

Farmers pass judgement on election promises - Power price hikes unfair

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CONTENTS

20 June 2016



Features

- 5 Federal Election 2016: farmers rate party promises
- 6 Regional round-up returns as crushing kicks off across Qld
- 8 **Cover story:** Grower goes solar to escape Ergon cash grab
- 11 Industry Spotlight: Power price hikes fail fairness test
- 16 Balancing water and drainage a challenge for Bloomsbury grower
- 19 Water quality study - Herbert growers step up on Reef protection
- 21 Robots - Could they be the next big thing in agriculture?

Cover picture: Bundaberg cane grower Kelvin Griffin has turned to solar to escape the crippling power price rises imposed by Ergon Energy

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Also inside:

- 2 Chairman's comment
- 4 News in brief
- 12 SRA Snapshot
- 14 QSL market update
- 23 Classifieds
- 24 Rainfall report

Thank You for your support

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

It is great privilege to have been re-elected for my second term as Chairman of CANEGROWERS Queensland. I am deeply humbled to have received unanimous support from the Policy Council to continue for another term.

I can assure growers that I will discharge this role to the best of my ability and continue to advocate strongly for the betterment of growers and the welfare of the Australian sugar industry.

We, as an organisation, must be accountable to you, the members who continue to financially support CANEGROWERS. I have never taken membership for granted – membership is the heartbeat of CANEGROWERS. Without substantial membership levels the organisation can never deliver on the aims, aspirations and needs of growers.

We have been through and continue to negotiate tough financial times in this industry. It would be tempting for growers to withdraw their membership in these circumstances. However, I continue to be inspired by the powerful passion of so many growers who want CANEGROWERS to be successful. I thank you for your ongoing commitment to your organisation. We hope to deliver for you.

The environmental debate about the Great Barrier Reef is as confusing now as it has ever been. Of late we have had so called scientific experts make claims that the Reef has a remaining life span of five years. There has even been claims from one scientific 'expert' that we should start retiring farmers and agricultural land!

At the other end of the spectrum, we have other scientists and tourism operators claiming the Great Barrier Reef is in pretty good shape and in fact some coral areas are expanding. Who do you believe?

If the general public finds this confusing, then how confusing is this to cane farmers?

I have constantly said to government that our industry needs to be assessed and measured on the basis of good science. We need sound, credible, objective and factual science to be the cornerstone of this debate. We have at stake our reputation and our future.

To illustrate the dangers, in the early 2000s the Queensland sugar industry was accused of causing mangrove die-back. Some 'science' alleged that diuron use from cane fields was the cause - an open and shut case they clamoured.

"Close the sugar industry down!" said others. Despite our protestations for good science, our claims were dismissed.

Then a funny thing happened. The mangroves started recovering, debunking the assertion that diuron poisoning was the cause. Not a single apology was ever given to cane farmers.

Cane farmers want a healthy and sustainable reef. This is our environment as much as it is any Australian's. We are committed to playing our part to ensuring its future. But we must get the science right.

CANEGROWERS has recently had a meeting with Dr Geoff Garrett, Chairman of the Reef Science Taskforce. Our message to him was clear. Assess us by good science and farmers will respond proactively as we have been doing through the Smartcane BMP program. We also said to government to give us consistency, through support for BMP and policy stability.

The environmental debate can be confronting. I can assure you that we at CANEGROWERS are well engaged and promoting the massive cultural and farming practice changes we have made.

We have a good story to tell and there is a role for all of us to share it - we need to be proactive to ensure that the community understands we are making headway towards environmental sustainability. ■

"I have never taken membership for granted – membership is the heartbeat of our organisation. Without it we can never deliver on the aims, aspirations and needs of growers."



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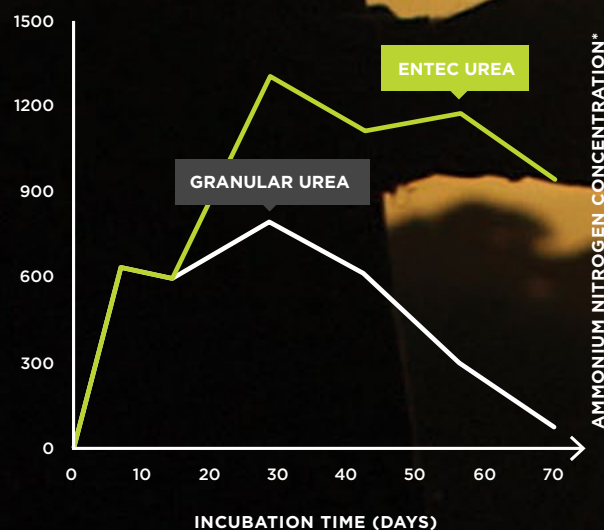
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This experiment was conducted with urea in a moist acidic chromosol (Pin Gin) soil at 25°C (pHw 4.5) (60% water filled pore space). Source: Suter et al. (2008)
*Unit of Measure is micrograms ($\mu\text{g NH}_4^+ \text{N/g soil}$)

NEWS IN BRIEF

WIND AND RAIN FLATTEN CANE

A week after areas of the far north had a deluge of rain flatten sugarcane ready to harvest, southern Queensland and New South Wales growing districts were also hit by wild weather.

Up to 400mm of rain fell in the Tweed district and 160mm around Bundaberg by the storm that then moved on to damage coastal areas of New South Wales and flood rivers in Tasmania.

Most growers faced with cane damage were philosophical that losses would not be too great as most of the flattened cane was not broken and would be harvested from the ground.



REEF FEATURES IN CAMPAIGN PROMISES

Political parties have pledged hundreds of millions of dollars to measures aimed at improving the health of the Great Barrier Reef this election campaign.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was in Townsville to announce \$1 billion of concessional loans over 10 years for projects in the Reef catchment that deliver clean energy, reduce emissions and improve water quality (<http://bit.ly/1rmYc5q>).

The Coalition says the funds would be in addition to the \$460 million it had spent on the reef since taking office through programs including the Reef 2050 Plan and the Reef Trust. In the Federal Budget they were allocated an additional \$171 million over six years.

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten went to Cairns to pledge a Labor government would spend \$500 million fund to help protect the Reef (<http://bit.ly/1VWldJn>).

This includes \$100 million on research, \$300 million on environmental programs to reduce nitrogen and sediment runoff and up to \$100 million on better management of the reef.

The Greens (<http://bit.ly/1tnAKqa>) policy includes legal caps on water pollution on a catchment basis, \$500 million over five years to assist farmers with water quality and landscape repair, a \$1.2 billion loan facility over five years to fund transitions to low-pollution farming and they support continuing projected funding for initiatives including the Reef Trust.

BMP ACHIEVES 100 ACCREDITATIONS

Smartcane BMP celebrated World Oceans Day earlier this month with a milestone of grower accreditations.

The industry has 102 businesses accredited as farming at or above industry best practice in the three core modules of Drainage and Irrigation Management, Soil Health and Nutrient Management and Weed, Pest and Disease Management.

More than 60% of Queensland's sugarcane growing area is benchmarked in the program.

CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan congratulated the growers for proving their commitment to the health of the Great Barrier Reef and the economic future of the \$2 billion a year industry.

"The two things go hand-in-hand," Mr Galligan said.

"80% of our sugar is sold overseas and by having a robust accreditation program we are meeting our customer's increasing demands for a sustainable product."

Mr Galligan acknowledged the Queensland Government's funding for this program as an industry-driven, industry-owned mechanism to deliver real water quality benefits to the Reef.

"These figures show our growers are embracing the Smartcane BMP process – I am very proud of their efforts," he said. "It can take a farm several seasons to work through the record-keeping requirements making these early results a real cause for celebration." ■



Farmers rate election policies

The National Farmers' Federation said that mid-way through in the Federal Election campaign there was still clear room for further agricultural announcements and policy improvements.

The parties were formally invited to respond to the NFF's 2016 Election Priorities in the first week of the campaign and the scorecard is based on the available public policy statements as at 3 June 2016 and any specific responses to NFF.

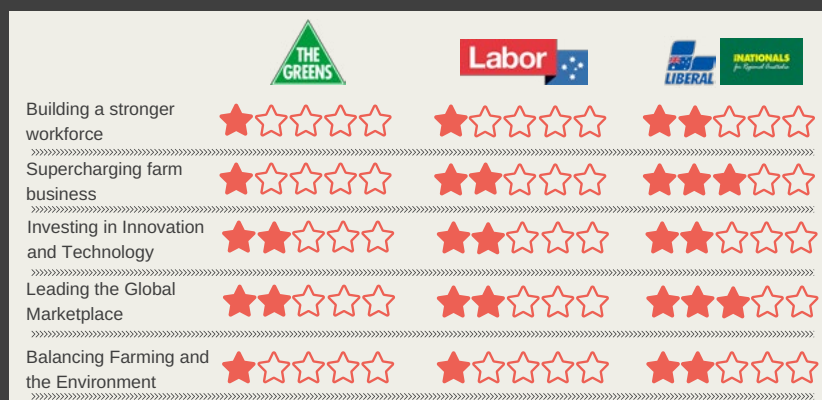
NFF President **Brent Finlay** said while there had been some promising commitments made over the four weeks, farmers were looking to the parties to back up rhetoric with policy.

"At this stage in the campaign we have seen some good policies relating to strengthening our position in the global marketplace but there remains plenty of work to be done," Mr Finlay said.

"This is particularly in the areas of building a stronger agricultural workforce, balancing food and fibre production with the environment and making sure that rural and regional Australians are adequately connected through internet and mobile coverage.

MID-CAMPAIGN SCORECARD

ACCELERATE AGRICULTURE
A campaign by the National Farmers' Federation



LEGEND

- 1-2 stars: handbrake
- 3 stars: cruise control
- 4-5 stars: turbo charged

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Major parties were formally invited to respond to the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) 2016 Election Priorities. The NFF scorecard is based on available public policy statements from political parties as at 3 June 2016 and/or specific responses to NFF. Where parties have not released an agriculture policy or have not specifically responded to the NFF's priorities, points are not awarded. The 5 star scoring regime was an internal NFF process, which included criteria such as an understanding of responses to the NFF priorities, capacity to deliver and the party's broader policy positions. The NFF intends on releasing a final score card prior to the election when all party policies have been announced and a full assessment can be made.

"We are aware there are further agricultural announcements to come but this first Scorecard allows us to give an indication of how parties are progressing so far and where improvement is needed."

The national areas line up with the five specific sugar industry election priorities CANEGROWERS has put together for farmers and others in cane growing communities to raise with candidates in seats along the Queensland coast.

These include:

Electricity - The cost of redundant and obsolete assets must be removed from the calculation of network tariffs so

farmers can access affordable power for irrigated crop production.

Sugar Tax - Rule out taxing a single ingredient in a single food item and commit to continuing whole-of-diet nutrition education programmes.

Trade - Include sugar in all international trade agreements and remove technical barriers to implementing agreements.

Environment - Boost the government support to growers who are changing to best management practices to deliver water quality outcomes to the Reef.

Research and Development - Increase total government expenditure on agricultural R&D from 0.5% of gross value of production to 1.5% by 2019. ■

Offered for sale by Tony Jonsson and Gerry Mier, of Grant Thornton Australia Limited, as joint and several Deed Administrators of Mossman Sugar Co Limited (Subject to Deed of Company Arrangement) ACN 009 657 103



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CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

By CANEGROWERS district offices

Mossman & Tableland

Mackay Sugar's Mossman Mill was due to start the 2016 season on 30 May but lost a week because of wet weather.

Crushing started on 6 June but harvesting has been interrupted by mechanical issues at the mill. Mackay Sugar's Far North crop is estimated at 1,254,000T.

Tableland Mill commenced crushing on Wednesday 25 May with an estimated 800,000T to be crushed for the season. Of this approx. 400,000T is Mackay Sugar Toll Crush cane.

Burdekin

Crushing commenced as scheduled with ideal harvesting conditions. The crushing forecast produced by Wilmar for 2016 (exclusive of wet weather interruptions) is to crush 8,300,000 tonnes averaging around 377,000 tonnes per week.

It is aiming for a similar length season to

2015 which was a dry harvest year and finished on 12 November having crushed 8,278,390 tonnes of cane in 156 days.

A large amount of new equipment was commissioned after a significant capital and maintenance program ahead of this year's crushing season. Steam trials can test some equipment but others need cane in the factory and the first 24 hours of operations were disrupted.

Pioneer Mill started relatively smoothly and continues to crush well with loading allotments being close to normal. Inkerman and Invicta have both had issues around new control systems. Kalamia took time to commission a new governor system on two mills.

Throughput for the four Burdekin mills for the first six days of the season was 217,955 tonnes with a district average CCS of 11.87; the best performing variety was KQ228 with 12.49 CCS. Pleasingly dirt levels have been reported at less than three across all mills so far.

Innisfail

The current estimate for the season for cane under a South Johnstone Mill Supply Contract is 1,890,000.

South Johnstone Mill will crush approximately 1,620,000 and an estimated 270,000 cane will be transferred to Mulgrave mill based on current estimates.

Should the crop estimate increase during the season further transfers may be required.

The scheduled start date of crushing of 14 June was being reviewed due to the potential impact of a wet weather forecast.

With more local growers achieving accreditation under Smartcane BMP, the district currently has over 30% of the area under accreditation, and of the remaining 70% of the area, 85% is actively engaged under Smartcane BMP program.

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection compliance officers have

commenced farm visits in the district.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail was successful with a project application under the Landcare Small Grants program.

The project will look at different forms of nitrogen and different application methods replicated over five sites across the district.

With additional money available under the last Round of the Reef Water Quality program, two district projects were approved.

The first is to setup water quality monitoring in sub-catchments across the district to monitor any decrease in water quality and then set about to identify the cause. The second project is set up a pilot involving five growers for the collection and storage of data generated through the use of GPS.

The district has a GPS Community Base Station Network and the collection and storage of data will be an extension of this.

Herbert River

Rainfall since late May has dashed plans for an early start to the 2016 season as the traditionally dry areas south of Toobanna experienced a thorough drenching and follow up showers on 12 June. The most likely date for a commencement of the season is now 21 June subject to weather.

Growers turned out in strong numbers for three shed meetings on 2 June to introduce QSL's full value package offering to the CANEGROWERS Collective as part of Growers Choice.

Following some glaring distortions by people recently in regard to damage to the Great Barrier Reef, CANEGROWERS Herbert River has arranged with Professor Peter Ridd to make a presentation in Ingham on Wednesday 29 June at Kelly Theatre 7:00pm. The presentation will be of interest to growers and their families and local school science students are invited to attend.

Mackay

Mackay Sugar mills crushed a total of 130,395 tonnes for the week ending 12 June. Both Marian and Farleigh mills experienced mechanical issues disrupting production.

Racecourse mill was affected by wet weather towards the end of the week, but otherwise (generally) crushed well.

PRS averaged 11.25 across the three sites. Total cane crushed to date is 184,333 tonnes of the 5,400,000 tonne estimate.

Bundaberg

Bundaberg Sugar is investigating the cause of a fire at Millaquin Mill which will delay the start of crushing for up to two weeks.

It is believed to have started with embers from the boiler furnace setting a bagasse conveyor alight.



Powering the Economy

MSF Sugar continues to invest in assets, particularly in Far North Queensland, that will increase our capacity to supply global markets, drive agricultural interests for the region and lead environmental management in the farming sector.

MSF Sugar is a leading agribusiness company – we are an integrated grower, miller, marketer and exporter of raw sugar. We are Australia's largest sugarcane farmer, second largest raw sugar exporter and the third largest miller.

- We operate four sugar mills with a total capacity of 4.7 million tonnes of cane
- Sugar production of around 600,000 tonnes of raw sugar per annum
- MSF Sugar's own cane farms produce about 650,000 tonnes of cane
- 630 growers supply our sugar mills
- MSF Sugar employs nearly 740 people – around 500 are full time
- Direct output into the Queensland economy is about \$275 million per annum
- Best practice farming and leader in SmartCane BMP irrigation accreditation
- Continual multi-million dollar investment in new technology and local suppliers



WHO WILL PAY WHEN POWER PRICE OUTRAGE PUSHES GROWERS OFF THE GRID?

By Wayne Griffin

Those who can least afford it will be left shouldering the burden of Queensland's gold plated electricity network when Ergon Energy's relentless cash grab pushes growers off the grid. That's the prediction of one Bundaberg cane farmer who has forked out \$145,000 to escape the clutches of the state-owned energy giant.

Kelvin Griffin is a self-proclaimed guinea pig. An innovator at the vanguard of an ever-growing community of farmers struggling desperately to escape the crippling power price rises meted out year-on-year by Queensland Government cash cow Ergon Energy.

So desperate has the struggle become that Kelvin has staked the future of his family business on a \$145,000 solar system designed to power the farm's high-pressure irrigation pumps and get them


off the grid and out of Ergon's grasp once and for all.

"We'd cut back on using the Ergon grid as much as possible," said Kelvin, who runs the 80 ha property on the outskirts of Bargara with wife Helen and son Jason.

"In fact, we'd bought a new irrigator five years ago, but because of the continuous power price rises it had hardly been used. It was just sitting there because we couldn't justify the cost of running it."



Pictured: Bundaberg cane growers, Kelvin, Helen and Jason Griffin invested almost \$150,000 in a new on-farm solar system that will help them escape the skyrocketing power prices imposed by Ergon Energy.



"In many ways we're the guinea pigs and people are waiting to see how it works out. That's definitely caused a few sleepless nights."

Much of the Griffin property is flood irrigated, but as power prices soared production dropped on a 25 ha area requiring high pressure irrigation.

"We were doing everything we possibly could to irrigate off the head pressure on the SunWater system," Kelvin said.

"We'd only use the electricity sparingly on weekends or late at night on the cheapest tariffs.

"It was really holding us back and production over that 25 ha area was down at least 10 to 15%."

Then, in 2014, after much soul-searching and crunching of numbers, the family decided to take a leap of faith into the world of solar powered high-pressure irrigation.

It was not a cheap exercise, with the concrete slab bases alone costing \$25,000.

By the time the 200 panel 55Kw system was completed the family had taken on \$100,000 of debt.

"It was a huge decision for us as a family," Kelvin said. "Financially we were obviously taking on a big debt, but also the system itself was something new.

"There are plenty of examples of solar-powered low pressure irrigation systems, but not with high pressure pumps, so it was a bit of a risk."

It was 18 months from when the family first approached Emerald's Gem Energy until the system was finally completed in March this year.

"It changed a few times along the way because we ran up a few dry gullies in terms of technology, but in the end Gem found the right technology which is what we have installed now," said Kelvin.

"In many ways we're the guinea pigs and people are waiting to see how it works out. That's definitely caused a few sleepless nights.

"But now that it's in and operational and we see power prices going up again by another 12%, it does make you sleep a little easier knowing you've made a good decision for the future of the business."

With the irrigation season over before installation was complete, the family is yet to feel the full benefit of their new solar system, but Kelvin has done the sums and is confident he'll see massive savings, not to mention a boost in production, over the system's 25-year life.

"If we irrigated using grid electricity we'd be handing over \$40,000 to \$50,000 to Ergon in the next year alone.

Continues next page...

"Now instead we'll be paying that off a system that we'll own completely debt-free in around five years. At the same time we'll be boosting production by 10 to 15%."

GROWER INTEREST

The Griffins' solar experiment has attracted a lot of attention from fellow irrigators also struggling to cope with Ergon's crippling power price rises.

"We've had a huge amount of interest from other growers locally and right around Australia," Kelvin said.

"We've been getting a few calls every week about it and there has been a lot of contact made through the local CANEGROWERS office, also many growers have gone directly to Gem Energy.

"I'm not surprised, because the rising power prices are really hurting people. It's a real impost on agriculture and rural communities in general.

"We don't mind paying our fair share, but at the minute power prices are just being used as another tax.

"You just need to take a look at crops around the region and you can almost tell where people are using Ergon power to irrigate, because that's where the crops are suffering due to growers cutting back on watering."

WHO WILL PAY?

As the cost of solar plummets and electricity prices skyrocket, Kelvin believes more and more farmers across the state will decide to go off-grid.

"Everybody has got to take it on a case-by-case basis, depending on what their irrigation and power needs are," he said.

"Some people may need a hybrid between electricity and solar, some might need a hybrid between diesel and solar, but ultimately many may be able to get by with just solar."

And that could be very bad news not only for Ergon, but for those customers left struggling to prop up Queensland's gold-plated network.

"Ultimately, at the end of the day, it's going to be a death spiral for the power grid, because there is going to be more and more people, be it houses, farms

or businesses, going off the grid," said Kelvin.

"Unfortunately the people left behind, those renting or people on lower incomes who can't afford solar, the people who don't have any options at all, they're the ones who will be left picking up the costs.

"That's a sad situation and not something that I or any other grower wants to see happen, but unfortunately that's what will happen because the continual price rises are leaving growers and businesses with no choice."

For the Griffins at least it looks like power price woes are a thing of the past. With the new solar set to pay its own way in five years, Kelvin is already looking at ways to improve the system.

"We're hoping to be able to expand it in the not too distant future with battery back-up.

"That will give us a longer window to be able to operate the pumps. Instead of starting at 8 in the morning we might be able to start 5 or 6 and operate until 6 or 7 in the evening," Kelvin said.

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Warren Males
CANEGROWERS
Head - Economics

ELECTRICITY PRICE HIKES QCA figures fail fairness test

The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) retail electricity price determination 2016-17 will see electricity prices for irrigation tariffs increase by 12.3% from 1 July 2016. The price increase is largely due to an increase in the retail component of electricity prices.

Why has this occurred? A key reason is a change in QCA's retail cost calculation methodology. It's not due to a real increase in the cost of Ergon delivering retail services to its customers.

This is another example of out-of-control electricity price increases being delivered by a broken electricity pricing framework.

CANEGROWERS' concerns with the QCA decision are that:

- *increases in notified retail electricity prices for 2016-17 of 12.3% for transitional irrigation tariffs are not consistent with the requirements of the Electricity Act 1994,*
- *QCA has used an inappropriate definition of costs in the calculation of the "R" component of retail prices,*
- *QCA has substantially over-estimated the actual cost of supplying wholesale energy in the Ergon retail market, and*
- *the proposed allowance for retailer costs in the draft determination is excessive.*

CANEGROWERS engaged the Sapere Research Group in a project funded by Energy Consumers Australia to quantify the errors in allowances for wholesale and retail electricity costs contained in QCA's draft determination for 2016-17. Sapere shows that the regulated prices QCA has determined for 2016-17 are substantially in excess of efficient costs (outlined in the adjacent table).

Separately, CANEGROWERS commissioned Sapere to independently and objectively assess the Tariff Structure Statement (TSS) proposal Ergon made to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER). Sapere found that Ergon's TSS fails to meet the mandatory

requirements set out in the Network Pricing rules and the National Electricity Objective. CANEGROWERS has called on the AER to reject Ergon's TSS and rework it in accordance with the mandatory requirements of the Network Pricing rules and the National Electricity Objective.

Adoption of this recommendation would extend the network tariff reform process.

However, the extra time taken to improve the tariff structure is preferable to accepting the consequences of Ergon's flawed and inefficient TSS proposal.

It would also provide an opportunity for Ergon to take account of the tariff design options prepared by the Alternative Technology Association (ATA) Energy Projects Team (part of a project funded by Energy Consumers Australia) that will support the continuation of efficient retail tariffs that meet the needs of irrigators.

To date, Ergon has dismissed this well-founded work on procedural grounds.

The electricity pricing system is broken. Regulated electricity prices, spiralling ever higher, are out of control. Excessive electricity prices are enabling Ergon, Energex and Powerlink to achieve extraordinary profits at the expense of electricity users and the Queensland economy.

Continuing our work to address the problem of unsustainably high electricity prices based on sound economic analysis, not political rhetoric, CANEGROWERS has engaged independent experts to model and prepare comprehensive analyses of the electricity pricing system and has provided these documents to QCA, AER, Ergon and the Department of Energy and Water Supply.

So far, little account has been taken of this expert analysis.

CANEGROWERS is now calling on the Queensland Parliament to step in and take action to rein in prices, lift the burden on electricity users and support Queensland's economic growth and development.

	QCA 2015	QCA DD 2015	QCA change from 2015	Sapere (mid)	Sapere change from 2015
Wholesale	\$79.9	\$92.4	\$12.5	\$80.5	\$0.6
RET	\$8.7	\$11.2	\$2.5	\$9.7	\$0.9
Retail	\$21.7	\$36.9	\$15.2	\$21.0	-\$0.6
Total	\$110.3	\$140.5	\$30.2	\$111.2	\$0.9

Source: QCA, Sapere analysis. Note numbers above have been rounded to nearest \$0.1 / MWh.



SRA unveils new 2016 SUGARCANE VARIETIES

Sugarcane growers and millers in multiple regions will soon have access to five new sugarcane varieties that have now been approved for release in specific regions.

These varieties are SRA4[®] (QS97-2463) in Southern, SRA5 (QN04-668) in the Herbert, SRA6 (QN05-507) in the North, SRA7 (QN05-1071) in the North, and SRA8 (QA01-5267) in the Burdekin.

In addition, the previously approved varieties SRA1[®] and SRA3[®] have been approved for release in the north and Q247[®] has been approved for release for the southern region (Bundaberg and Maryborough only).

This update provides some more information on these new varieties, and greater detail will soon be available via QCANESelect™, as well as published in SRA's forthcoming Variety Guides, which will be available in coming months.

Growers can also contact their local SRA office or talk to their local productivity services organisation for more information.

All of these varieties have been approved for release following deliberations of each region's Variety Approval Committee (VAC).

SRA5 (Herbert):

SRA5 has recently been approved for release by the Herbert VAC and is suited to niche environments and certain conditions.

SRA5 is most suited to poor soils and extreme environments such as regions prone to extended water-logging.

In SRA trials, SRA5 has produced above-average tonnes with good vigour, although with very low CCS and high fibre.

Because of this, it is not expected to be a dominant variety for the region, but it could fill an important niche role.

Herbert grower **Joe Girgenti** farms at the southern end of the district near Mutarnee and said that he saw potential for SRA5 in certain environments.

He has grown small amounts of the variety over several years as part of Final Assessment Trials.

"Growers put our eyes on this variety and decided we want to go ahead with it," he said.

"My observation is that it ratoons well, produces very good tonnes, and stands up tall.

The lower CCS means that it will not be for everyone, but if it ratoons well and can save on our replanting costs then it could fill an important niche here in the Herbert."

HCPSL will establish nitrogen and ripener trials to see if SRA5 could be managed to produce more CCS.

SRA6 and SRA7 (North):

Both SRA6 and SRA7 are locally-bred Northern varieties.

They have above-average TCH and below-average CCS, with their productivity in tonnes of sugar per hectare better than the major commercial varieties grown in the Far North.

Cane Productivity Manager with Tully Sugar Limited (TSL), **Greg Shannon**, welcomed the new varieties.

"Up to now, the majority of varieties we are working with have been blanket approved and we test them for several seasons to find the best local recommendation for them to fit into our system," Mr Shannon said.

"With SRA6 and SRA7 however, both being locally bred varieties, we are hopeful they will find a place in our system quickly.

In addition SRA6 is Pachymetra resistant and we know, from our recent surveys that Pachymetra is a major issue for us.

Thankfully many of the new SRA varieties are Pachymetra resistant."

SRA4[®] and Q247[®] (Southern):

SRA4[®] has been approved in the southern region and Q247[®] has been released for the region.

Q247[®] had previously been blanket-approved across the industry and in the Southern region it is recommended only in Bundaberg and Maryborough.

In SRA trials, SRA4[®] has produced moderate tonnes and moderate sugar (CCS), with good productivity across ratoons. It is resistant to Pachymetra root rot. ►



Pictured: Victoria Estate grower Chris Bosworth pictured in his seed plot with SRA3[®].



Q247[®] has shown moderate tonnes and moderate to high CCS, it is suited to early harvest, and is rated resistant to Pachymetra.

Bundaberg sugarcane grower Tony Castro took part in the recent VAC meeting and said that SRA4[®] and Q247[®] had impressive trial results.

"These varieties that we approved showed good resistance to pests and diseases, good yields in terms of tonnes and CCS, and good early to mid-season maturity," Mr Castro said.

"We already have a number of good varieties for later in the season, but we are looking for varieties that are good early- and mid-season."



He added that Pachymetra root rot resistance was very positive as it allowed for improved management of this disease.

"We also appreciate the work that SRA is doing assessing varieties through Final Assessment Trials into further ratoons, to give a better indication of how new varieties may perform across a crop cycle."



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SRA8 (Burdekin):

SRA8 is currently in the mother plots run by Burdekin Productivity Services and was first planted into BPS strip trials in 2014.

In final assessment and strip trial data, the variety had average tonnes of cane per hectare, and high sugar (CCS). It is intermediate resistant to smut.

BPS Manager, Rob Milla, said that once strip trials were harvested in 2016, these results would be shared in BPS newsletters and shed meetings.

"From what we've observed at strip trials, SRA8 appears to have rapid germination and above average CCS," Mr Milla said.

"Feedback from growers has suggested they would prefer higher CCS varieties, and SRA8 should fill this requirement. As with all new varieties, BPS suggests growers to trial a small area on their farm."

Pictured: Burdekin grower Steve Pilla chats about the new Burdekin variety SRA8 with SRA Principal Technician Catherine Kettle and Burdekin grower Lawrence Dal Santo; (right) SRA Principal Technician, Alison Jensen, in the field at Bundaberg with SRA4.



Dougall Lodge,
GM Trading and Risk

“The Queensland sugar industry is well positioned to take advantage of the tighter supply situation in the Asian region.”

Regional premiums up as ICE 11 climbs

Current as of 13 June 2016

The recent surge in ICE No.11 futures prices, driven by a more constructive outlook for the raw sugar market over the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 seasons, has had a spillover effect into the physical sugar market.

Regional premiums have shifted higher in recent weeks on the prospect of poor crops in Asia and Central America due to drought conditions. This, combined with wet weather in Centre South (CS) Brazil and its associated impact on export supply, suggests there will be 1.5 million metric tonnes (MT) of raw sugar trade-flow deficit up until the second quarter of calendar year 2017.

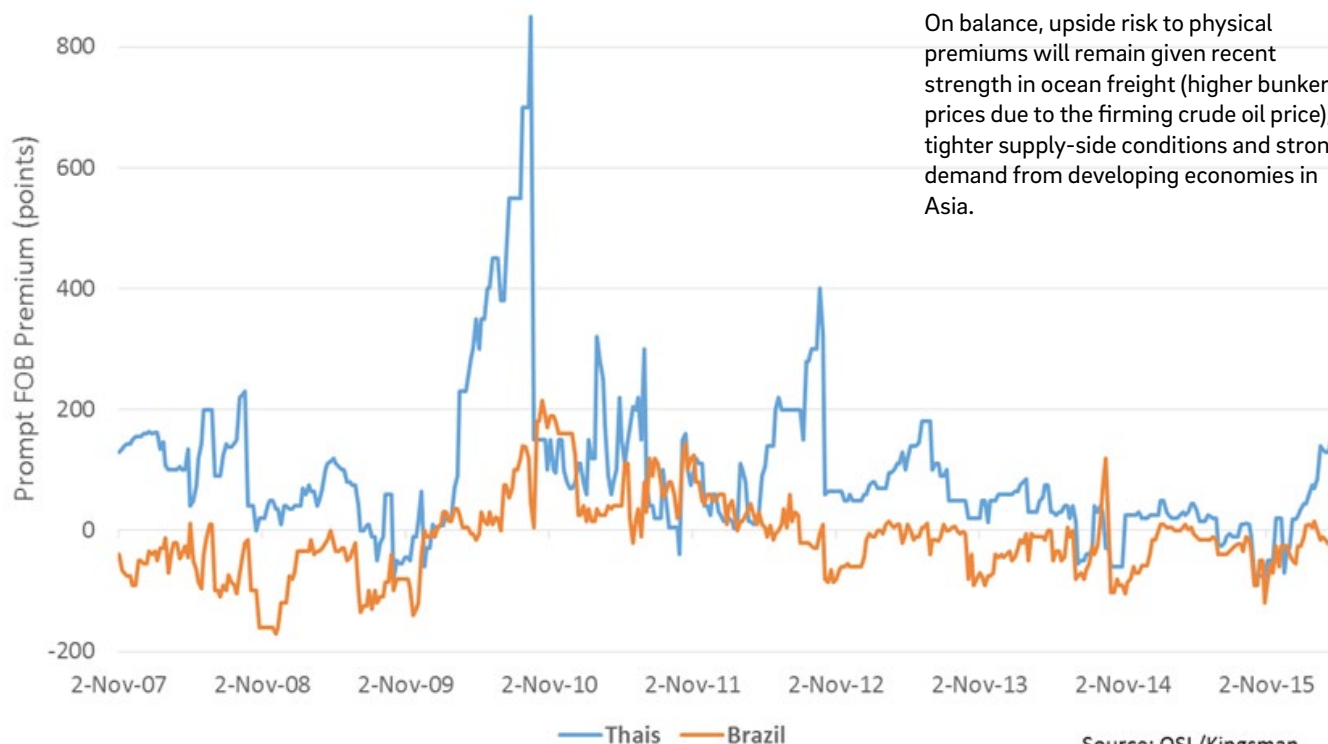
On the demand side of the equation, a recent visit to our Asian customer base revealed growing appetite for physical sugar despite a weaker macroeconomic environment. Indonesia, the second-largest raw sugar importer of circa 3.8 m MT, which sources the majority of its sugar from Thailand under a preferential ASEAN trade agreement, has continued to underpin the value of Thailand-origin sugar.

Thailand high polarization raw sugars (equivalent to Queensland Brand 1 Raw Sugar) for May and July shipment in 2017 have surged to a premium over ICE No.11 futures of USD 29.00 and USD 38.00 respectively.

Raw sugars from CS Brazil have also firmed in recent weeks by circa USD 1.00 to USD 2.00/tonne on the back of weather disruptions, as traders are willing to pay slightly more to guarantee availability. The recent trend in physical sugar premiums is illustrated in the chart below.

The Queensland sugar industry is well positioned to take advantage of the tighter supply situation in the Asian region, as both Thailand and India are impacted by El Nino drought and output from the Queensland industry remains stable.

On balance, upside risk to physical premiums will remain given recent strength in ocean freight (higher bunker prices due to the firming crude oil price), tighter supply-side conditions and strong demand from developing economies in Asia.



Source: QSL/Kingsman



QSL Grower Rep Members a key resource

Kalamia grower Denis Poozebon has been announced as our newest QSL Grower Representative Member. Denis replaces former Burdekin representative Ramon Poli and will hold office until the next scheduled QSL Grower Representative elections in mid-2017.

QSL has 21 elected Grower Representative Members, each serving 3-year terms representing their local milling district.

In addition to this, CANEGROWERS and ACFA also appoint one Grower Representative Member each, taking the total number to 23.

Each QSL Grower Representative Member plays a critical role within QSL. Not only do they provide important advice and feedback regarding QSL services and products, but they're also a trusted local source of information and assistance for growers who have questions about QSL or 2017 Marketing Choice.

The full list of current QSL Grower Representative Members and their contact details is featured below.

Make the most of your local rep – they really are 'in the know' when it comes to QSL issues and are happy to help.

MILLING DISTRICT	QSL GROWER REP MEMBER	CONTACT DETAILS	
Mossman	Gerard Puglisi	P: 0428 988 136	E: gtpuglisifarming@bigpond.com
Tableland	Nirmal Chohan	P: 0409 934 490	E: malchohan@me.com
Mulgrave	Jeffrey Day	P: 0409 264 263	E: sugarview@bigpond.com
South Johnstone	Barry Stubbs	P: 0408 067 622	E: stubbo67@bigpond.net.au
Tully	Thomas Harney	P: 0427 028 631	E: harney@internode.on.net
Herbert River	Michael Pisano	P: 0429 113 465	E: m_lpisano1@bigpond.com
	Vince Russo	P: 0427 164 025	E: vince.russo@bigpond.com.au
	Russell Jordan	P: 0427 768 479	E: jorfar@exemail.com.au
	Roger Piva	P: 0429 483 815	E: rogerdpiva@gmail.com
Burdekin	David Lando	P: 0417 770 345	E: david@landoandsons.com.au
	Denis Pozzebon	P: 0427 961 794	E: denispozzebon@bigpond.com
Proserpine	Mark Blair	P: 0429 629 337	E: msbls@bigpond.com
Mackay	Anthony Ross	P: 0429 969 549	E: zeitoun@mackay.net.au
	Frank Perna	P: 0418 765 243	E: faperna@bigpond.com
	Phillip Deguara	P: 0417 796 468	E: pfdeguaara@bigpond.com
Plane Creek	Kevin Borg	P: 0429 876 441	E: kjaborg@bigpond.com
Bundaberg	Kelvin Griffin	P: 0418 881 871	E: griffin.farms@icloud.com
	Tony Castro	P: 0428 599 451	E: acastro3@bigpond.com
Isis	Joe Russo	P: 0428 988 925	E: joe_j_russo@hotmail.com
Maryborough	Jeffrey Atkinson	P: 0428 212 792	E: botatk205@bigpond.com
Rocky Point	Richard Skopp	P: 0417 798 005	E: richardskopp@gmail.com
ACFA	Don Murday	P: 0418 774 499	E: mangopk@bigpond.net.au
CANEGROWERS	Paul Schembri	P: 0417 604 196	E: paul_schembri@canegrowers.com.au

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BALANCING ACT

Finding the happy medium between irrigation and drainage a challenge for this Bloomsbury grower

By Neroli Roocke

Water is a balancing act for Bloomsbury grower **Layton Mitchell**. On one hand he's building drainage lines to take spring water away from his crop and on the other he's diligently monitoring his cane's growth to make sure it has the right amount of irrigation at key points in its growth phase.

Along with his cane, this farmer who moved to north Queensland from Africa, is a cattle whisperer. He has a small herd that comes at his call on the higher, grassy slopes of his 300 ha farm.

On holiday with his family in 2003 in the Whitsundays, Layton says they had a spare afternoon, went for a drive and ended up liking what they saw.

Given a government program of redistributing farms away from white landholders in Zimbabwe, they made the decision to invest in Australia and relocate.

"I used to employ 300 people but when I left I decided I didn't want to employ anybody but myself," Layton says.

"I looked for something that was mechanised that I could do on my own and so that's what I'm doing.

"I contract the harvesting and planting but everything else I do myself."

Armed with qualifications from agricultural college and experience in growing crops including wheat and stem roses he took over the property and its 170 ha of cane paddocks.

Depending on the fallow, about 150 ha is under cane in any given year. Layton describes it as a wet farm with heavy clay soil.

"We've got quite a high percentage of very heavy clays and waterlogging issues during very wet years and they stay wet for a very long time," he says.

"We've been doing a lot of underground drainage so we can divert the water that comes to the surface and then plant those lower, wetter areas."



Pictured: Layton Mitchell has layered river sand and perforated pipes in trenches to divert excess surface water from low lying areas. He has a small herd of cattle on the farm's higher, grassy slopes.



Pictured: Layton Mitchell and his family moved to Queensland from Zimbabwe where they'd had a farming business employing 300 people.

“Probably 80% of the root ball is in the top 20 cm so we want to stop that from getting water-logged.”

Using a laser level, a line is marked and an excavator with a 300 mm bucket digs a trench to a depth of one metre.

A layer of 100 mm of river sand is put at the bottom of the trench, over which a perforated PVC pipe is laid and then covered with another 100mm of sand before soil is back filled.

“It’s been working well – we’ve had some of it in for four years now and the only problem we’ve had is some blockage with roots from the cane or trees on the edge,” Layton says.

“We’ve checked the water coming out with Sugar Services Proserpine and it’s suitable for irrigation, not too saline, so there’s no issues with the water quality.”

The pipes take the water to open drains and Layton has future plans to harness and store it.

“We have four dams, a couple of which we’ve put in since we’ve been here to improve our water storage, and they harvest a lot of surface flow particularly from the higher country on the eastern side of the farm,” Layton says.

Irrigation is carried out post-harvest through to Christmas using up most of the stored water ahead of the natural summer rainfall of the Whitsunday area although in drier years, irrigation is also needed in March and April.

Layton’s low pressure pivot irrigator originally covered 60 ha but after being flipped and damaged by Cyclone Ului in March 2010 it was rebuilt and now irrigates 40 ha.

“We had four hours of 200 km/hr winds and never expected it would go over but it did. A friend and myself took it down, every nut and bolt, and rebuilt it,” Layton says with a shake of his head.

“It took us about three weeks. I shortened it by one span because that’s what we could salvage from the twisted wreck that we had.

“There wasn’t a leaf left on the crop and it was flat on the ground but we managed to harvest most of it that year even though the season ended up being very wet.”

Given the cost of electricity, Layton is keen to maximise the benefit every time he turns on either the pivot or his hard and soft hose irrigators.

He estimates the pivot costs \$54 per hectare for a 40 mm irrigation cycle just in electricity.

The travelling irrigators’ cover the cane the pivot doesn’t reach but their electrical cost is \$73.60 per hectare which is 36% higher than the pivot.

Continues next page...



Pictured: Above, rebuilt after Cyclone Ului in 2010, the pivot covers 40 ha of the farm and right, the implement used to sweep trash into the inter row after harvest to encourage cane emergence.



"We use the most efficient tariffs – tariff 65 at night with the four travelling irrigators and tariff 66 on the pivot," he says.

"The travelling irrigators take most of an afternoon to set up and once the pumps and the pressures are sorted out it's 8pm – it's a big day and then together they'll only cover 10 hectares a night.

"The pivot is much easier – I run it on a schedule calculated based on the evaporation for the month measured by tensiometers which determine how dry the soil is getting by the vacuum that the roots create in the soil as they extract the moisture."

Layton does daily readings of the moisture probes and when they indicate 50% depletion of soil moisture capacity he irrigates to replenish it. Given the heavy soil, with 40 mm going on in each irrigation event, he has no runoff.

Working with Peter Sutherland and Frank Miller of SSP, he has been trying to measure the growth of his cane from the early stages through to maturity.

They want to identify which times are the most important for water to be readily available and for the soil profile to be saturated.

"We did it with wheat in Zimbabwe. At certain stages like tillering and flowering it was critical that you had the water because that ensured a better yield," he says. "It isn't as easy to see with cane but we are beginning to get the information to establish those periods.

"What we've learned from the tensiometers is that the growth is dependent on temperature so once night temperatures are above 22 degrees and days are around the 30 degree mark, the plant kicks in."

On Layton's farm that's generally around the middle of November.

"That is a period when my crop height will be around the 60-65 cm stage so at that moment, the crop is ready to bolt ahead and elongate.

"The other critical time is between the 60-75 cm when the plant is tillering and you must have the water available to retain those tillers which then multiply into yield.

"From there on we hopefully get sufficient rain to satisfy its requirement of 8-10 mm per day once it's over the 150 cm mark."

Fertiliser is applied post-harvest using a double disc opener stool splitter along with grub control in one operation prior to irrigation beginning.

Layton has modified an implement that he uses to sweep the top of the stool to clear the trash blanket into the inter

row after harvest to allow the sun to penetrate during the colder months to speed up cane emergence.

He maintains a high row profile of around 20 cm which assists to keep the cane roots out of the water.

"Probably 80% of the root ball is in the top 20cm so we want to stop that from getting water-logged," he explains.

The tactic is working with one block of Q208 growing into its sixth ratoon and still yielding around 100 tonnes/hectare.

In 2015, Layton harvested 12,516 tonnes off 140 ha with average CCS of 15.65.

That was a season characterised by a drought declaration for a district just down the road and Layton's farm recorded only 680 mm of rain when his 10-year average is 1,629 mm.

As a result, his dams only half filled and Layton decided to give the crop just two 40 mm irrigation cycles, retaining the remaining water for 2016 crop establishment.

Though the 2016 water allocation was lower than 2015, the cooler winter and spring temperatures have meant lower evaporation.

"The crop managed to limp through until after Christmas when we received a substantial rain event in excess of 265 mm over a six-day period," Layton says.

"The 2016 crop has great promise together with a better sugar price." ■



Herbert River grower Orazio Marino, with Mark Whitten (DAF- Extension Officer) and Lawrence Di Bella (HCPSL Manager).

IMPROVING REEF WATER QUALITY

study notes impressive buy-in from Herbert River growers

A three-year water quality study monitoring sediment, nutrient and pesticide run-off in the Herbert River catchment has noted the commitment of the region's cane growers to improving the quality of water flowing into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

The Herbert River Water Quality Monitoring Program (HWQMP) was conducted by Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd in conjunction with James Cook University, Terrain NRM and the Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The project collected and tested surface water samples from 17 sites in the Herbert River catchment over a three-year period, from 2011 to 2014.

The selected sites represented a cross-section of land uses in the area, including virgin rainforest, mixed cropping, urban, dairy, mining, grazing and sugarcane.

Presenting his paper on the program at the recent ASSCT conference in Mackay, project lead Lawrence Di Bella said the cane industry deserved credit for initiating the project.

"The cane industry initiated this program because there was very little data available for the Herbert region on the contribution of pollutants to the Great Barrier Reef from the various land uses in the catchment," Mr Di Bella said.

"At the time they were working off data from the Tully and Mackay areas.

"Credit should be given to CANEGROWERS Herbert River for taking the initiative and showing the leadership to tackle the problem of run-off head on."

Results

"What we found was that levels of nitrogen and some pesticides including diuron, hexazinone and atrazine, were frequently measured at concentrations exceeding the national guidelines in waters discharging from sugarcane sites in the Herbert sugarcane area."

A major aim of the project was to develop extension strategies that would help industry tackle the problem of run-off, Mr Di Bella said.

"We provided the data from the project six months in advance, before it went public, and that gave us time to work with industry to develop a strategy to improve the situation.

"For example, in this study we found elevated levels of imidacloprid in the water we were sampling.

"In response to these high levels we conducted a number of shed meetings to inform growers about the impending risks associated with the improper use of imidacloprid, its impact on water

quality and to offer recommendations for effective sugarcane grub control with minimal runoff.

"These meetings in late 2012 were attended by over 150 local growers and since that time we've seen a considerable reduction in imidacloprid levels in water from sugarcane sub-catchments."

Mr Di Bella said there has also been a significant reduction in nitrogen run-off thanks to a massive increase in sub-surface fertiliser application.

"Surface application of fertilisers reduced from 78% of area treated in 2008 to 38% of area treated in 2013, for the Herbert sugarcane growing region," he said.

Conclusion

"The HWQMP has definitely shown that extension programs can have an impact on water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon, if they are well planned, targeted and managed accordingly, Mr Di Bella said.

"Targeted extension programs can lead to positive environmental outcomes, without compromising industry productivity and profitability."

PROVIDING NUTRIENTS WITH NO LEACHING

Supplied by FertAg

FertAg 0-8-0 is calcium, magnesium, silicate phosphate (FMP) fertiliser that does not leach or run off with rain or irrigation. In acidic soils it provides plant available nutrients and re-mineralises the soil.

Results in sugarcane over almost two decades in Vietnam have shown improved yields of up to 225kg per kg of applied FMP and an increase of up to 2% CCS.

Plant roots that come in contact with FertAg 0-8-0 will easily 'digest' (solubilise) the nutrients using the root exudates.

In an acid environment with a pH around 5.5, the product will release 25% of its nutrients in 24 hours.

FertAg 0-8-0 has a high silicon content of 11%, with phosphorus at 8% and both are 96% plant available. There are trace elements including sulphur and boron present as well.

It is highly acid soluble with the silicate slowly released over a period of 1–9 months depending on rainfall, soil acidity and plant access – it is not water soluble so there is limited leaching into waterways.

Information from the WA Department of Agriculture indicates that the phosphate leaching from an application of FertAg 0-8-0 is on average 13 times less than soluble P fertiliser.

FertAg suggest an initial application to plant or ratoon cane of 350-500kg per

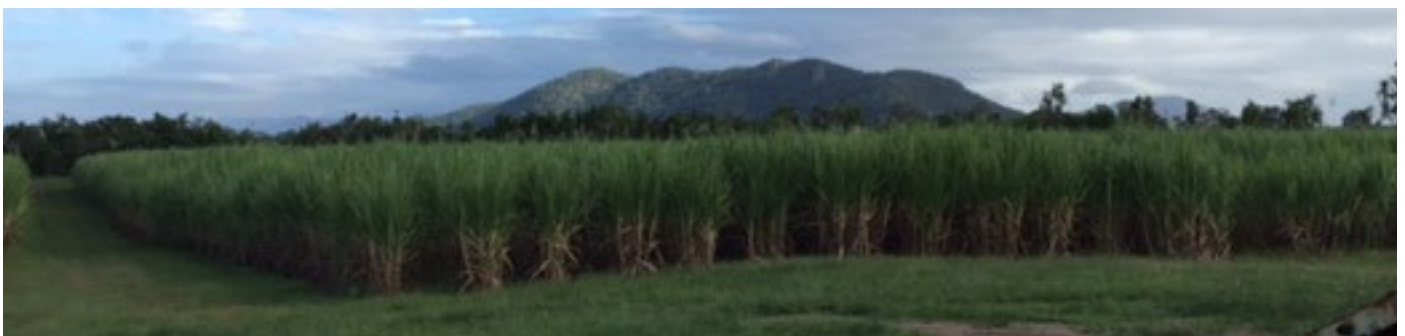
hectare followed up with application to each ratoon of 400 kg per hectare.

FertAg 0-8-0 is supplied in one tonne bags and approximately 1,000 tonnes have been sold in eastern Australia since 2015.

The product is imported from Vietnam into Brisbane and Townsville and is available through local distributors for sugarcane growers in Queensland and northern NSW.

FertAg Managing Director, Les Szonyi, recently promoted the product at the Ingham Farm Centre Farmlife Expo on Friday 3 June.

Contact FertAg at 1300 978 789 or www.fertag.com



BMP record keeping workshop

In late April, Smartcane BMP facilitator Sandra Henrich and QDAFF's Jack Robertsen hosted four record keeping workshops for CANEGROWERS Cairns Region growers.

These sessions were attended by more than 40 growers taking the opportunity to clarify what is required not only to comply with the reef regulations but also what is necessary to work towards Smartcane BMP accreditation. Of particular focus was the level of detail required in chemical and fertiliser application records.

"The workshops were well received with a valuable dialogue opening up between growers and facilitators," said Sandra. "Now more than ever, it is obvious that Cairns Region growers want their farming practices recognised through accreditation".

Jack's input was welcomed by growers and covered topics such as; soil testing requirements, chemical application competencies, chemical storage requirements, updates on registered chemicals and grub management.

"These workshops have been well planned and delivered, and most importantly, well attended, giving cane farmers in our region the necessary tools to help them along the way to BMP accreditation," Mulgrave grower Paul Gregory said.

"They are a vital component in the delivery of farming practices that will help convince those who scrutinise our day to day operations that we as an industry are serious in our role of custodians of agricultural lands in the Cairns Region."





Robots: Are they the next big (small) thing in agriculture?

by Neroli Roocke

Former Queensland Premier Campbell Newman imagines a future in which farmers analyse data and come up with strategies but don't spend much time driving tractors because smart machines, or robots, will be doing that.

Now the Chairman of a company called SwarmFarm, Mr Newman recently gave the Rural Press Club a passionate pitch on how robotic technology could deliver higher productivity, lower costs and meet sustainable land management targets.

"Large, heavy, expensive machines roaring across the paddocks are on the way out," he said. "We're talking about a new way of farming."

The company has been testing prototypes of what it hopes will become fleets of small, autonomous vehicles.

"Lightweight, low cost machines working in swarms moving slowly and carefully to undertake a variety of tasks such as planting or seeding, killing weeds, dealing with bugs, precision application of fertilizer and even harvesting eventually in a precise and targeted way," Mr Newman said.

"Think about machines that can give attention to individual plants even though you are farming on an industrial scale in vast paddocks."

In a bid to meet the needs of a rapidly growing human population, Mr Newman said agriculture had moved to bigger paddocks and larger and faster machines.

But he said yield gains were slowing and agriculture was facing soil compaction,

increased use of chemicals to deal with weeds and consequential herbicide resistance and declining soil health.

SwarmFarm was founded by Mr Newman's business partner, central Queensland grain and cattle farmer Andrew Bate, who started to look at existing NASA and military technologies with a view to deploy them to farming.

"He really is a visionary," Mr Newman said. "SwarmFarm is not about technology because we're technologists, we're market and farm-need led. We are creating machines that we believe farmers will find useful."

The company is working with university researchers, sponsors and private companies and has accessed government support.

The most recent programmable electric prototype, SwarmBot 3.0, is equipped with sensors and is able to return and refill its tanks when spraying and avoid unexpected obstacles in the paddock.

Mr Newman says it travels at around 8 km/hr with an eight metre boom and is able to work in groups to cover large areas by communicating across a network.

They keep records of where they have been, what tasks they've completed and the inputs used so Mr Newman said they offer benefits for industries such

as sugarcane in the Great Barrier Reef catchment.

"We can reduce the use of chemicals and fertiliser and ensure there is minimal disturbance of soils and we can collect the data as well," he said.

"We'd like to work with the cane industry and horticulture on this."

Over the next 12 months the robots will be tested on farms and the company hopes to move to developing commercial models. Mr Newman said they could be used in any cropping environment.

"It's a platform that can be raised or lower or made wider or narrower," he said.

"When they get to be mass produced in a proper factory, the price will plummet. If one of these breaks down, you can still have four or five others on the job.

"If a sensor goes in your big self-propelled spray rig you're out until you can get a spare part so capital deployment on farms will be more efficient as well."

"Ultimately as the technology improves, we can slow it down. We can give even more time and attention to individual plants," Mr Newman said.

"More food will be produced on existing land at lower or comparable cost."

The lowdown on fructose

Over the past few years, fructose has got a bad reputation. But is all the negativity really warranted?

By the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance Nutrition Team

Fructose is a simple sugar that occurs naturally in fruit and vegetables, as well as honey. It's what gives these foods their sweet taste. Fructose may also be added to some processed foods. Contrary to popular belief however, high-fructose corn syrup is not widely used in Australia like it is in the United States. [i]

DOES FRUCTOSE HAVE ANY BENEFITS?

Accredited Practising Dietitian, **Melanie McGrice** says fructose is found in three key places in our diets.

"Firstly, it's found naturally in foods such as fruit and vegetables, secondly it's used as an alternative sweetener in diet products, and thirdly it teams up with another molecule called glucose to make sucrose, better known as table sugar".

Fructose has developed a bad reputation following studies which have suggested that it has a weaker impact on appetite than its sweet cousins such as glucose, with some people even suggesting that the consumption of fructose might exacerbate appetite.

However, according to McGrice "it's important not to throw the baby out with the bath water". She explains that just because it's recommended that sugar be limited, doesn't mean that Australians should cease eating fructose-containing fruit and vegetables.

DOES THE FRUCTOSE IN TABLE SUGAR INCREASE HUNGER TOO?

In short "no". Studies suggest that sucrose (table sugar) doesn't increase appetite in the way that fructose does.

A small amount of sugar can play an important role in adding variety to our diet by making healthy foods more palatable. McGrice says that a little added sugar in some foods might be the difference between someone eating those foods or missing out on the other nutritional benefits of that food.

"For example, I would much prefer people eat yoghurt with some added fruit than not eat it at all because they don't like the tart taste of sugar-free Greek yoghurt," she says.

SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED ABOUT FRUCTOSE? DOES IT CAUSE WEIGHT GAIN?

When it comes to consuming too much fructose, McGrice says only those who have problems digesting fructose (i.e. fructose intolerance) need to monitor their intake. The rest of us should be concerned with the total amount of all nutrients, including sugar we consume, rather than focusing solely on fructose.

While consuming too much sugar is unhealthy, the Dietitians Association of Australia states that sugar alone is not the main cause of weight gain. It believes blaming sugar consumption, particularly fructose, is simplistic and unhelpful when it comes to a complex issue such as obesity. In fact, Australian research indicates total per capita fructose consumption has decreased in Australia over the past 40 years, while weight gain has continued. [ii]

HOW MUCH SHOULD WE HAVE?

"Some people eat too much sugar," says McGrice, "but you can be a healthy weight and include a little sugar in your diet. The key is eating treats in moderation."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends free sugars, (those added during manufacturing or cooking, or occur naturally in honey, fruit syrups and concentrates) not exceed 10 per cent of the total energy intake of adults or children. WHO advises that a further reduction to below five per cent (around six teaspoons) per day would provide additional (dental) health benefits. [iii]

When it comes to choosing packaged foods, McGrice advises reading the ingredient list, as well as the nutritional panel.

While cutting back on added sugars in the diet — particularly from treat foods — may aid weight loss and overall health, McGrice believes developing a healthy relationship with sugar is far more practical and helpful for long-term health.

- Be aware of sugars in the ingredient list of foods.
- Know your 'sometimes foods'.
- Don't have these foods in the house, but enjoy them on special occasions without the guilt.
- Eat 'treat' foods in moderation with other people, instead of in secret.
- Educate children on where food comes from.
- Avoid or limit highly processed foods.
- Cook from scratch where possible, but be practical about it.



References:

[i] Dietitians Association of Australia, Letter to the Editor, Sunday Life Magazine, published 3 February 2011; accessed 7 March 2016, http://dmsweb.daa.asn.au/files/Media_Centre/Letter_to_Sunday_Life_FINAL.pdf

[ii] Ibid

[iii] World Health Organisation, WHO calls on countries to reduce sugars intake among adults and children, published 4 March, 2015; accessed 7 March 2016, www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2015/sugar-guideline/en/

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A charge of \$5.50 will apply for each extra line or part thereof. A charge will apply for advertising of non-cane growing activities. Advertisements must relate exclusively to cane farming activities, e.g. farm machinery etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only pre-paid ads will be accepted.

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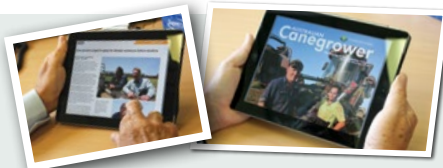
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Irrigation everflo bore pump, 75kw, auto transformer starter, 100,000 litres per hour capacity, up to 70m depths, \$20,000. New Holland side delivery rake, \$1500. Ph: 0419 911 226

Fiat 980 with loader, 3400hrs, ROPS, with new injector pump. Good Condition. \$16,500+gst. Ph: 0407 364 012

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm)	
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	
	06.06.16	13.06.16	Year to date	Jan-June
Mossman	18	0	1235	1724
Mareeba AP	0	0.2	379	717
Cairns	2	6	873	1598
Mt Sophia	29	15	1485	2577
Babinda	23	12	2347	3261
Innisfail	81	12	2107	2714
Tully	90	2	2335	3154
Cardwell	17	2	1451	1655
Lucinda	17	7	1525	1653
Ingham	17	8	1433	1555
Abergowrie	23	0	973	1429
Townsville	1	4	803	868
Ayr DPI	9	5	387	712
Proserpine	21	6	958	1027
Mirani	36	4	951	1118
Mackay	39	4	1127	1169
Sarina (Plane Ck)	59	12	1297	1282
Bundaberg	65	0.2	534	610
Childers South	79	0	560	513
Maryborough	45	1	526	728
Tewantin	83	5	720	1131
Eumundi	100	3	621	1095
Nambour	141	2	631	1085
Woongoolba	111	2	269	834
Murwillumbah	321	2	914	1035
Ballina	278	13	865	1146
Woodburn	158	1	479	878



**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.

2 off new rims to suit 18.4 x 38 tyres - \$220 inc gst. ph 0247563056 or 40563056

HARD HOSE IRRIGATOR Ocmis VIR6 - 330 meters x 140mm with computer, compressor, fully hydraulic Only done 2 seasons. \$45,000+GST. Ph: 0427 924867
MF105 Harvester powered by 180 HP Cummins. Good plant cutter with spares - Good condition. Case 1070, 125 HP A/C Cab. Can be easily converted to Tricycle. Tyres 90%. 2 X Olympic gripster, tubeless 2.8.38, 80%. Tyres, Rims and Centres to suit J.D. Axle. All open to offers. Ph: 0427 676 115

H/Duty Incorporator Cane Planter with 5 Trailers & Plant Cutter, Zahra Cane Cleaner with Fert. Box, 1T Bag Lifter on Trailer, 3T Water Tank on Trailer, 3 Row Double Scratchers, 2 Row Fert. Box, 3 Row Plant Cane Leveller. SAME Tractor, 150HP, 4x4, 1000hrs. Ph: 4065 6237 / 0427 656 237

1 X 976 International Tractor in reasonable condition. 1 x Howard 61 Slasher fully rebuilt. Ph: 0408 195 354

Acco 1950B Tandem Tipper HBM plant cutter with toppler. Ph: 0417 987 228

850L Hardi Spray Tank with Back Boom and Spray Gun. Good condition and in good working order. Ph: 0429 681 264

Herbert River – Burdekin

John Shearer 28 Disc offset on wheel. Price \$3500. Ph: 07 4777 4200 after 6pm
 Two Good Year 23.1x34 t6 8 ply with tubes 15 per cent tread left. No damage. Call 0417 190 612 after 6pm

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

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

Rear Tipper 5ton electric over hydraulic lift, 23.1x30tyres. Good condition, always kept in shed \$6000. Ph: 07 49 590 447 or 0412 164 647

102 MS cane harvester for parts. Leader truck for parts. Fiat 750 & 615 tractors for parts. Ph: 0418 873 439

Gallagher rotary hoe 80" heavy duty set up for 1000rpm PTO. Trailco traveller irrigator T300/2 includes Nelson big gun. Ph: 0417 779 199

John Deere 6920 IVT Front Suspension, Full Cab Suspension, Air Compressor 3PL, 4WD - \$40,000 Plus GST. Ph: 0407 139 083 or 0418 798 955

Bundaberg - Rocky Point

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

Cane Harvester – Modified 4000 Corradini – rotating extractor hoods, primary and secondary. The latest 6000 epi-cycles, Austoft shredder toppler, front end 7000, GC. For sale or parts. Ph: 0427 598 333

2011 Idrofoglia hard hose irrigator 125mmx340m, fully hydraulic, computer controlled, bogie axle in excellent condition. Ph: 0419 665 001

Quantity of 5 inch aluminium pipes with Ajax fittings on trailer, some with adjustable flood gates \$1500 plus GST ph- 0419 665 001

Gough Whole Stick planter. 2 metre x 800mm dual row. Suscon and fertiliser boxes. Sprays for cane set treatment. Located Childers, Qld. \$3500 Inc. GST. Ph 0428 987 089

Wanted

FORD TW15 or 25 tractor engine block Ph 0418180650 anytime

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

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

Wanted, belt type lime spreader, one tonne Marshall or similar. Ph: 0427 120 499

Front weights for Ford 7840 tractor, Wanted : Ford Rims to suit 18x4x38. Ph: 0409 598 398

Rock picker, good condition, Ph 0457000137

Positions Vacant

CAIRNS AREA - Tractor driving and general farm duties as well and bin hauling, Mulgrave . Ph: 0429 057 530

Work Wanted

HERBERT RIVER / TULLY AREA - Seeking farm / haulout / billet planter work. Over 16 years experience in the cane industry. HR License. Ph: 0498 008 268 oremail johncristaldi69@gmail.com

BURDEKIN AREA - Seeking full-time farmhand work or haulout job for 2016. Have sugarcane farm experience, HR license, forklift license, white card and chemical accreditation. Ph: 0417 682 797 or email jgreco127@yahoo.com.au

AYR - Seeking casual work operating a dozer. I have been operating dozers for about 20 yrs. I have a MC license. Ph: 0409 260 139

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 & water. Genuine enquiries Ph 0407635175.



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