaten in an appropriate time frame, not over long periods of time."

Prof Manton recommends eating according to the Nutrition Australia Healthy Eating Pyramid - which recommends limiting consumption of foods with added sugars.

"Excess sugar consumption changes the micro-organisms in the 'biofilm' or plaque on the teeth to favour those that like eating sugars. This creates an acidic environment that leads to dental decay through the loss of tooth mineral," says Prof Manton.

Instead of always reaching for sugary snacks, he recommends choosing cheese, veggies, fruit, and nuts. Try saving the high fat, sugar and salty snacks for special occasions.

Top tips for healthy teeth

Let's face it, dental visits can be stressful and sometimes expensive, particularly if you haven't taken good care of your teeth.

To ensure good oral health and happier visits to the dentist, Prof Manton recommends we:

- *Eat well (in accordance with the Healthy Eating Pyramid)*
- *Clean well (brush teeth twice a day and floss at night)*
- *Maintain oral health from early childhood*
- *Find a caring dentist you are comfortable with*
- *Discuss your oral health with your dentist.*

As to how often to visit the dentist, Prof Manton says it comes down to the individual and their risk for dental problems, which is why you should discuss this with your dentist.

"While the dentist is always available to provide you with dental advice and treatment, ultimately patients are responsible for having good dietary and oral health habits," he says. ■

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Classifieds

Herbert River – Burdekin

Toft mark 2 robot rubberised to cut plants, V10 Mercedes motor, most hoses replaced recently, 3 new tyres, new alternator. Runs well, cuts clean billet, no further use. \$20 000 + gst. Ph: Ian on 0419 718 752

Inter 2670 primer mover 1982 model, McGrath 40 ft trailer, Commodore 1982 model, good condition. 07 47766249

Acco single axle tip truck, new front leaf, new hoist, perkins 354, near new tyres and rego, \$7500inc neg. Massey 165, 16.9x 38 rear tyres, 2 remotes, rops, alternator conversion, multi power pump used for remotes, near new tyres, \$7500inc neg.

Kubota B6100 mid mount mower 60", 4x4 13hp hydrostatic, \$4500inc neg, 0747774758, 0747774666 leave msg.

8.1L engine to suit John Deere 3510 - ECU to suit John Deere 3510 - Fuel Tank to suit John Deere 3510 - Steinbauer Power Chip to suit 8.1L John Deere 3510 engine. Ph: Robert 0407 167 716

Infield Transporter, 10 tonne side tip high lift, CAT306T motor, 1,000hrs, 9 roller track frames, 24" grousers, air cab, ready to go. VGC. \$40,000 (inc GST). 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)

7 Tyne Bonel H.D. ripper \$2200 incl GST. 3 Bonel cut away rakes \$165 ea incl GST. Ph: 0414 871 913

Howard AH 90" Rotary Hoe fully rebuilt, sand blasted, painted, new galvanised panels & new blades \$10,500.00 + GST. Other models & sizes available. (will rebuild rotary hoe to specific size required). Ph 49595883 or 0407643441


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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 Schmidke Road Mackay Qld 4740

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm)	
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	
	04.07.16	11.07.16		Jan-Jul
Mossman	3	0	1322	1761
Mareeba AP	0	0	394	724
Cairns	7	0	940	1628
Mt Sophia	13	0	1631	2655
Babinda	9	0	2387	3402
Innisfail	15	0.6	2298	2849
Tully	0.4	0	2588	3303
Cardwell	3	3	1506	1686
Lucinda	40	16	1646	1705
Ingham	2	6	1487	1591
Abergowrie	15	0	1021	1457
Townsville	1	2	857	882
Ayr DPI	0	0	454	727
Proserpine	1	2	1108	1049
Mirani	3	3	1071	1155
Mackay	4	0	1231	1209
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0.8	1	1353	1316
Bundaberg	2	8	638	652
Childers South	0	10	626	552
Maryborough	0.2	7	614	781
Tewantin	0	8	864	1217
Eumundi	0	10	758	1172
Nambour	0.2	7	767	1169
Woongoolba	0.4	6	374	906
Murwillumbah	0	9	1036	1103
Ballina	0	8	917	1265
Woodburn	0	7	527	968



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.

Toft Infield track transporter, A/c Cab, Bedford engine, sunstrand pumps, Dyna power track motors, 8 Ton bin sectioned off at 5 ton, Hi lift side tip, 24inch bent Grouser plates, Good condition, \$50 000. Ph 0417746001

Tyres and rims x 2. New Starmaxx tubeless 8 ply 380-85R 38 adjustable centres. To suit Case 80JX. \$4,900 inc GST. PH: 0488 598 447

2010 425cfm Sullair trailable air compr, aftercooled air, VGC, excellent for blowing down harvesting gear, new 600 psi 50'x2" wire braid hoses AM26 ends, International 574 tractor. Ph: 0438 784 684

Valtra 6400 4WD tractor - 100HP, air-con cab, 2004 model, 3700 hours, good condition. \$30,000. (incl GST) ONO Ph: 0418710958 / 49503048

1996 CAMECO full track harvester. Vane billet planter, single or dual row. Ph: 0438 789 106

Bundaberg - Rocky Point

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

7 farrow JD square plough VGC. Ph 0408879234

Wanted

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

Cane Harvester, 201 model or bigger Ph: Sam 0488 342 386

32 plate offsets in good condition. Ph: 0419 641 518

Second hand MSW type or similar quick hitch. Ph: 0427 120 566

Traveller any cond. Only the hose reel and PTO windup needed. 5" layflat hose up to 220m high volume irrigation pump. Ph: 0419 952 119

Positions Vacant

SARINA AREA - Seeking experienced harvester driver. Please contact Craig Keating 0412157679

Work Wanted

MACKAY REGION - Seeking employment - haulout operator, station hand, earth works, cattle work, fencing, heavy vehicle and machinery mechanic. HR license, LF

The 2016 sugarcane harvest is underway

- Are you **looking for a job?**
- Are you **looking for a worker?**

We can help! Hop onto the CANEGROWERS Employment page to list a vacancy or check out the work that's available.

www.canegrowers.com.au/page/Industry_Centre/Careers/

CANEGROWERS has a web page to help you find harvesting work and workers. Browse the listings or put up one of your own.



ticket, UD license, white card, confined space, working at heights, mdg25, experience but no tickets with operating loaders, bob cats, posie tracks, tractors and up to 30 tonne excavators, im available to start immediately and relocate if it's needed. Ph: Ross on 0400 939 023

MACKAY REGION - Seeking work. Licences - HR, C Class, Loader, Excavator, Moxy dump truck, Tip truck. OH&S cert. Experienced hydraulic fitter. Ph: 0488 271 013 or email jantzentoni@gmail.com. Weekend work wanted

MACKAY - Looking for any weekend work hauling or carting, have the required licenses. Phone Toni 0488271013

CAIRNS AREA - Interstate driver seeking seasonal work - tractor driving, bin hauling or general farm work. Staying at Fisher Falls - Tony 0425716718. *I have bad phone reception at house but can receive texts. If unable to get though, please send a text and I will return call as soon as possible, thanks.

BLOOMSBURY AREA - Seeking work in the cane industry. Have cane hauling experience. UD and HR licence. Reliable and keen to start immediately. Just relocated to the region with family. Ph: 0403 916 887

MARYBOROUGH AREA - Seeking work. Sugar cane hauler. Got MC license. Driven road trains. Line haul interstate. Les Myers 0488298808/ email. lesanddixie@hotmail.com

GATTON AREA - Seeking work for cane harvest season. Will work for reasonable rate. Ph: 0450786641

CAIRNS REGION - Hardworking German with HR licence looking for hauling job for the sugarcane season. Reliable white card. Living permanent in Cairns. Phone: 0487937145 or michaelsteinmaier@icloud.com

ANY REGION - Seeking tractor driver position for the cane harvest. Have

extensive experience operating tractors and farm machinery. Have own car and license. Looking for a position anywhere in QLD. Phone Basile on 0431 930 775 or email lelong.b@live.fr

Property

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

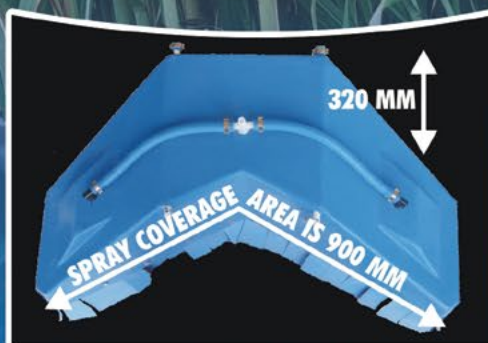
WALKERSTON AREA: Cane farm for sale, fully irrigated, 42.5ha cane 3.6ha grazing Ph: 0418 185 663

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



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This BOOMERANG SPRAY HOOD is designed in the Herbert Valley sugar cane growing area to MINIMIZE spray drift. The spray hood attaches on to any existing spray boom. (some slight modification may be needed)

The BOOMERANG SPRAY HOOD is designed with different angles to allow the hood to trail through the crop furrows ALLOWING THE CHEMICAL TO ROLL, TARGETING THE GRASSES AND WEEDS TO GIVE TOTAL COVERAGE.

Option 1 - Spray Bar attachment for the additional chemical spraying directly onto the cane stool with one application.

Option 2. Adjustable kit suitable to fit on the original sprayhood without any modifications. The sprayhood can be adjustable from 900mm to 1.4m in the sugarcane inter row.