

Rain delays and disrupts harvest - Crop protection and nutrition feature

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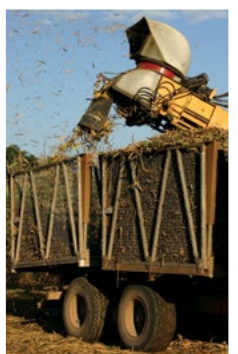
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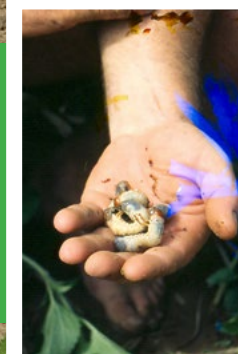
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Cover picture: Cairns cane farmer Stephen Calcagno wants better public awareness of the measures growers are taking to protect the reef.

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Brexit, does it matter?

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

Britain joined the European Economic Community via a 1975 referendum. Last month it set forth on a path to leave the European Union via the same mechanism.

Rather profoundly in a 1980s episode of *Yes Minister*, the fictional, satirical and iconic comedy about British politics, the cynical advisor Sir Humphrey Appleby explained to the MP James Hacker;

"For 500 years Britain has had the same foreign policy objective and that was to create a disunited Europe. [He explains that] in that course we have fought with the Dutch against the Spanish, the Germans against the French, with the French and Italians against the Germans and with the French against the Germans and Italians. Divide and rule – why change now when it has worked so well? We tried to break it up from the outside but that was too hard now that we are inside we can really make a pig's breakfast of the whole thing!"

It now appears that the British people, at least marginally, have decided the economic dividends of a united Europe are not worth it to them. Perhaps their own hip pockets did not see the benefits.

As an exporter of almost all of our product, we need to both observe the market response to this global change in trading environment in Europe and then try predict the next move.

To a certain extent, largely because of this is unprecedented outcome, no one really knows what will happen next. Unfortunately, that has never stopped market reactions as they often run on speculation and sentiment rather than fact.

There is one truism, as they say. Opportunities and challenges lie ahead. Most of the early reaction and coverage has been about emotions and speculation.

We can already see that the market has reacted with an immediate fall in the value of the Aussie Dollars but it remained at levels that were still 5c higher relative to the US\$ than 12 months ago.

Our main interest is sugar. The UK produces between 1 and 1.5Mt of beet sugar. It has refining capacity for another

1.1Mt although it currently refines only about 600kt. Its annual sugar consumption is a bit over 2Mt.

From a world sugar balance perspective this won't change, regardless of Brexit. That is the great thing about commodities such as ours. Supply and demand, consumption and production are the key fundamental drivers.

Prior to 1974 about one-third of Australian exports went to the UK. The door on that trade was slammed shut when Britain joined the EU. The million dollar or tonne question is, if they do exit the EU, will that door re-open? Possibly, but that's not clear and regardless, it will take time for any change to occur.

The first steps will be deals done between Britain and the remaining EU nations. From a sugar market perspective, Australia may benefit from improved access to the UK refinery.

The value of that access will depend on future trade agreements and whether the UK decides to support its domestic sugar prices or allow more imported sugar to meet that demand. These matters will only be resolved well after the emotion dies down.

While it has hit close to hysterical limits, we can see the emotion dissipating already and no doubt the fundamental drivers of the sugar market will dominate and hopefully growers can take advantage of a strong pricing environment. ■

"Prior to 1974 about one-third of Australian exports went to the UK. The door on that trade was slammed shut when Britain joined the EU. The million dollar question is, if they do exit the EU, will that door re-open?"





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NEWS IN BRIEF

New funds for harvest loss research

More than \$3.5 million has been committed to a new project looking to reduce mechanical harvest losses in the sugar industry.

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) will receive the funding under Round Two of the Federal Government's Rural Research and Development for Profit Programme.

"The Coalition values Australia's agricultural industries and understands the importance of properly funded research to connect our farmers with cutting-edge research, technology, products and processes so they remain world-class," Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources **Barnaby Joyce** said at the announcement in Mackay.

"Investigating new harvesting technologies and getting better information to farmers will deliver higher yields and lower milling and transport costs.

"This is all about getting better returns for farmers, more money flowing through local businesses and the security of local jobs in sugar communities."

The grant will be matched by more than \$4.5 million in cash and in-kind

contributions from SRA and its partner organisations.

SRA chairman **Dr Ron Swindells** said the investment offered significant gains for the industry.

"SRA has identified reducing the losses from mechanical harvesting as one of four priority impact areas of research investment and we welcome this commitment to this vital sugarcane industry research," Dr Swindells said.

"This research will directly contribute to improving profitability at the farm gate, with major benefits for harvester drivers and sugarcane millers.

"Those benefits then flow throughout regional communities and economies, which makes this research investment a win for growers, a win for harvester drivers, a win for millers, a win for the community, and a win for industry stakeholders."

The Federal Government has so far allocated \$78 million for innovative agricultural projects under the R&D for Profit Programme and has committed to investing a further \$100 million as part of the \$4 billion Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper to extend the programme to 2021-22.

This funding is on top of \$700 million the government already invests in rural R&D each year. ■

RAVENSDOWN OFFER

A vote of CANEGROWERS members with redeemable preference shares (RPS) in Ravensdown Fertiliser Australia (RFA) in July is expected to close the chapter on the company.

Shareholders are being asked to accept an offer to pay out \$0.447 for each share in the company which began trading in Australia in 2009.

In May 2014, due to trading losses and sales being below expectations, RFA ceased trading in Australia and began disposing of assets. The wind down process ran into difficulties selling RFA's Townsville store.

CANEGROWERS recommends growers obtain their own financial advice to determine how they see the offer from a personal perspective, but based on the exhaustion of all other options to obtain a settlement at the industry level, we would agree with the assessment of the independent report from BDO Accountants which described the deal as a 'fair and reasonable payment'.

THAI TALKS

Twenty years of Australia-Thailand sugar industry dialogue was clocked up on the Gold Coast last month.

A series of meetings was held involving grower, processing and marketing representatives from both countries around topics including trade, research and development and consumer attitudes to eating sugar.

The Thai delegation also talked about their country's increasing biofuel and bio plastics production from sugar.

CANETUBE JUDGING

Thank You to everyone who entered Canetube 2016! Judging is now underway.

Entrants have made videos highlighting the work cane farmers do for good water quality for the Great Barrier Reef.

\$18,000 in prizes is available thanks to sponsors including the Australian Government Reef Programme, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland Government and Smartcane BMP. ■



HELP TELL THE REEF STORY

Project Cane Changer is an initiative designed to value and recognise Queensland's sugar cane farmers for their role as custodians of the land and their ongoing efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

Headed by the team at Behaviour Innovation, in partnership with CANEGROWERS and supported by the Queensland Government, Cane Changer is built on the simple concept that valuing, acknowledging and reinforcing farmers for their positive farming behaviours is pivotal to improving farming practices.

The better we can understand the thoughts, attitudes and behaviours of growers, the better we can tell the right story and construct a solution for the benefit of the growers, the community and the Great Barrier Reef.

The project came about in late 2015 when **Matt Kealley** contacted Dr John

Pickering to explore whether you could apply the principles of behavioural science to support positive change in the cane industry.

The project commenced in May 2016 with the Behaviour Innovation team taking to the cane fields of Queensland in order to meet the growers and all of those who work in the industry.

"The key objective of the project is listen to the voice of the growers themselves," said Dr Pickering, CEO and Founder of Behaviour Innovation.

"From our discussions and observations so far we have seen just how much the cane

industry has done in the way of adopting new ideas and farming practices. It is actually quite remarkable," he said.

A key aspect to the first phase of the project is to hear the voices of as many growers as possible. The team is asking growers to provide insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the industry by participating in a short survey.

To have your say visit:
www.behaviourinnovation.com/pcc ■

Pictured above: John Pickering of Behaviour Innovation with Tully grower Jamie Dore and colleagues Jinny Hong and Sue Pillans.



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RECORD KEEPING

requirements for cane farmers

By Belinda Billing, Adoption Officer, Brandon

With the reinvigoration of Reef Regulations in Queensland cane growing regions, the importance of accurate record keeping is top of mind for many growers.

It is important to remember that farm management records are not only useful for complying with legislation.

Just a few of the reasons to take the time record your farm activities include protecting yourself against potential litigation in cases such as spray drift, to make a claim in the case of product failure and the ability to review and compare management activities and farm inputs over time.

MINIMUM RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS FOR REEF PROTECTION REGULATIONS

Reef Protection Plan record keeping requirements cover nutrient application and prescribed photosystem II herbicides (Ametryn, Atrazine, Diuron and Hexazinone). The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has a template that can be used to record required data, however growers are free to decide the medium and format that their records are kept in.

This can be electronic or paper based. You can choose the way that is easiest and most accessible to you and make it a habit.

Keep your records in a safe place. It is a requirement under the Environmental Protection Act that they are kept for at least five years, or six years for PSII herbicide records. Relevant information should be recorded within ten days of undertaking an activity.

For all prescribed agricultural Environmentally Relevant Activity products (Ametryn, Atrazine, Diuron and Hexazinone) used on cane farms a record must be made and kept for six years.

READ THE LABEL!

Under legislation administered by the APVMA and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries anyone using a pesticide must read the label and follow the

instructions for use. This is the most important point to remember for efficacy of the products and to ensure you are on the right side of the law.

Remember that agricultural chemicals are only to be used for the purposes for which they are registered.

This is important and is a protection for growers against failure (products are generally not registered to do jobs they cannot do) and also to manage overuse of chemicals that can lead to risks of resistance and environmental pressures. It is also a legislative requirement.

On the product label you will find all kinds of useful information on how and when to apply the chemical for best results along with other details, such as minimum recropping periods for subsequent crops that may be sensitive to the chemical you have sprayed.

You will also find information on the records that are required to be kept under APVMA legislation for particular products.

SCHEDULE SEVENS

If you are using a Schedule seven Dangerous Poison chemical (eg. paraquat), Work Health and Safety legislation comes into effect. These are hazardous chemicals that are highly toxic.

A register of hazardous chemicals must be maintained and kept up-to-date. The register must be accessible to all workers involved in using, handling or storing the chemicals and to anyone else who is likely to be affected by a hazardous chemical on the property.

The register is a list of the product names of all hazardous chemicals used, handled or stored on the property and must be accompanied by the current Safety Data Sheet (SDS) not more than five years old for each hazardous chemical listed. It must be updated as

new chemicals are introduced or when the use of a chemical is discontinued. The SDS must be printed. Electronic copies are not sufficient.

BMP SPRAY RECORDS

Best practice for record keeping is to keep accurate records of all chemical applications on farm.

CANEGROWERS has a chemical record sheet that can be used each time you spray, or you may like to use a software package such as PAM or Connected Farm which can be used through your mobile phone and computer.

www.canegrowers.com.au/page/Industry_Centre/grower-centre/Chemical_safety_records/

www.fairport.com.au/en/ (PAM)

www.connectedfarm.com/

As a minimum, it is suggested you record the following for each chemical application on your cane as well as your fallow and fallow crops:

- Date of application
- Who did the application
- Block name/number
- What crop was sprayed
- What chemical/chemicals were applied (trade name and active ingredient)
- Either the dilution rate (e.g. 100 mL/100L) or L/ha of chemical applied
- The volume (L/ha) of water applied
- What you are targeting
- What application method was used and by whom
- Weather conditions including wind speed
- Spray nozzle
- Always retain your invoices and labels of chemicals applied. ■

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

By CANEGROWERS district offices

Mossman

Wet weather continues to disrupt the 2016 harvest for Mossman Mill. At the end of Week 2 the mill had processed a total of 38,975 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 10.28 CCS.

Mossman growers supplied 28,163 tonnes of cane for a Pool average of 9.81 CCS and Tableland growers have supplied 10,811 tonnes of cane for a Pool average of 11.52 CCS.

The factory had a couple of mechanical issues which included investigations into the choking of the shredder. With some decent weather Mossman Mill should be able to start making real inroads into the crop.

Burdekin

The rain event on the weekend of 18–19 June means there has been only been two weeks of harvesting and crushing so far. 525,758 tonnes has been crushed with a district average CCS of 12.02. Stand out varieties were Q183, KQ228 and Q232 all around 12.5.

Kalamia Mill was expected to start on 29 June with the other mills coming on line by 4 July.

Wilmar Mill Operations Manager Paul Turnbull told the Harvest Management Group meeting that even with mill stoppages and weather interruptions, so far the Burdekin mills are 2% ahead of the season budget. The equipment failure at Invicta Mill, where 20 hours

was lost and over 5,000 tonnes of burnt cane didn't get harvested before the rain arrived, attracted a lot of concern.

Wilmar also reported several safety-related incidents including motorists racing cane trains to cross at level crossings when flashing red lights are indicating that traffic must stop and a report of a train's progress being impeded by idiot drivers driving on train tracks at night.

With irrigation tariffs set to increase 12.3% on 1 July, making a total increase of 120% in nine years, CANEGROWERS Burdekin Manager Debra Burden and CANEGROWERS Bundaberg Manager Dale Holliss continue to drive the ARC UP campaign with the goals of reducing all Ergon tariffs by 33% and a review of the electricity pricing category.

To date, ARC UP has the support of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, The Association of Independent Retirees, Townsville Chamber of Commerce and Burdekin, Bundaberg and Carpentaria Councils, together with close to 1,000 individual regional electricity users. Katters' Australian Party MP Shane Knuth will put a Private Members Bill to the Queensland Parliament about electricity but it will need Liberal National Party and independent support. If you have not Liked the #ARC UP Facebook page, now is the time. ►

Cairns Region

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region members have had unfavourable harvesting conditions across both the Mulgrave and South Johnstone areas.

Mulgrave commenced crushing on 7 June with disappointing CCS results apparent quite early although the crop is cutting well above estimate.

The inter mill transfer cane has, along with the South Johnstone suppliers performed a little better.

Farming conditions have not been

favourable with limited planting being achieved.

Negotiations for a Cane Supply Agreement in the Mulgrave area are yet to be resolved.

Likewise, in an alliance with CANEGROWERS Innisfail, the South Johnstone contract is yet to be finalised.

Grower frustration is at an all-time high with the opportunity to lock in high prices being somewhat dampened by industry politics.

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Proserpine

The Proserpine crush was due to commence on 14 June, however due to persistent light showers it was deferred. Heavy rain then justified the decision to suspend the commencement.

Falls of between 150mm and 200mm were recorded over most of the district with some areas experiencing severe wash-outs and erosion around headlands. Remedial work is needed at a number of crossings to access sidings.

An early July start date is envisaged, although this will depend on follow-up rain which is forecast. The Proserpine crop is estimated at 1.71 million tonnes and was initially expected to be harvested by early November. A mid-to-late November completion is now envisaged.

At the Proserpine Show recently a good display of cane meant competition was fierce.

Peter Quod and John Casey (pictured top) represented Lethebrook Branch, the winners of District Exhibit, Best display of milling cane.

Tony and Sam Jeppesen of Jeppesen Farming (pictured left) collected the prize for Champion Stool of Plant Cane. It is a stool of Q240.

Steven Drinkwater of Watts Farming accepted the prize for Champion Six Stalks of the Show.

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Mackay and Plane Creek

Week 4 of the Mackay Sugar crushing season was affected by rain with all Mackay factories ceasing operations. Wet field conditions resulted in 150 hours of cane supply shortfalls. It was expected the cane supply would gradually build again by the end of June.

Crushing stats for the week ending 26 June resulted in a total of 20,034 tonnes throughput for all three mills – Farleigh 7,968 tonnes, Marian 6,270 tonnes, Racecourse 5,796 tonnes. Total cane crushed season to date is 327,888 tonnes of the 5,400,000 tonne estimate.

At the Plane Creek mill the total cane crushed at 25 June was 24,234 tonnes with 2,572 for the week. CCS for the week was 10.89 and average to date 11.47. The heavy rainfall across the region on 19 June forced both harvesting and crushing to be suspended and daily assessments were being made on ground conditions.



CANEGROWERS Mackay coordinated the Sugar Court at three-day Mackay Show - Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who helped with the sugar industry exhibition and the knitted covers for cane knives and other items (see adjacent picture).

CANEGROWERS Mackay member and Farleigh cane farmer **Bill Benson** won Reserve Champion Stool of Show (pictured top).

An awards presentation night will be held on Saturday 16 July at the Mackay Showgrounds. ■

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Monthly Market Report

July 2016

Sugar

WHAT HAPPENED?

The rally we have been witnessing since mid-April gathered further momentum this month with the front positions in particular posting 12-15% gains.

With prices peaking above 20 cents-a-pound for the first time since mid-2012, it remains a seller's market with producers and funds chasing prices higher.

The funds still hold over 330,000 longs and movement in the spreads as we approach July '16 expiry suggest that these have been rolled to the October position rather than liquidated with sugar still an attractive investment relative to other agri-commodities.

GOING FORWARD...

Fundamentally nothing has changed, we are still heading towards a deficit market and the speculative funds still hold a record long position. This means a crucial factor in future market movements will be the weather.

In CS Brazil conditions are perfect for the crush and it continues to rattle along at a rate of knots while returning monsoons in India and Thailand are beginning to paint a better picture for their crops next year.

Increased production in these regions may go some way to filling the supply gap and as evidence of this filters into the market, expect to see prices cap out.

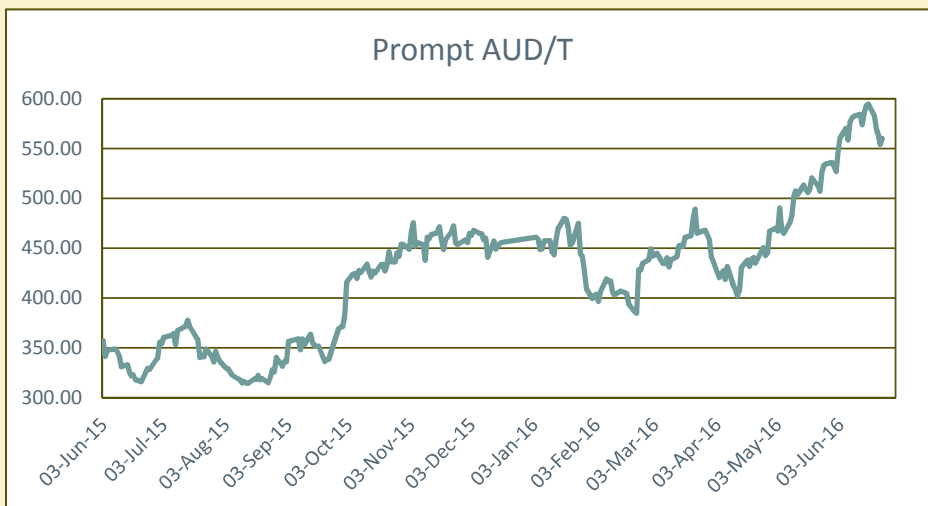
WHAT COULD CHANGE?

Friday's referendum in the UK (further detail below) has certainly put the cat amongst the pigeons.

The result caught financial markets off guard has potential to spill over with uncertainty and volatility likely to play havoc in all markets.

Sugar would be no exception with a risk-off environment likely to see a depreciating Brazilian Real (BRL) weighing on the market.

Contract	Latest Settlement	Monthly Change	High	Low
Jul-2016	19.00	2.39	20.13	17.21
Oct-2016	19.16	2.20	20.19	17.40
Mar-2017	19.37	1.92	20.20	17.70
May-2017	18.66	1.52	19.30	17.36
Jul-2017	18.13	1.34	18.60	17.01
Oct-2017	17.91	1.32	18.28	16.72
Mar-2018	17.81	1.19	18.09	16.60
May-2018	17.41	1.07	17.70	16.19
BRL/USD	3.3748	-19.68%	3.6275	3.3376
Ethanol Parity	13.51			



Currency

WHAT HAPPENED?

Prior to Friday the AUD was performing fairly well throughout June.

As to be expected local GDP and trade balance data has responded positively to the RBA rate cut in May.

However, the risk off sentiment surged through Emerging Market currencies after the Brexit result and the A\$ was not immune, selling off nearly 300 points before regaining its composure later on.

GOING FORWARD

Of course, looking ahead we must anticipate plenty of volatility as the exact ramifications of Brexit gradually filter into the market. As mentioned, the USD will likely come under the microscope with the US Federal Bank likely to be keen to prevent the Greenback overheating from demand as a "safe" bet. In Australia, the RBA will likely adopt a wait-and-see policy, however, with the UK now forecast to enter a recession for the second half 2016, the contagion risks cannot be ignored. ►

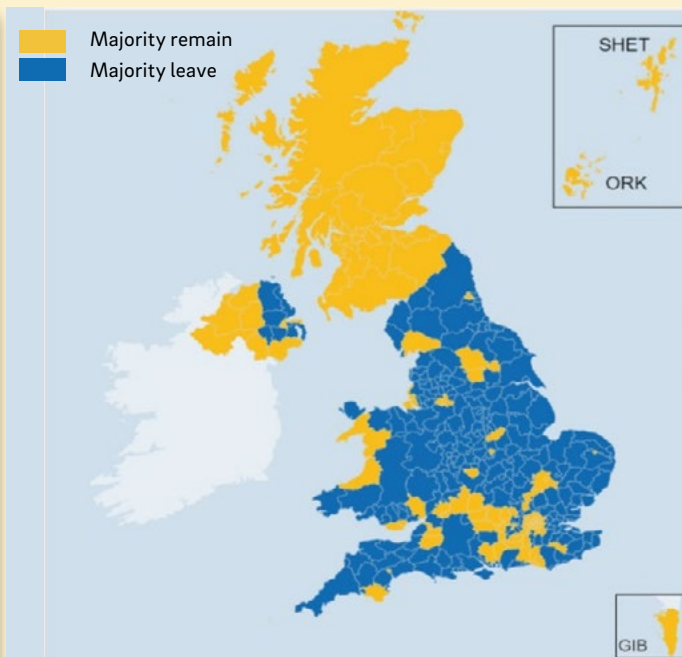


BREXIT... now what?

So the people of Britain have spoken, the UK will now begin the arduous negotiations to enact their exit from the European Union and markets have not reacted well.

The vote itself was particularly divided, 52% 'leave' to 48% 'remain' and was clearly split along regional (see map) and demographic lines. Rumbblings around Scotland and Northern Ireland leaving the UK suggest this saga has several chapters yet to run and markets will flock to safe havens such as gold and USD in the face of such uncertainty.

As only our 7th largest trading partner, the direct implications to Australia will be short term and minimal. The indirect effects felt through global markets will be of more concern and with many questions yet to be answered, are difficult to quantify. It will be key to watch the reactions of central banks with the Fed of particular interest given markets are now pricing in a rate cut instead of the monetary tightening originally priced in before the referendum.



	Settlement	Change	High	Low
AUD/USD	0.7466	2.51%	0.7632	0.7297

WHAT COULD CHANGE?

In short, everything. A seismic shift in the global market landscape could throw up any number of curve balls however, given what we have seen thus far the implications are likely to continue to weigh on the local currency and favour the Australian exporter. ■

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Push to change public perception of cane farming

By John Flynn

Having completed his three core modules of Smartcane BMP, Cairns Region grower **Stephen Calcagno** wants the public to get a new understanding of the respect farmers have for Queensland's unique World Heritage assets.



Stephen believes the best way for that to happen is through farmers supporting the industry-driven best management practice program to accreditation.

His farm is in a narrow valley between the coastal ranges of the Russell River National Park and the towering peaks of Mount Bellenden Ker, one of the wettest in the world with eight metres of rain each year.

As someone who has grown up surrounded by World Heritage, Stephen understands the importance of taking care of this unique slice of Queensland.

It's a duty that he balances every day with the demands of maintaining a productive cane farm.

"I've been here all my life," he says. "I've seen no deterioration in creeks, I've seen them actually thriving."

"Did we do stupid things in the past? Yes, we did but that's in every industry. We've changed a lot over the years and farmers have got really proactive."

The CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Chairman has been accredited in the Smartcane BMP core modules of Drainage and Irrigation Management, Soil Health and Nutrient Management and Weed, Pest and Disease Management.

As with anything new, Stephen understands why some growers may have been apprehensive about participating but he believes it is the best tool farmers have at their disposal to prove that they are managing farm inputs and minimising the loss of nutrient, pesticide and sediment into the Great Barrier Reef catchment.

"Now it's all settled down and the mechanisms are in place, I think you can see the real benefit of it that we'll take control of our own industry, the impact of our industry and we've got the opportunity to prove that we are the leading sugar growers in the world with our farming practices," he says.

"The more who do it, the more it puts our industry in a favourable light with the community.

"I'm not having a go at growers but it's come to the stage now where we've got to prove to everyone that we're doing the right thing by the reef."

Stephen enlisted the help of Cairns Region Smartcane BMP Facilitator Sandra Henrich and began with the Irrigation and Drainage Management module which was a good starting point in such a wet district.

Growers who have previously completed Environment Resource Management Plans should already have access to much of the material they need including maps and detailed information on drainage and water flow on their farms.

With about 150 hectares of their own land under cane and another 310 hectares leased between Bellenden Ker and Babinda, good drainage management is crucial to operating a productive business.

It's a balancing act between preventing paddocks becoming waterlogged and allowing water to get away without it taking costly nutrient and herbicide as well as sediment off the farm.

Riparian zones are an important part of the strategy.

On the home farm where seven metres of rain fell during Queensland's record wet year of 2010, the lush vegetation along Harvey Creek provides a very effective barrier.

Maintaining the creek-side vegetation is also vital for creeks which can carry water in high volumes at high velocity because if it's disturbed, erosion will follow.



“It’s come to a stage now where we’ve got to prove to everyone that we’re doing the right thing by the reef.”

“They’re great, they filter out the system and are a big help for stabilising the banks and they also provide wildlife corridors,” Stephen says.

“It helps with problem weeds because the shade of the trees keeps all of that at bay.”

Establishing a drainage management plan that meets or exceeds industry standards is a multi-faceted process.

“I’ve got on a couple of farms where my drains go into silt traps in the creek system,” he says.

“You try and keep as best you can the drainage slow moving, keep your headlands all grassed to filter out sediment and nutrients and pesticides before they get to the waterways.”

The second module, Soil Health and Nutrient Management, required more detailed record keeping in areas including nutrient application, soil test data and cultivation records.

Stephen says it wasn’t a big issue given he has GPS on all of his farm machinery and was able to download events straight onto a computer program.

He’s now two years into a full crop cycle process of switching the farms over to

a single-row 1.8 metre controlled traffic farming system.

The objectives of controlled traffic farming include to reduce soil compaction caused by miss-matched farm machinery wheel spacings and to maintain a healthier soil structure through minimal tillage. Reducing tillage also reduces the potential for erosion.

“If you can fix up the soil health then you’ll have the optimum take-up of nutrients, a healthy root system and healthy plant that’ll utilise the nutrients that you’ve put in and will minimise any loss running off,” Stephen says.

Also in keeping with Smartcane BMP requirements, nutrients are applied using the Six Easy Steps principles and placed sub-surface with a stool-splitting fertiliser box.

Blocks are also fallowed at the end of each growing cycle before being planted again.

Stephen admits that in his experience, undertaking the Smartcane BMP modules provided an opportunity to look more closely at his business structure and refine farming processes both in terms of maximising productivity and delivering improved environmental outcomes.

“It’s alright to go up and down every day in a paddock and think of these things but when you’ve got records in front of you and you look at your records it gives a whole clearer picture.

“You’ve got to have these things on paper so you can make informed decisions.”

As Stephen sees it, there’s much at stake for growers given the importance of a productive, profitable and environmentally sustainable sugar industry to the Queensland’s regional economy.

“Everyone makes an impact, it’s just trying to minimise the impact that you do make,” he said.

“At the end I’ve still got to run a productive business for the sake of me, for the sake of the towns because financially, even if I’m not making money the farmers are keeping a lot of the towns up and down the state going, keeping people in jobs and money turning over. ■

IMIDACLOPRID IN WATERWAYS OF CONCERN

Supplied by Crop Care

Water monitoring over several seasons by university and government agencies has shown increasing levels of imidacloprid in rivers and streams in central and northern Queensland.

No detailed studies have been undertaken to examine or confirm the sources of stream contamination.

However, with widespread use of the insecticide imidacloprid for cane grub control, sugarcane fields are potentially a major contributor.

This is of concern to the sugarcane industry, which promotes retention of applied crop treatments within the farm boundary by minimising off-farm loss in runoff water – for both economic and environmental reasons.

The two main formulations of imidacloprid registered for use for cane grub control are liquid suspensions (such as Confidor Guard) and controlled-release granules (such as suSCon maxi Intel).

The liquids are applied annually for controlling canegrubs, while the controlled-release granules protect the crop for three to four years from one application to the plant crop.

suSCon maxi Intel is the latest controlled-release granular imidacloprid to be developed from a long-term research and development partnership between Crop Care Australasia and the sugar industry.



LOSSES FROM LIQUID VS CONTROLLED-RELEASE FORMULATIONS.

A two-year study from 2013 to 2015 in the Burdekin and Herbert regions was conducted by Crop Care to determine the propensity for imidacloprid to be lost in runoff water from canefields; to see if this differed between furrow-irrigated and rain grown cane; and to determine if there was a difference between liquid imidacloprid treatment vs controlled-release granules at recommended rates and application methods.

In conjunction with the Burdekin Bowen Integrated Floodplain Management Action Committee (BBIFMAC) trials were set up in plant cane and continued into the first ratoon, with concentrations of imidacloprid measured in runoff water from both irrigation and rainfall events.

Varying levels of imidacloprid were measured in runoff water at both sites – in many cases at concentrations high enough to cause concern.

Over the life of the study, imidacloprid levels varied with the type of runoff event (rainfall or irrigation) and the form in which imidacloprid was applied:

- *Runoff from rainfall contained higher concentrations of imidacloprid than runoff from irrigation.*
- *The imidacloprid formulation had a major influence on concentration in runoff water. Imidacloprid losses from rows treated once in the plant crop with controlled-release suSCon maxi Intel granules were substantially (5.8 times) less than losses from rows treated with liquid imidacloprid in both plant and first-ratoon crops.*
- *The farming system and crop-cycle stage had very little influence on results.*

Crop Care marketing manager Chris Ramsey said the study provided vital information to the sugarcane industry for continuing development of its environmental credentials and best-practice, efficient cane-growing.

Continues next page ...



Pictured: (Top) Flumes installed to measure runoff connected to automatic-sampler recording in a covered trailer. (Left) Runoff from rainfall at the Herbert study site.

5.8 TIMES MORE IMIDACLOPRID IN RUNOFF FROM LIQUID VS CONTROLLED-RELEASE

"This is the first study to directly measure imidacloprid levels in runoff from cane fields," Mr Ramsey said.

"The stark fact is that the use of a liquid imidacloprid has the potential to cause imidacloprid levels in runoff water an average of 5.8 times higher than from the use of controlled-release suSCon maxi Intel."

Over the duration of the two-year study, imidacloprid levels in runoff ranged from 4 to 58 times higher for liquid formulations vs controlled-release granules.

"One of the key findings was that loss from a liquid formulation moved earlier in the run-off profile, with the highest levels consistently detected within the first 3mm of runoff," he said.

"By contrast, loss from suSCon maxi Intel-treated plots was much lower and relatively constant; required more runoff events to reach its peak; and was less prone to large losses from rainfall."

Even an extended period between application and a large rainfall event did not change the outcome.

"At the Burdekin site, a large rainfall event – 82 days after a ratoon crop

"The stark fact is that the use of a liquid imidacloprid has the potential to cause imidacloprid levels in runoff water an average of 5.8 times higher than from the use of controlled-release suSCon maxi Intel."



application of liquid imidacloprid and 438 days after application of suSCon maxi Intel to the plant crop – caused 110mm of runoff," Mr Ramsey said.

"Losses from the liquid-treated ratoons were 4.1 times the level of losses from suSCon maxi Intel."

He said rainfall was clearly the driver of increased losses, with up to 14 times more liquid imidacloprid lost per millimetre of runoff from rainfall, compared with runoff from irrigation.

"The volume and intensity of rain also strongly influenced the loss of Imidacloprid," he said.

"The controlled-release matrix of suSCon maxi Intel was superior in retaining imidacloprid in the placement zone and preventing large imidacloprid doses being available in the soil for runoff loss, compared with liquid imidacloprid."

Mr Ramsey also highlighted that correct application of liquid imidacloprid products did not prevent significant runoff loss, as initially had been believed to be the case. Run-off losses still occurred when placement was deep in the furrow.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO GROWERS

Mr Ramsey said recent years had seen the sugar industry's widespread adoption of best management practices (BMP) and environmental initiatives.

"The findings of this study will help cane growers to further fine-tune their farming efficiency and environmental credentials," he said.

He said growers could continue to both protect their crops from cane grub damage and minimise imidacloprid in runoff water by:

- *Monitoring cane fields for risk of cane grub infection prior to planting and after harvesting. Risk will depend on history of infestation; proximity to fields with damaging cane grub levels; and (in some species) the presence of grubs in the row after harvest.*
- *Using suSCon maxi Intel to treat the plant crop in at-risk fields. The crop will then be protected against cane grub damage for 3-4 years.*
- *Applying liquid imidacloprid products to ratoon cane only as required, and strictly according to label directions for cane grub control. ■*

Pictured: Applying suSCon maxi Intel at hill-up to plant cane at the Burdekin site.

IPF 2016 PRODUCTIVITY REPORT

Improving nitrogen use efficiency: cane growers beating the odds in the face of some of the most unpredictable rainfall on the planet

In Australia's cane belt – one of the toughest areas in the world to manage nitrogen – ENTEC® Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser is gaining a firm foothold among forward-thinking growers and the agronomists who advise them.



IPF Technical Agronomist Rob Dwyer knows all too well the fertiliser dilemma cane growers are up against.

"Getting nitrogen into the ground is one thing," Rob says. "Getting it into the crop is another thing entirely. With some of the world's most extreme and unpredictable rainfall, no one can predict exactly when a rainfall event will occur – let alone how much will fall at any one time.

"Yet that's the biggest risk factor in nitrogen

use efficiency," Rob continues. "An extended dry stretch or a single rainfall event can potentially derail nitrogen uptake – and crop yield – for an entire season."

Nitrogen loss to the environment is also a worrying issue. So the growing body of evidence suggesting Enhanced Efficiency Fertilisers (EEFs) are one of the best available protections against nitrogen loss is big news for growers and environmental stewards alike.



"We're under pressure and have to lift our game"

45-year veteran cane grower Graeme Blackburn shares his experience ...

Now in his fifth year using ENTEC, Graeme couldn't be more serious about its benefits and importance.

"In my eyes, it's a clear choice. If you want to reduce the risk of leaching and denitrification, this is the product to consider.

"I'm getting a great response. Every year my crops are getting better, more consistent. I can't say for certain that's all due to ENTEC. But I can say this: I'm just not losing as much nitrogen. It's a win-win – for me, and for the environment."

2013 Herbert Trial: Bracing against the 'perfect storm'

ENTECH does one simple thing that can make a dramatic difference to nitrogen use efficiency: *it keeps nitrogen stable in the soil for longer.*

This offers the possibility of a reduction in nitrogen loss and the potential for cane and sugar yield gains.

In one soon-to-be published trial of an ENTEC treated blend v. an untreated urea blend, the trial area received no rain for two months after fertiliser was applied – then a single rainfall event saturating everything. ENTEC produced 51.8% greater yield than untreated urea.

2013 Herbert EEF Trial: Top Line Results*

	UREA BLEND (150kgN/ha) as 'Standard Practice'	ENTECH UREA BLEND (150kgN/ha)
Cane yield tc/ha	54	82
Additional Return \$/ha relative to Standard Practice**	\$0	\$671

*Less harvesting, levies & fertiliser costs. Calculated at sugar price \$450, harvesting and levies cost \$9 per tonne of cane, fertiliser cost \$650/t for urea blend, \$800/t for ENTEC blend.

**a) 150 kgN/ha as determined by the 'Six-Easy-Steps' guidelines b) as an NPKS blend without EEF c) determined by banding & incorporating into the soil.

Herbert 'Sustainable Farming Systems Group' + DSITIA (QG) + HC PSL Evaluate effectiveness range EEF Fertilisers. T9 x R4, small plot, randomised CBD. 4 x Products, IPF PCUS, Urea, ENTEC, Agrocote. 2 x N rates, 110 & 150 kgN/ha. Zero N (control)

Calculations and data provided by Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited (2013). Incitec Pivot Fertilisers does not represent and warrant the accuracy of this information. Incitec Pivot Fertilisers

makes no representation that the yield improvements achieved in these trials are applicable to every farming situation, on all occasions. As local soil, climate and cultural practices vary considerably Incitec Pivot Fertilisers makes no representations or warranties as to the reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose of the information provided. Before using these products, users should consult their local agronomic advisor. To illustrate the potential significance of the results certain assumptions were made about sugar price, harvesting and fertiliser costs to give an indicative revenue per hectare. There are obvious limitations to these assumptions since they do not reflect all labour, land holding costs or other expenses. Actual results may vary. Factors such as weather and environmental conditions, soil condition and other variables will impact the results growers obtain.

"With EEFs, farmers can happily stick to the 6 Easy Steps rate and maximise the potential for enough nitrogen to get into the crop"

Farmacist Director and grower/government consultant Rob Sluggett provides his perspective ...

With almost five years of nitrogen use efficiency research and field trials under his belt, Rob has seen some clear results and opportunities.

"We saw significant and consistent reduction in nitrogen loss with both polymer coated urea and ENTEC. But ENTEC has consistently been the best performer.

"I think farmers have a real opportunity to use EEFs to reduce nitrogen losses – not just from run-off, but from leaching and denitrification too"

To find out more about ENTEC's potential to reduce nitrogen loss and increase yield, see your local accredited ENTEC dealer or IPF representative, or visit entecfertilisers.com.au

The new truth in crop protection

By John Irvin, Principal of Irvin Farm

The sugarcane industry is moving towards a new credibility in how it conducts itself on the world stage.

The implementation of Smartcane BMP, training programs such as Six Easy Steps for fertiliser usage, and many short courses delivered under training provision bring crop protection to a new playing field.

The strengthening of the industry's responsible conduct culture is becoming harder to ignore.

No longer is it easy to use scare campaigns for political capital when the evidence of our improvements are credible and visible.

No longer can selective snapshots be used to exploit our supposed failings when our bigger picture is driving a new era of responsibility.

Crop protection has moved beyond simply finding solutions to problems and implementing the technical solution.

Today, our markets are influenced by how we conduct our activities within our supply lines.

We have new opportunities with modern crop protection technology to secure both productivity and better markets.

Stakeholders internally and externally, either passive or active, can exert tremendous pressure on our ability to market our crops.

We have chosen to make these stakeholders our allies by our responsible efforts.

This requires rigorous testing of our environment and constant reviews that are not driven by scaremongering but by genuine desire to showcase ongoing improvements to our activities.

Our command of value to our customers will be in the credibility of our quality processes.

These come from the implementation of Smartcane BMP that is driving

our industry recognition as a leading supplier of clean and safe products to humanity and the environment.

It is no longer enough to be a cheap or a reliable supplier, we have to demonstrate we have done more.

Our strategies need to be driven by a willingness to embrace a rate of change that gains respect from our competitors.

Our industry value chain begins with a desire to produce a product that is valued by our customers. We need to stand out in our markets to command a premium where we can.

It is also the reason that we have become attractive to foreign investment in our farming, milling and marketing systems that see this premium value that we are developing and want to be a part of it.

Our oversight systems must be able to scrutinise our operational ownership for weakness in our supply lines that can be exploited for improper gain.

Understanding how the global market is influenced and can be manipulated needs to be well understood by everybody who toils in our industry.

This cultural reputation for quality and as a valued supplier is where our modern crop protections systems need to be focused.

Our reputation and brand can be torn apart if we weaken and allow complacency to become our biggest pest. ■

John Irvin is the Principal of Irvin Farm, suppliers of equipment for sustainable agriculture. www.irvinfarm.com



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The forecast is Agromaster

Supplied by Impact Fertiliser

Sugar prices

Sugar prices have increased considerably over the last 12 months, from AUD 410 per tonne in June 2015 to more than AUD 560 today (Queensland Sugar Limited, 2016).

During periods of high sugar prices, practices that maximise sugar yield can pay dividends, as a relatively small increase in cane yield may be enough to provide a positive return on investment.

Making the most of good seasons, where high sugar price coincides with high yield potential (due to forecast rain), can strongly benefit farm profitability.

The season

Current forecasts from the Bureau of Meteorology suggest that we are moving out of an El Niño and likely entering a season of more normal or possibly higher than average rainfall.

At the time of writing, the 30-day Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is currently +3.7 and the Bureau's ENSO Outlook remains at a La Niña WATCH level (Bureau of Meteorology, 2016).

This forecast has implications for fertiliser use.

In more normal/wetter years, nitrogen fertilisers are subject to increased losses from leaching, runoff and denitrification.

So it makes sense that these are the seasons where controlled release fertilisers such as Agromaster will shine.

Synchronising N delivery with cane need

The timing of nitrogen applications need to coincide with uptake by the crop, particularly in wetter years.

The sugar industry has paid a lot of attention to total nitrogen application rates.

However, if applied before the crop is rapidly taking up N, as is common for ratoon crops receiving one N application or plant crops prior to root development, a high proportion of the applied N may be subject to losses during rainfall events, even if the correct rate of N was applied.

To get the best out of N fertiliser, growers need to consider both rate and timing of applications, not the rate alone.

In ratoon crops, as much as 80% of the crops nitrogen is taken up between 40 days and 145 days after ratooning (Wood et. al, 1996) and this is the period when nitrogen supply should be targeted.

In dry regions split applications might be possible, especially where fertigation can be given through drip tape, but in

wetter areas the right timing may only be practically achieved with a good quality controlled release fertiliser that synchronises N delivery with cane N uptake (i.e. N released by 145 days after ratooning).

Agromaster can be applied shortly after ratooning and deliver nitrogen continuously for a full 100 days, which coincides with the sugarcane peak N uptake period.

Return on Investment

Good quality fertilisers pay their own way.

Based on urea prices of \$490/ tonne, an N application rate of 160 kg/ha and an average CCS of 14, a typical blend containing 25% Agromaster-N would only need to increase cane yields by about 1.6 t/ha, compared to straight urea, to increase farm profitability (Table 1).

Yield responses measured in non-El Niño seasons have shown yield responses of between 3.3 and more than 12 t/ha (compared to a similar N rate applied as urea), making Agromaster the smart way to increase profitability in normal to wetter seasons. ■

Table 1. Cane yield increase, compared to using urea only, required to increase profitability when using a typical Agromaster blend with 25% coated N.

Sugar price AUD/tonne	Minimum yield increase (t cane/ha) needed to increase profitability*
\$560	1.6
\$500	1.8
\$450	2.0

*based on: Cane payment formula (CPF) = (Sugar price * 0.009 * (CCS Relative – 4)) + 0.662,
Net return (\$/ha) = (CPF – harvest cost) * yield (t cane/ha) – fertiliser costs (\$/ha)

* References:

Bureau of Meteorology (2016). ENSO Wrap-Up. [online] Available at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/> [Accessed 22nd June 2016].

Queensland Sugar Limited (2016). Market Snapshot. [online] Available at: <http://www.qsl.com.au/sugar-prices/daily-indicative-prices> [Accessed 22nd June 2016].

Wood AW, Muchow RC and Robertson MJ (1996) Growth of sugarcane under high input conditions in tropical Australia. III. Accumulation, partitioning and use of nitrogen. 48, 223-233. Field Crops Research.

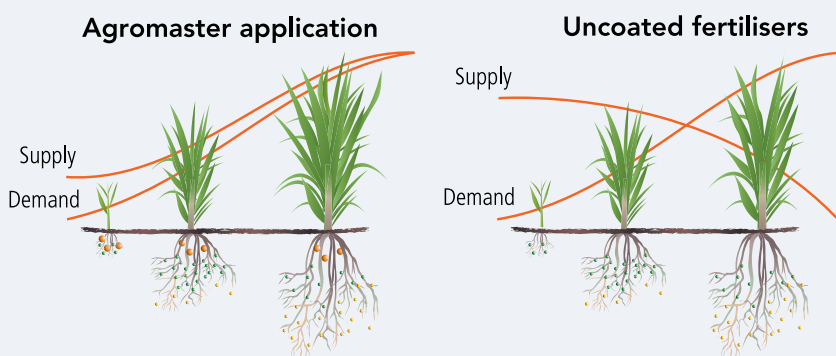
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Case IH service sets up flat-out cane harvesting season

Supplied by Case IH

When contract harvester **Gary Stockham** began cutting sugarcane for the current season, it was the start of a months of working seven days a week.

"So all the gear's got to go seven days a week too. Once the machine stops, everyone stops, no one gets paid," Gary said.

"So it's very important to keep going. Cane is crushed in about 20-22 weeks, so you have to keep the work up. All the machinery has to be going perfectly."

The third generation sugar farmer and his wife own 200 hectares at Giru, close to the Haughton River in north Queensland's Burdekin district.

They've farmed there since around 1990, but have run Gary Stockham Harvesting since 1978.

While they began with a "Robot" Toft Harvester, these days they have four Case IH Austoft Sugarcane Harvesters (two 8000's, a 7000 and a 7500 model)

and two Case IH Magnum tractors (a two-year-old 315 model and 8920) among their machinery.

Gary says the drawcard to buy that original Case IH harvester was seeing and hearing how reliable they were compared with other brands.

"They seemed to go better, so that's what I bought to start with," he said.

He's kept the same way, since — but has always had a look around, just to compare, before buying new equipment.

"Oh we do look around, but I can't see any sense in buying anything else — they're dearer and not as good a machine; they just cross-rip too big," he said. "The Austoft, the Case IH, they've been the best all the time. I reckon they're the better harvesters."

Before harvest began, Gary prepared all his equipment, having his dealer, AgNorth at Ayr, service everything and give it the once over. Any parts that needed replacing were all genuine.

"They look after us; they keep us going all the time. It's good backup. If anything goes wrong they're always there. If they

haven't got the part, they'll get one in for us, or they'll find one somewhere to keep us going. They know our gear has to keep going.

"We do contract planting as well, about 2,000 acres [810ha], and we have to do preparation work to the ground before we plant.

"That's the same as harvesting: if that stops, everything stops, but the dealer, with their parts and service, they keep us going."

Gary is on to Case IH Austoft harvester number 18.

"When they were just Austofts they were the best, and now they're Case IH Austofts they're still the best," he said.

They're not just a good price, they're just better than any other cane harvester."

To maximise your productivity, minimise downtime and make the most of the season, Case IH is offering 0% interest, through CNH Industrial Capital, on service and repairs for tractors, balers and combines, until June 30, with full payment not due until March 2017. ■

SSR - STOLLER SUGAR RESEARCH

STOLLER ACQUIRES RIZOFLORA

LAUNCHES BIONEMATICIDE "RIZOTEC" IN BRAZIL

Supplied by Stoller Australia

Stoller has recently acquired the company Rizoflora Biotechnology, a spin-off of the Laboratory of Biological Control of the Federal University of Viçosa in Brazil.

The first outcome of this acquisition was the launch in Brazil of the biological nematocide Rizotec.

The result of 28 years of intensive research, Rizotec is the isolated fungus *Pochonia chlamydosporia*, which was selected because of its virulence against nematodes and high capacity of reproduction.

According to Rizoflora, the bionematicide reduces populations of nematodes of the genus *Meloidogyne*, *Heterodera*, *Rotylenchulus*, *Pratylenchus* and others.

It is also capable of colonising and eliminating large numbers of eggs and female nematodes, while surviving itself on the organic matter in the soil.

Nematodes cost to the sugar industry approximately AU\$80million annually.

In addition to targeting nematodes, Rizotec also promotes better development of plants and is capable of inducing systemic resistance to other pathogens.

This is because Rizotec solubilises and increases absorption of phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium which foster plant growth and increase resistance to drought and saline soils, besides having a beneficial association with the roots.

"The idea is to offer an alternative to what is presently in the market, integrating a high index of nematode

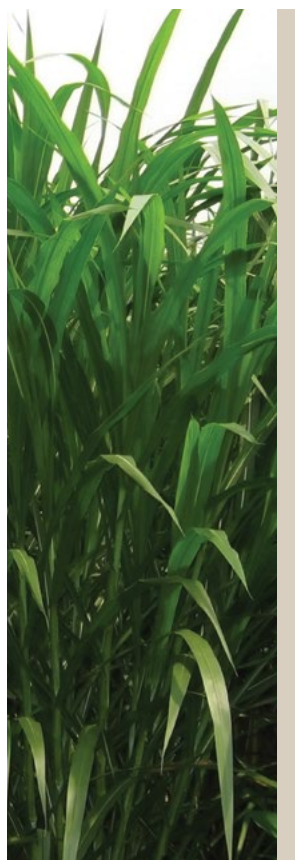
control with a biological product," explains **Stella Cato**, Technical Manager of Stoller in Brazil.

Awareness of the relevance of nematodes as a limiting factor in sugarcane production is of importance.

Certainly this technology may promote an important jump in the current levels of agricultural yields.

Stoller also has Masterfix L Gramineas, a nitrogen absorption efficiency product which it hopes to bring to Australia soon for evaluation in sugarcane.

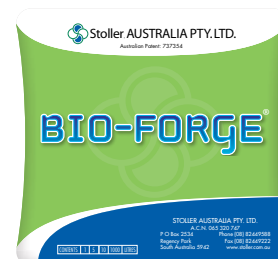
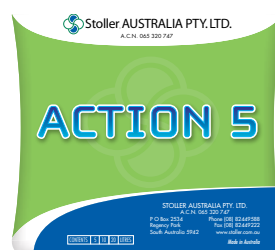
It is hoped this product will help sugarcane utilise nitrogen more efficiently and therefore reduce applied nitrogen, leaving less to run off to the Great Barrier Reef. ■



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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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Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

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2010 CASE 8800 TRACK HARVESTER
5,677 Hrs. Iveco Engines 9L 350 HP. 10
Blade Fagg Chopper System. Standard
Topper with D5 Type Tracks. Elevator
Rebuild, New Engine Harness.

2007 JOHN DEERE 3510 Wheel Harvester.
8.1 L Eng 375 HP Recent engine rebuild. 8
Blade Chopper System, Shredder Topper,
Scraper Tyres. Very well maintained
machine. New chains fitted to elevator. IN
STOCK NOW !!

2006 CAMECO 3510 Track Harvester,
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Overhaul With Injectors. Very Good Tracks.
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2011 MASSEY FERGUSON 5465 4
WD Tractor 120 HP. 1,967 Hrs. Front
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NEW ! BILLET PLANTER 2500 Immediate
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USED ! HBM Billet Planter. Narrow
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Complete with L & S hubs, Volvo track drive
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Mossman –Tully

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

KUBOTA B7200 Inter Row 5 row Sprayer, 80" HOWARD Rotary Hoe, HODGE 5 Furrow reversible plough. Ph: 0458 553 038

Herbert River – Burdekin

Honda TRX 680 Quad Bike - American version, low hours. Good condition. Phone 0419 188 185

826 international tractor in excellent condition can be used as tricycle or four wheels as it comes with both options \$10000 + gst firm. Ph: 0419 826 251

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



Wet Weather Tipper: 8 ton, 6 wheel mechanical drive, air bag suspension, Perkins motor. Will consider swaps for part or all, 7ft slasher, fert box, crane truck. \$14 000+gst ono. Ph. 0414322729 Brand new 14.00 R 25 tyres for sale under half of new price. Ph 0488300361.

Continues next page...



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 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	
	20.06.16	27.06.16		Jan-June
Mossman	72	12	1319	1724
Mareeba AP	15	0.8	394	717
Cairns	54	6	933	1598
Mt Sophia	126	7	1618	2577
Babinda	19	12	2378	3261
Innisfail	154	22	2283	2714
Tully	253	0	2588	3154
Cardwell	47	2	1500	1655
Lucinda	91	14	1630	1653
Ingham	47	0.6	1481	1555
Abergowrie	33	0	1006	1429
Townsville	51	0	854	868
Ayr DPI	67	0	454	712
Proserpine	147	0.2	1105	1027
Mirani	114	0.2	1065	1118
Mackay	100	0	1227	1169
Sarina (Plane Ck)	54	0.2	1352	1282
Bundaberg	93	0.2	628	610
Childers South	56	0	616	513
Maryborough	81	0	607	728
Tewantin	135	0.2	856	1131
Eumundi	127	0	748	1095
Nambour	129	0	760	1085
Woongoolba	96	3	368	834
Murwillumbah	112	0.4	1027	1035
Ballina	44	0.4	909	1146
Woodburn	41	0	520	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.

Classifieds

1989 International Truck 1850D, 15 ton GVM, tipper, recon motor 300hrs ago, new drive tyres, steers 90%, VGC. Open to offers. Ph: 0407 643 441

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

Cameco 96 full track, GC. Ph: 0407054417
5 roller Maclean three quarter tracks, new stone guards, VGC \$6000 plus GST. Ph: 0418 159 998.

Case harvester 1 back tyre and rim, 80 % tread BKT Agriculture tyre \$2000 plus GST. Ph: 0418 15 9998.

Case 970 Rear transmission fully rebuilt, VGC, Howard 6ft slasher. Ph: 0424295376

Rear Tipper 5ton electric over hydraulic lift, 23.1x30 tyres. Good condition, always kept in shed \$6000. Ph: 07 4959 0447 or 0412 164 647.

Track grousers to suit cane harvester, still plenty of life left, have been hard faced, still bolted on track chains, chains have only harvested 600 acres. Sell complete for \$3600 plus gst, or grousers only for \$1200. Ph: 0419 601 959

Don Gough Planter, Merrel Plant Cutter, 3 Fan Blower, 3 Plant Cane Trailers. Ph: 0417 272 424

2003 Jayco Heritage Caravan 21'6 with standard features as listed. Separate shower & toilet; Full stove; microwave, fridge; gas hot water, tv slide; radio, double bed, roll out awning; 12 volt pump system; 2 x 90 litre water tanks; 2 x 9kg gas bottles.

Extras - GVM upgrade from 2200kg to 2900kg (including new 15" tyres & rims); 100 litre Engel - fridge or freezer; 5 kg top loader washing machine; 2 water filters; new full annex; 3 storage cylinders at rear; safe; battery under van with L.E.D. monitoring inside; reverse camera; hayman reece weight transfer hitch; second spare tyre and carrier mounted under van. VGC \$35,000 negotiable. Ph: 0488 300 361.

Bundaberg - Rocky Point

K LINE SPEEDTILLERS for hire, efficient tillage implement, phone AgQuip hire. 1300 859 869

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 topper, front end 7000, GC. For sale or parts. Ph: 0427 598 333

Trailco T400 4" irrigator with 200m hose \$5500, Napier 3 tyne ripper with 6 x 1" tynes fitted on second bar \$1500, Gandy box on 2" tool bar little use \$750 Janke 4 row planter, suit soy beans, peanuts, etc \$6750, J I Case 1194 3000hrs approx rear tyres 90% \$8500. Ph: 0418 874 615

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

Plastic mulch layer, 3 farrow bonnel reversable plough, 20 set offset disc. Ph: 0427 854 350

Trailers, 2 roll on roll off haul out trailers one with pto winch and one hydraulic, super single and groundhog tyres, \$4000 and \$3000 plus gst. Ph 0419 270 981.

Toft 6500, 1982 4 blade rotary chop, 3306 Di cat motor, undercarriage in gc shredder topper, comes with spare rollers and crop lifters. Always stored under cover. \$23000 plus gst. Ph 0419 270 981.

Avokah 410 turbine water winch with hose reel and 200 m waterlord hose in good working order \$7700 Ph: 0412 370 022

3 x No.8 rain sprays on stands. Trailled 24 plate grumpy Grizzly offset. Ph: 07 4159 3323

Howard rotary hoe, 100in, rubber-topped and crumble roller, VGC. Ph: 0417 712 066

Wanted

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

Tractor drawn elevating scoop. Ph: 4959 8974 / 0437 011 560

Cummins M11 industrial engine to suit case harvester suitable for spare parts, prefer complete. Phone 0419 601 959

Hodge side dresser with fertiliser box, linkage or trailing. Ph: 07 4959 1451

Parts for 305 Massey harvester or harvester for wrecking or clutch plates for 205. Ph: 07 4159 3323 Bundaberg area

Positions Vacant

Experienced cane harvester driver wanted. Includes farm work also. UD licence required. Mackay area. Start March/April. Ph: 0438 592 165

Work Wanted

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

ANY AREA - Seeking work as cane harvester driver and/or farmhand. I am from Mauritius and well experienced in the cane industry. Available to travel to Australia for work any time. Have previously worked in Mackay area driving cane harvesters. Ph: +230 590 297 03

PROSERPINE AREA - Seeking cane farm work, have many years experience on cane farms as farmhand, slashing, bit of irrigation work and other general duties. Looking for work during the crush or all year round. Have also done building and concrete labouring. Keen to give anything a go. Fit and reliable worker with license and own car. Gavin Farrell 0467174388:

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: 0407157792

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

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ENTEC® is a treatment that keeps nitrogen stable in the soil for weeks, even months longer than with untreated Urea.

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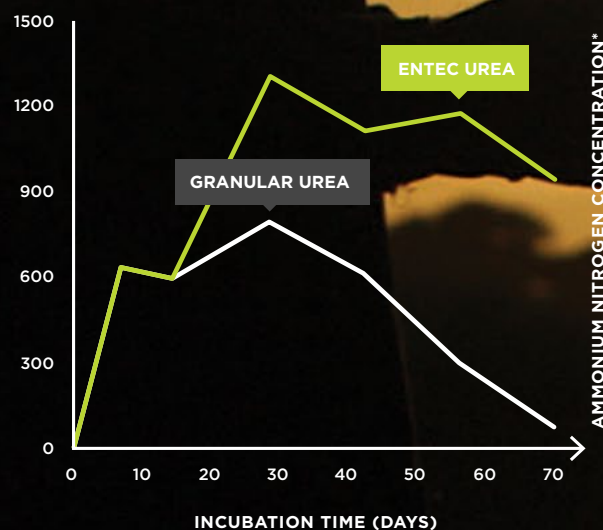
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This experiment was conducted with urea in a moist acidic chromosol (Pin Gin) soil at 25°C (pHw 4.5) (60% water filled pore space). Source: Suter et al. (2008)
*Unit of Measure is micrograms ($\mu\text{g NH}_4^+ \text{N/g soil}$)



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