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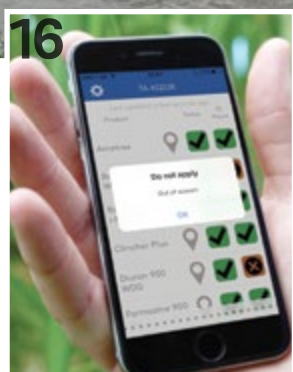
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0428 684 775

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COVER IMAGE: Tully cane growers Russell and Steven Maifredi are helping boost the number of Smartcane BMP accredited growers in Queensland's World Heritage Wet Tropics. (Pictured - Russell Maifredi). Read more on page 12.

Editor: Wayne Griffin

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Jacqui Segond

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Level 6, 100 Edward Street, Brisbane,
Queensland Australia
ABN 94 089 992 969
Postal Address: GPO Box 1032, Brisbane,
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone: 07 3864 6444; Fax: 07 3864 6429
Email: info@CANEGROWERS.com.au
Website: www.CANEGROWERS.com.au
CANEGROWERS/Members Card Hotline 1800 177 159

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Natural disasters, a reality to which we are all exposed

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

Perspective is a challenging thing to teach. There is a no shortcut to understanding the views and realities that others live with. While being able to walk a mile in someone else's shoes is desirable, it's difficult for many of us to achieve.

Over the past three weeks, the reality of plans that many growers had for the season ahead has changed dramatically.

As Tropical Cyclone Debbie first angled in towards Ayr, people made preparations both physically and mentally for the onslaught to come.

Of course, we now know that the cyclone drifted south and bore down instead on Bowen and the Mackay-Whitsunday region - eventually smashing cane crops around Proserpine and causing both wind and flood damage through Mackay and Plane Creek.

Natural disasters cause a range of obvious damage - to crops, businesses and critical public and private infrastructure.

The subsequent assessment and marshalling of assistance from local, State and Federal sources has resulted in the recent escalation of the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

These measures have been reported widely, and while they can be enormously confusing, the critical thing to remember is that the assistance provided is targeted towards helping people return their businesses to a productive and profitable position, therefore avoiding a long term regional economic downturn because of the disaster.

But anyone who has been through one of these events knows full well that while the sheds, equipment, crop and financial losses are important, after we have recovered from those losses, it's the stress, the anxiety, and the downright fear created by the event itself that can cast a darker, more enduring shadow over our lives.

In the early days after a natural disaster taking care of the personal safety of

family, friends, and community members is the priority. After that comes the financial, crop and infrastructure impact assessment.

CANEGROWERS has been working with members affected by Cyclone Debbie to ensure that government is aware of the extent and possible durability of the impact.

We are moving rapidly to ensure that where assistance is available, it is provided to the fullest and most effective extent possible.

However, we must also remember that supporting each other is much more about people than it is about dollars.

CANEGROWERS is first and foremost a community group, and it has been heart-warming to see how growers from unaffected districts, and indeed farmers from across the globe, have sent messages of support and encouragement to our industry.

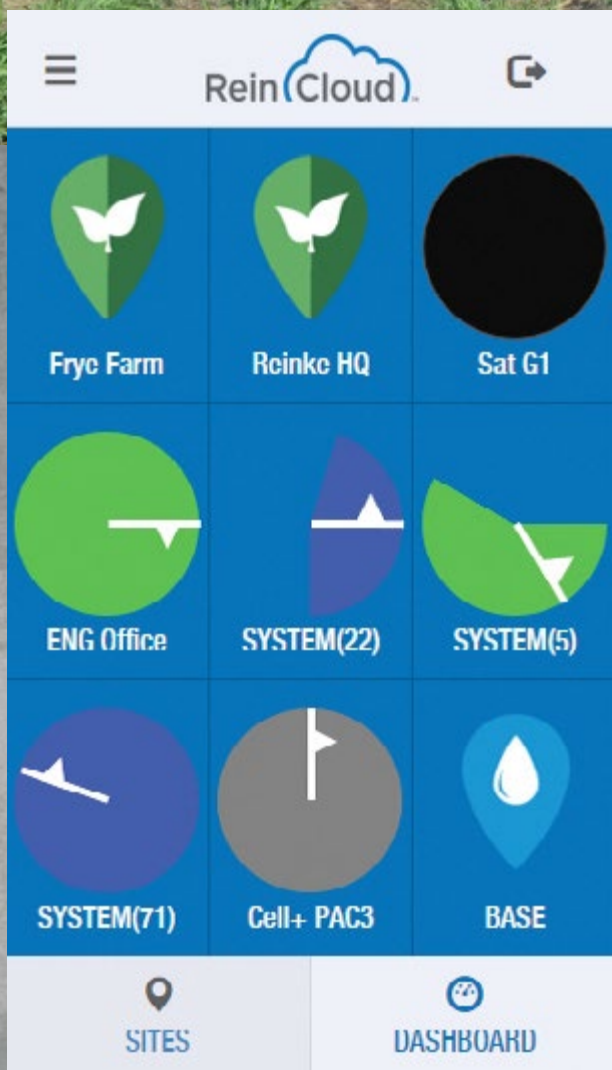
This type of solidarity should be something that we celebrate and apply consistently as we work to bring our grower community and their families together to talk about what they have experienced, share their concerns, and make plans for the future together.

If planned together, that future will be brighter and we will all recover from this event. ■



“CANEGROWERS is first and foremost a community group, and it has been heart-warming to see how growers from unaffected districts, and indeed farmers from across the globe, have sent messages of support and encouragement to our industry.”

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cyclone Debbie clean up and recovery grants now available



Sugarcane growers affected by Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the flooding that followed can apply for a range of assistance measures including \$25,000 in clean-up and recovery grants

The grants are part of the Category C assistance under the joint Commonwealth–State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

Affected growers, CANEGROWERS staff and productivity services in various districts worked in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone to compile the damage estimates and reports on which the government decision to activate the assistance was based.

Queensland Agriculture Minister Bill Byrne said the overall hit to farmers in Queensland from Tropical Cyclone Debbie was \$450 million.

"These grants are not compensation for crop losses – they are an important hand up to get these businesses back on their feet and contributing to the Queensland economy as quickly as possible," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said. "Applying through QRAA is not an onerous exercise."

Talks over northern mill's future

Discussions are being held about the future of Mossman Mill as Mackay Sugar seeks to work its way out of \$212 million in debt.

The company has confirmed it has talked to grower representatives in the Mossman and Tableland districts.

Mackay Sugar purchased Mossman Mill in May 2012 in a deal worth \$25 million which included debt refinancing and shares.

Also under heated discussion is a proposal for a levy on growers to assist Mackay Sugar. ■

WHICH AREAS ARE ACTIVATED FOR CATEGORY C DISASTER ASSISTANCE?

In Central Queensland:

- Whitsunday Regional Council
- Mackay Regional Council
- Part of Isaac Regional Council
- Part of Livingstone Regional Council
- Part of Central Highlands Regional Council
- Part of Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council

In South East Queensland:

- Logan City Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- Part of Gold Coast City Council

Primary producers who have suffered significant damage but are not in one of the areas listed here may apply for an Individual Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) declaration – visit www.daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.

WHAT CAN THE \$25,000 CLEAN-UP AND RECOVERY GRANT BE USED FOR?

Some of the eligible activities may include:

- purchasing, hiring or leasing equipment or materials to; clean premises, property or equipment or to immediately resume farming activities
- removing and disposing of debris, damaged goods, materials including injured or dead livestock
- repairing or replacing fencing
- purchasing fodder or salvaging crops or feed for stock
- repairing or reconditioning essential plant or equipment
- maintaining the health of livestock or poultry
- paying additional wages to an employee to assist with clean-up work

Where you undertake the work yourself, there are guidelines to assist with an application. Photographs of the damage and work undertaken, bank details and a rates notice can assist with the application process.

WHERE DO I APPLY?

Category C clean-up and recovery grants and Category B concessional natural disaster loans for farmers are available from QRAA: www.qraa.qld.gov.au or 1800 623 946.

Freight subsidy grants, up to \$5,000 – can be used for livestock fodder, building and fencing materials and machinery – are available from www.daf.qld.gov.au or by calling 13 25 23.

Personal hardship and distress assistance is still available to families (up to \$900) and individuals (\$400) affected by Cyclone Debbie, call 1800 173 349 or visit www.qld.gov.au/communityrecovery ■

Collective bargaining secured for growers

CANEGROWERS members will directly benefit from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission authorising greater collaboration and cooperation during contract negotiations in the sugar industry.

The ACCC authorisation relates to cane supply and other agreements, including On-Supply Agreements between millers and marketers to facilitate grower choice under the Sugar Industry Act.

"This authorisation can provide an opportunity for growers, millers and sugar marketers to negotiate mutually beneficial contracts without breaching competition laws," ACCC Commissioner Mick Keogh said.

"We believe the proposed arrangements are likely to save growers, mill owners and marketers time and money, and also facilitate more effective and timely grower input into negotiation with mill owners and marketers."

CANEGROWERS took the initiative to apply for the collective bargaining authorisation which has been welcomed by CEO Dan Galligan.

"It overcomes some uncertainty in the scope of the Sugar Industry Act and means our districts can share information and expertise, delivering effective and timely grower input to these complex processes," he said.

"We are particularly heartened that the ACCC says its proposed authorisation is likely to result in public benefits by facilitating grower choice in sugar marketing, and therefore competition."

Under the ACCC authorisation, to take effect on 5 May, if there are no applications for review, it is up to the parties in any negotiation to decide the extent of grower involvement.

"CANEGROWERS encourages all mill owners and marketers to enable grower participation in all negotiations to ensure there is a clear link between cane supply

agreements and on-supply agreements," Mr Galligan said.

In an interview on ABC Radio's Country Hour, Mr Keogh said the new federal Code of Conduct for the sugar industry could come into play when parties don't want to negotiate.

Mr Keogh also explained he has formed a different view to the Productivity Commission on the question of monopoly power in the sugar industry.

"The ACCC did a detailed review of the distribution of the mills, the ownership of the mills and the market shares held by them," Mr Keogh said. "It was fairly clear to us that, except in a reasonably limited number of situations, growers don't really have a choice of which mill they supply so therefore the mill has the potential to exercise a degree of market power."

While the Productivity Commission said millers couldn't really have an impact on prices on the global market, Mr Keogh said the ACCC's view was that they could increase their margins, for example, at the expense of growers by paying growers less.

"This creates a situation where market power could be used and therefore collective bargaining is justified," he said. ■



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Industry with Burn Ashburner

Economics with Warren Males

How's the weather?

Weather – it's a popular topic of conversation no matter where you are or what you do.

Over the past few months, the cane communities along Queensland's coast have been subject to the vagaries of the weather – drought, cyclone and floods – resulting in serious production issues.

For southern region growers, a lack of water resulted in crop losses, while for communities in the central growing region, Tropical Cyclone Debbie left a trail of damage to homes, property and crops.

The impact of weather can't be under-stated. However, it isn't only people who feel it. The Great Barrier Reef has recently suffered massive bleaching events due to higher sea surface temperatures.

The reef was also smashed by Cyclone Debbie and will be further impacted by poor water quality from flood plumes associated with the heavy rainfall from that weather system. This will affect coral, seagrass, fish and the food webs in the ecosystems.

There is scientific evidence that climate change is occurring, supported by data showing rising global temperatures.

Queensland's coast is also being subjected to more intense cyclonic systems, the effects of which can be devastating at a local level.

The issue of climate change is starting to come across my desk more frequently.

As an industry, we can benefit from advances in climate forecasting and modeling, which can assist with farm planning and management.

Our challenge is to be ready for and overcome these extreme weather events.

Thankfully, if there is ever a crop that can do this, it is sugarcane. ■



Rural Water Use Efficiency

CANEGROWERS is actively involved in many high-profile industry issues – the impact of Cyclone Debbie, securing grower choice in marketing, fighting high electricity prices and retaining the social license to farm alongside the Great Barrier Reef, to name a few.

However, there are many other projects that bubble along below the surface, which are important nonetheless.

Since 1998, CANEGROWERS has successfully run a Rural Water Use Efficiency program with funding from the Queensland Government. This has enabled many growers to benefit from incentives and extension information, helping to boost profitability.

As the years go on, the stipulations put on this funding is becoming more and more targeted at specific environmental issues, such as rising ground water.

The current project is aimed at addressing three main issues:

Firstly, in the Burdekin Groundwater Management Area (BGMA), dewatering bores for conjunctive use with channel irrigation water is being implemented.

Secondly, there is incentive funding for growers to change or improve irrigation systems to reduce deep drainage and increase water use efficiency in the BGMA and Arriga basin (Tableland).

Lastly, there is funding for productivity services to provide information systems to enable growers to make good irrigation decisions.

CANEGROWERS is in the process of applying for another year of funding and we hope the successful program continues for many years to come. Water use efficiency is a cornerstone of good farming, for both profitability and sustainability. ■



Sugar Industry Code and ACCC Authorisation provide stability

The Federal Government's Sugar Industry Code of Conduct and the ACCC decision to authorise collective bargaining are set to stabilise structures for grower choice in marketing. Together they will ensure negotiations can cover the main issues and be concluded in a timely manner.

Applying to both cane supply and on-supply agreements, the Code of Conduct guarantees grower choice in marketing and provides for pre-contractual arbitration to resolve deadlocks in negotiations.

The ACCC authorisation allows CANEGROWERS and our district representatives to collectively bargain cane supply and related contracts with both mill owners and sugar marketers on behalf of current and future members for a period of ten years. The authorisation means grower participation in collective bargaining in the broad range of issues is not in breach of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*.

Participation in collective bargaining is voluntary. Growers can choose to join a collectively negotiated Cane Supply Agreement or to directly negotiate with the mill. The authorisation also removes any legal impediment to CANEGROWERS participation in the negotiation of On-Supply Agreements if the parties agree.

In making its decision, the ACCC conducted a detailed review of the distribution, ownership and market shares of sugar mills.

Commissioner Mick Keogh says they found, "Growers don't really have a choice of which miller they supply".

A full report on the ACCC decision can be found on page 5 of this magazine. ■



CANEGROWERS SECURES \$7.1 MILLION FOR HIGH EFFICIENCY FERT TRIALS



CANEGROWERS has secured a \$7.1 million combined Australian and Queensland government grant to conduct on-farm trials of high efficiency fertilisers across all cane growing regions that flow to the Great Barrier Reef.

Announcing the successful tender Federal Minister for the Environment and Energy Josh Frydenberg said sixty trials would be conducted over three cane growing seasons, covering a wide range of production systems, soil types and climate zones.

"This new generation of fertilisers have the potential to increase farmer profit margins through improving yields, whilst at the same time benefiting the Great Barrier Reef by reducing fertiliser run-off and thereby improving water quality," Minister Frydenberg said.

"The trials will be supervised by Sugar Research Australia, the cane industry's leading research

organisation which has a deep understanding of all aspects of sugarcane agronomy.

"In addition, a National Environmental Science Programme project focused on on-farm nitrogen management will inform the design and monitoring of the trials to ensure they incorporate regional environmental conditions and production systems."

It is the first time that both governments have jointly funded and delivered a project through the Reef Trust. Minister for the Great Barrier Reef Dr Steven Miles said the Queensland Government was co-investing through the Reef Water Quality Program's Innovation Fund.

Save the write-off campaign

A mid-year tax change threatens to hurt on-farm investment so CANEGROWERS is backing a National Farmers Federation campaign to convince the Federal Government to act.

Instant capital write-off provisions mean small businesses (including farms) can immediately depreciate capital investments of \$20,000 or less. In addition, farmers can immediately depreciate expenses for Landcare activities, fencing, water and fodder storage upgrades.

But they are due to 'sunset' on 30 June 2017.

The NFF campaign is seeking an assurance from the Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison that the write-off provisions will be preserved in the 2017-18 Budget.

Get involved in the campaign at www.farmers.org.au

There's links to send an email to the Treasurer and share the campaign via social media.

Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION AND CLAIM A TAX DEDUCTION FOR THE 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR

With the end of the financial year fast approaching, now's the time to consider making a personal contribution to your AustSafe Super account.

If you're aged between 18 and 75 years*, are self-employed and want to claim a tax deduction for the 2016/17 financial year, we need to receive your contributions well before Friday 30 June 2017.

There are three options available to make a personal contribution - BPAY, direct deposit or via cheque.

You will need to allow adequate time for bank processing, clearing house administration or postal delivery.

CLAIMING A TAX DEDUCTION

If you're substantially self-employed, unsupported or self-employed you may be able to claim a tax deduction for the personal contributions that you make.

To be eligible, less than 10% of your total assessable income, including your reportable fringe benefits and total reportable employer superannuation contributions come from employment activities.

You must tell us you intend to claim a tax deduction. Complete and return a Notice of intent to claim or vary a deduction for personal super contributions form before Friday 30 June.

Instructions on how to complete this form are available from the ATO website at ato.gov.au. You will need to ensure you complete your tax return correctly as well.

If you think you're in a position to make a contribution and claim a tax deduction, it may be beneficial to seek advice to ensure it aligns with your current financial strategy.

AustSafe Super is the industry super fund for rural and regional Australia, and has been committed to looking after members' super throughout their working life, and into retirement for over 25 years.



Assessment of new management **STRATEGIES FOR MARGINAL SOILS**

By Nick Hill, Adoption Officer, Mackay

Marginal soils comprise a large proportion of Australia's cropping regions and cover a variety of issues such as soil pH, low organic carbon, compaction, nutrient disorders, salinity, sodicity and waterlogging.

Where crops are affected, growth and yield are constrained due to the negative impacts upon root function.

These soils often require an increase in inputs, and the associated costs further affect profitability.

Within the Australian sugarcane industry, sodic duplex subsoils are a marginal soil type that has been identified as having a significant impact upon yield.

Cane roots are excluded from the subsoil due to a hard and dense soil structure and chemical characteristics.

Consequently roots are restricted to the top layers of soil, which limits plant-available water and nutrient uptake, and increases the risk of lodging.



Studies have demonstrated a 2.4t/ha loss of yield for every 1% increase in subsoil sodicity.

To address the negative impact of subsoil sodicity upon the Australian Sugarcane industry, the SRA project (2015/007) Assessment of new management strategies for marginal soils, was established.

This project further builds upon previous subsoil amelioration research conducted by MSF Sugar, and the Delivering Agricultural Goals grower group that investigated the impact of deep ripping; deep ripping and compost; deep ripping and fertiliser; and deep ripping and gypsum, from plant cane, up until third ratoon.

This trial demonstrated a consistently high yield response from the deep ripping/compost treatment over the study period.

Operating at three locations with marginal soils - Maryborough, Bundaberg and Mackay - this project will assess the impact of ripping;

- subsoil application of gypsum;
- subsoil application of fertiliser; surface banded mill mud/ash;
- subsoil application of mill mud/ash;
- subsoil application of mill mud/ash & compost; and
- subsoil application of compost

This project will target the following outcomes:

- Assessment of a new management strategy to improve the condition of marginal soils in small scale plot trials;

- Develop an understanding of changes to soil condition with subsoil application of ameliorants;
- Assessment of sugarcane crop growth and productivity following subsoil amelioration; and,
- Economic assessment of subsoil amelioration and return on investment.

The inclusion of mill mud and ash into the trial has further implications for the sugarcane industry.

As these products have a significant nutrient content they hold value as a fertiliser and soil conditioners at a reduced cost - when compared to traditional fertilisers and soil conditioners.

However, as they are by-products of the sugar milling process, they are required to be stored or disposed of in accordance with government legislation to avoid any negative impact upon water quality and soil.

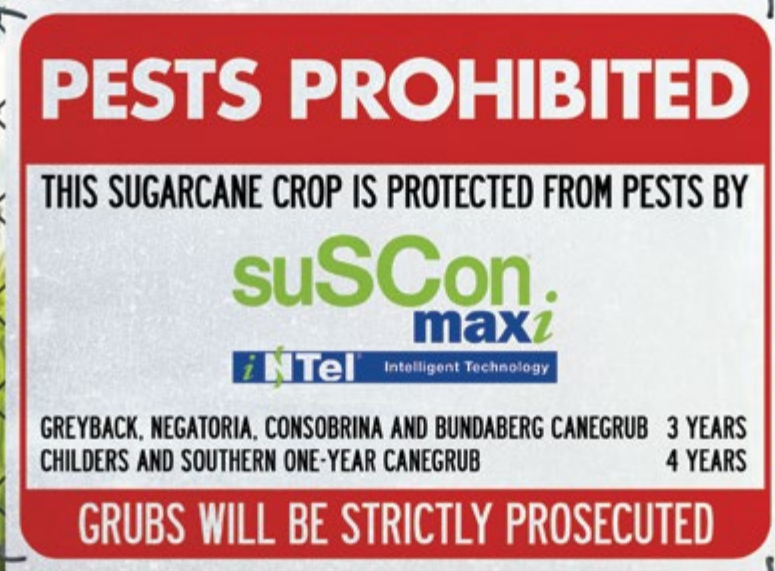
Consequently, the inclusion of different methods of application at reduced rates (compared to existing industry practices) will provide insight into how these rates affect the growth and yield of sugarcane while minimising off site impact.

The project runs until the end of 2019 and results from the research will be communicated as they become available.

For further information please contact; Nick Hill: 0477 316 503. ■

*Pictured (left): Mill mud at depth;
(above): Mill mud sub surface applicator*

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Finding the QSL product that's best suited for your needs

As outlined in our last column, QSL's 2017-season product range for Wilmar Growers features a mix of QSL-Managed Pools and Grower-Managed Pricing Products.

While Wilmar Growers previously accessed such products through their Miller – who subsequently passed the collated grower pool nominations and forward pricing orders on to QSL to execute – under the new Marketing Choice process growers will cut out the middle man and deal directly with QSL for such pricing.

Our QSL-Managed Pools should be familiar to most growers as the Harvest Pool, Actively Managed Pool, Guaranteed Floor Pool and 2-Season Forward Pool have all been running for a number of years now. You can find more information about these pools and their performance by visiting our website at www.qsl.com.au.

However QSL's Grower-Managed Pricing Products are a new offering for Wilmar Sugar Growers. These products are:

- The Fixed Price Forward Contract
- The Target Price Contract
- The In-Season Fixed Price Forward Contract
- The In-Season Target Price Contract

As the name suggests, for each of these Grower-Managed Pricing Products, the grower is responsible for setting the price targeted through the use of ICE 11 futures contracts in the current and futures seasons.

The four Grower-Managed Pricing Products above can be differentiated along 2 lines:

1. Products designed for large growers vs products designed for small growers
2. Products priced in the current season vs products priced up to 3 seasons ahead

To help identify which QSL pricing product may best suit your needs, QSL has developed two 'decision trees', which use a few simple questions to help growers identify the pricing products which meet their requirements.

The first of these decision trees looks at all your QSL pricing options, including QSL-Managed Pools and Grower-Managed Pricing Products. The second chart solely focuses on our Grower-Managed Pricing options.

HOW DO I ACCESS QSL PRICING?

Wilmar Sugar Growers can only access QSL's pools and pricing products by selecting QSL as a Marketer of their Grower's Economic Interest in sugar (GEI Sugar). This is the sugar that you receive payment for (generally two-thirds of your total production) and includes what is currently your allocations to the QSL Harvest and US Quota pools.

Even if you only wish to use the QSL Harvest Pool for the coming season, you must choose QSL as a GEI Sugar Marketer to access it. Failure to nominate QSL as a GEI Sugar Marketer will see all of your GEI Sugar tonnage default to Wilmar for marketing and pricing services.

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

Currently three contracts need to be in place before Wilmar Growers can start pricing with QSL.

1. QSL must have an On-Supply Agreement with Wilmar
2. The Grower must have a Cane Supply Agreement with Wilmar (the GEI Sugar Marketer nomination and tonnage allocation is a part of this document)
3. The Grower must have a Grower Pricing Agreement with QSL

QSL's Grower Pricing Agreement (GPA) is dependent upon the On-Supply Agreement (OSA) currently being finalised and will be issued to growers directly from QSL as soon as it is available.

In the interim, Wilmar Sugar Growers who are considering marketing and pricing with QSL are strongly urged to complete the Pre-Registration Form available on our website (www.qsl.com.au) or by contacting one of our QSL regional offices in Ingham, the Burdekin, Proserpine and Sarina.

PLEASE NOTE: This report contains information of a general or summary nature and any information about past performance is not an indication of future performance. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. It does not constitute financial product or investment advice, nor does it constitute a recommendation to invest in any of the pools described or an offer or invitation with respect to any of the pools. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this document. Before making pricing decisions you should seek your own financial advice and read the Pricing Pool Terms, which will be available on the QSL website.

2017 Season (current as at 4 April 2017)

QSL PRICING OPTIONS FOR WILMAR GROWERS

My QSL Harvest Pool (35%) and US Quota (5%) allocations are automatic.
What can I do with the rest of my GEI Sugar tonnage (60%)?

Do I want to commit tonnes?

YES ✓

QSL's Committed Sugar Pools and Pricing Products

Do you want to make the pricing decisions?

YES ✓

Grower-Managed Pricing Products

- CURRENT SEASON:**
- QSL In-Season Fixed Price Contract
 - QSL In-Season Target Price Contract
- FUTURE SEASONS:**
- Fixed Price Forward Contract
 - Target Price Contract

NO ✗

QSL-Managed Pools

- CURRENT SEASON:**
- QSL Actively Managed Pool
 - QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool
- FUTURE SEASONS:**
- QSL 2018 2-Season Forward Pool

Growers can have a combination Grower-Managed Pricing Products and QSL-Managed Pools

Any unallocated tonnes

NO ✗

QSL's Uncommitted Sugar Pool

QSL Harvest Pool (minimum 35% allocation)

Contains the Production Buffer, which affects how the sugar in this pool is priced/sold during the season

QSL'S GROWER-MANAGED PRICING OPTIONS FOR WILMAR GROWERS

I want to make my own pricing decisions regarding my GEI Sugar.
Which QSL Grower-Managed Pricing Products are best suited for my needs?

Do I have more than 304.815 MT (6 Lots) of committed sugar available to price?

YES ✓ (Larger Grower)

NO ✗ (Smaller Grower)

Do I want to price in the current season (in-season)?

YES ✓

NO ✗

YES ✓

NO ✗

In-Season Fixed Price Contract

- Priced incrementally during the season across 4 futures contracts
- Minimum tonnage nomination of 6 Lots (304.815 tonnes)
- Minimum order size of 1 Lot (50.8025 tonnes)

Fixed Price Forward Contract

- Price up to 3 seasons ahead of current season
- Targets a whole-of-season weighted average price
- Minimum tonnage nomination of 6 Lots (304.815 tonnes)
- Minimum order size of 6 Lots (304.815 tonnes)
- Option of accelerated Advances

In-Season Target Price Contract

- Priced incrementally during the season across 4 futures contracts
- Minimum tonnage nomination of 60 tonnes
- Minimum order size of 10 tonnes
- \$10 target price increments

Target Price Contract

- Price up to 3 seasons ahead of current season
- Targets a whole-of-season weighted average price
- Minimum tonnage nomination of 10 tonnes
- Minimum order of 10 tonnes
- \$10 target price increments
- Option of accelerated Advances

HOW DO I SUBMIT MY QSL-MANAGED POOL AND GROWER-MANAGED PRICING CHOICES?

All QSL Grower-Managed Pricing nominations and orders for Wilmar Sugar Growers must be submitted via the QSL Direct online grower portal. For more information, please refer to the QSL Grower Handbook for Wilmar Sugar Growers available at www.qsl.com.au

BROTHERS HELP BOOST SMARTCANE BMP ACCREDITATIONS IN TULLY REGION

By Wayne Griffin



Tully brothers Steven and Russell Maifredi are doing their bit to boost the number of Smartcane BMP accredited growers in Queensland's World Heritage Wet Tropics. The planting, fertilising and spraying contractors have been helping local growers get over the line in BMP by taking on what many consider the most daunting aspect of the accreditation process - the paperwork.

"A lot of the farmers we're working with would be in their 60s or 70s," Russell said, when *Australian Canegrower* visited the Maifredi family farm recently.

"They've never really had much to do with paperwork over the years, so it's something that they find a bit difficult, and to be honest, many of them aren't really interested in learning at this stage.

"Most of them are doing the correct practices already, they're just not confident with the record keeping side of things. But because they have us doing their planting and spraying, they don't need to worry about it - we're essentially doing their paperwork for them."

The brothers, themselves fourth generation cane farmers, are well acquainted with the requirements of

BMP accreditation having received the Smartcane tick of approval on their own 280 hectare Euramo cane farm in 2016.

Using GPS and rate flow technology, Steven and Russell can accurately record the details of fertiliser and chemical applications on their client's farms - documenting exactly when, where, how much and what type of inputs were used.

"We've got about 15 or 20 farmers in the area that we do contract planting and spraying for," Russell said.

"For the planting, Steve keeps a record of all the chemicals we use, the fertiliser rate, things like that. We do the same for the spraying.

"It all gets put down on paper - the block details, weather conditions, products, batch numbers and any other details that need to be recorded. Then when we finish that farm we give all the paperwork to the farmer and they can use it for their BMP accreditation."

"Basically if we do their contract planting, fertilising and spraying, that's a huge chunk of their BMP done," Steven added.

"The GPS makes life a lot easier, but the paperwork is the hard part, even for us it's pretty time-consuming.

"A lot of the time we get home at nine or ten at night after a day of planting, the last thing you want to do is paperwork."

To ease the workload the brothers have enlisted the help of Steven's wife Melissa to handle the paperwork. ►





Pictured: Tully brothers Steven and Russell Maifredi received the Smartcane BMP tick of approval in 2016. Now they are helping other growers in the region achieve accreditation.

"The paperwork Russell and Steven provide is really exceptional ... I've no doubt that they have helped get some growers accredited who otherwise might have been put off by the record-keeping side of things."

Nick Stipis

"We're lucky that Steven's wife looks after all the paperwork side of things for us. If we had to do it ourselves we'd be doing a third less work out in the field," Russell said.

To date, at least five local growers have used the records supplied by the Maifredi brothers to help achieve Smartcane BMP accreditation, with another 10 currently going through the process.

It's a record greatly appreciated by local BMP facilitator Nick Stipis, who knows just how difficult it can be to turn benchmarked growers into accredited growers.

"We have quite a few contractors around the district, but Russell and Steven go above and beyond in the way of reporting," Nick said.

"The paperwork they provide to their growers is really exceptional compared to what is required by law and what other contractors provide.

"I'd have no doubt that they've helped get some growers accredited who otherwise might have been put off by the record-keeping side of things."

Liquid Fertiliser

The brothers have also been changing attitudes when it comes to fertiliser use, encouraging their farmers to make the switch from granular to a liquid product which, Steven says, is safer to handle, has



better outcomes for the environment, and allows them to cover an additional five acres (2 hectares) a day.

"When we started off contract planting everyone wanted to use granule, but now we've got them all using liquid," Steven said.

"We've been using the liquid on our own farm for six years now and we'd been gradually moving our farmers over as well.

Continues page 14...



"A big plus for us is that we're farming too. So when the farmers we contract for look at what we're doing and see that it's working for us, they decide to give it a go."

"Having said that, there were a few who didn't change so we basically had a meeting with all the farmers that we plant for at the start of 2016 and we told them we're not using granule at planting stage anymore, that we just wanted to use a product called Plant Starter.

"It gets the plant up and growing and keeps it going for 12 weeks, then we go out and top-dress it.

"Using the liquid we can pick up about five or more acres a day, and that can make a big difference up here where we get a lot of rain.

"Weather is the biggest enemy for us when we're planting. If it's wet, no-one wants you, everyone wants you when it's fine and then it's go, go, go!"

Russell says the brothers managed to fertilise a massive 3200 ha of cane land between mid-August and December 2016, thanks in part to the speed of refilling the liquid fertiliser drum.

"The ease of refilling means we can get back into the paddock quicker, giving us the ability to cover 60 ha per day," he said.

"It's also a bit safer, because we're not using bag lifters, which people can get hurt using.

"Then there's the environmental side. With this product it's a lot easier to get

custom blends to suit the location and different soil types and this often means reduced nitrogen. You also get less run-off using the liquid, so that helps with the BMP side of things.

"Being rate controlled also makes my job a lot easier. I can change fertiliser rates with the touch of a few buttons which also makes it easier to achieve best practice.

"To be honest, this liquid product has been an absolute blessing."

Time to get on board

Despite being fully accredited BMP growers, the Maifredi brothers are not without criticism of the Best Management Practice program, however they also acknowledge the need for growers to get on board.

"The way things are going it will eventually become mandatory, and not just because of reef regulations - I think it's getting to the stage where if we don't start adopting BMP, in a few years we won't be able to sell our sugar," Russell said.

"Buyers are starting to look more at how their food is grown, if it's sustainable or harming the environment or whatever, and if we're not seen to have that tick of approval as an industry we're going to struggle.

"The actual practices aren't that difficult, most farmers are doing them anyway. Age is one of the biggest challenges.



"A lot of the growers around here are in their late 60s and 70s and are set in their ways.

"They're probably looking at getting out of farming in a few years and have the attitude that they're not going to start changing at this stage.

"But for the farmers we work with at least, that's changing, because getting the paperwork done for them makes it so much easier to get their accreditation." ■

Pictured: GPS and rate flow technology enable the brothers to provide their growers with detailed chemical and fertiliser application paperwork.

POWERFUL IRRIGATION TECH

in the pocket of Queensland cane growers

Supplied by Reinke

When it comes to irrigation, there are many decisions facing modern growers. The ability to gather and analyse data makes these decisions easier to make and to justify.

One crucial decision facing growers revolves around when to irrigate and how much water to apply.

Proper plant hydration is the ultimate goal and there are tools available to help the grower reach this goal.

ReinCloud™ allows growers to capture and analyse important irrigation data and remotely manage a variety of irrigation operations, such as starting and stopping the pivot, adjusting irrigation scheduling and maximising irrigation resources.

Saving time and resources with remote irrigation management is easier to accomplish with the ability to analyse data in a customisable platform.

ReinCloud, the customisable ag-data platform, gains further importance as additional partner products and feeds are integrated into the service.

The RS300, by Ranch Systems LLC, is a ReinCloud Ready product providing advanced field sensing that can help

growers get the right data to make informed decisions.

The data that the RS300 provides includes information such as wind speed and direction, humidity, solar radiation, leaf wetness, water monitoring and more.

With several different equipment options to measure soil moisture, growers can identify areas with different soil types, and the hydration needs of the crops in these areas.

Conversely, if too much water is being applied, the soil moisture station can illustrate the need to adjust the water application rate.

If water becomes scarce further regulations may be imposed on producers. Accurately measuring the water applied can be done using flow monitoring.

Using a flow metering device, water is measured to provide information on

whether the system is being utilised in accordance with the requirements of the plant.

Excess water application may harm yields, so the ability to analyse real data can lead to more efficient and cost saving processes for watering.

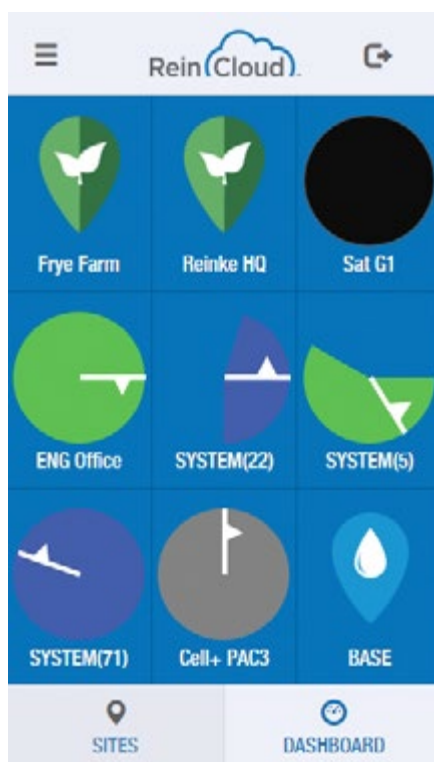
This efficiency in water application indirectly leads to other efficiencies in energy and labour, and costly mistakes can be minimised.

Savings in irrigation and yield improvement make ReinCloud and the RS300 an invaluable tool for any operation.

As input costs continue to increase, it's good to know efficiency and cost saving tools are available that can help growers make better management decisions.

Beyond the savings, a modest increase in yield compounded over time and multiplied by the acreage can lead to significant increases in profits.

Gaining efficiency while reducing input costs and increasing yield is a great combination that continues to improve with ReinCloud and its partners. ■



For additional information about Reinke, please visit <http://www.reinke.com>

For additional information about ReinCloud and the RS300, please visit <http://www.myreincloud.com>

NEW APP TO SUPPORT DECISION MAKING

Supplied by ADAMA



A UNIQUE new tool to support cane growers and advisors maximise herbicide efficacy while minimising runoff and its potential environmental impact has been launched by crop protection specialists ADAMA.

Suitable for iPhone, iPad and Android smartphones, the **ReefAware®** App assesses the suitability and timing of herbicide application by taking recent, current and short-term forecast weather conditions into account along with site soil type, topography and proximity to water courses.

The App also considers any neighbouring waterbodies as well as label use requirements to determine the suitability of immediate herbicide application (within the next 24 hours), as well as application within 72 hours.

ReefAware® allows users to map and name cane fields and provides instant location based information and a simple 'stop' or 'go' application indication.

"As well as wanting to protect the Great Barrier Reef, cane growers know that managing their farms in ways that protect the environment has a direct positive impact on their profitability," ADAMA chief executive Darrin Hines said.

"At ADAMA we also take our stewardship responsibilities seriously, and **ReefAware®** is an example of ways we support land managers to use ADAMA products safely and responsibly.

"Australian cane growers have adopted water quality management practices which are industry-best and have invested heavily to reduce nutrient, sediment and pesticide run-off to make our industry a world leader in sustainable sugar production."

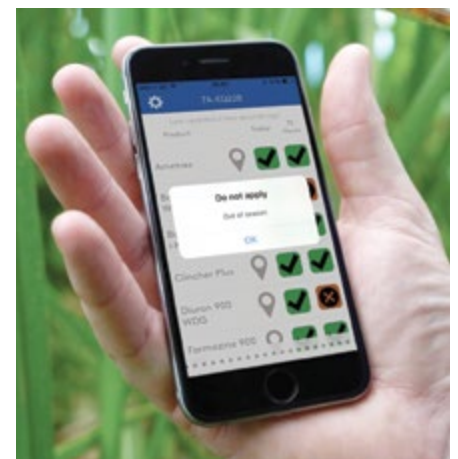
"The App was developed to ensure our cane growers are supported to make herbicide application decisions which maximise weed control at the same time as minimising any risk of environmental impact," he said.

A number of data sources are utilised which enable **ReefAware®** to provide its simple 'stop' or 'go' application indication to cane growers. Recent, current and short-term forecast weather, plus soil,

water, mapping and landscape data is analysed using a purpose-built algorithm to model the risk of run-off for different ADAMA crop protection products.

Soil type, land gradient, waterbody coverage and forecast weather data are analysed in combination with geo-mapping and herbicide product label requirements within the **ReefAware®** App. ■

ReefAware® by ADAMA is available free for download in both iOS and Android versions. Visit your app store or www.adama.com for more information.



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"The correct amount of water on every part of the field is essential for maximum yields. When coupled with FieldNET, Precision VRI gives growers the pinpoint accuracy they need along with the efficiencies that result from full remote capabilities," Richard Hall, Lindsay Regional Manager Australia

Growers across Australia rely on Zimmatic's innovative technology supported by a network of knowledgeable dealers to add value, reduce risk and take full advantage of every growing season.

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Eye in the sky

Can drones help modernise sugarcane plant breeding?

Supplied by SRA

Cutting-edge technology is being used to assess how potential new sugarcane varieties perform through the growing cycle, with the aim of delivering better varieties sooner for the Australian sugarcane industry.

Currently, the main method of assessing the performance of a potential new sugarcane variety in the SRA breeding program comes at harvest time.

Just as growers and millers know the real test of a crop is when the harvester enters the paddock, the performance of potential new varieties is assessed the same way.

But can new technology, such as unmanned aerial vehicles (or drones), be used to capture data on how a variety is growing and performing through the season?

Drones are already being used by a small number of growers to assess crops and pinpoint potential weed infestations.

It is hoped that by combining drones with other technologies they can be used to provide additional information to aid sugarcane breeding programs.

At the moment, plant breeding works on very large numbers of clones

Around 250,000 individual clones enter the first stage (Progeny Assessment Trials or PATs) of the breeding program, making manual data collection difficult.

However, a new technology called Phenotyping is being used in conjunction with drones to observe and measure differences in physiology, growth and other traits within a population of plants.

In effect, it provides a greater picture of the life cycle and could improve the efficiency of selecting potential new sugarcane varieties.

"It is like bringing up a child," explains SRA Principal Researcher for Trait Development, **Jaya Basnayake**. "Being able to look at the person all through their childhood helps you understand their potential, rather than just looking at them as an adult."



Phenotyping is a challenging area of plant breeding and can be labour intensive as it requires manually harvesting and assessing plants for particular criteria or visual ratings.

However, it is hoped the use of drones fitted with a range of cameras, sensors and integrated software can enhance this process and make it much more feasible.



The rapid and dense-growing nature of sugarcane means the ability to capture information from the air is valuable.

"The aerial platform allows us to take measurements in a short time. Within 15-17 minutes we can survey seven hectares of crop," Dr Basnayake said.

"Our goal is to then provide that information to the plant breeders so they can better understand how those plants behave and incorporate that information into their normal breeding program."

Using the drone platform as a research tool is expected to provide a mass of information that would allow potential new varieties to be assessed at an earlier stage in the breeding trials.

This trial work is currently occurring in the Burdekin, where Dr Basnayake is based.

Two factors that will be measured include canopy temperature (a proxy for canopy conductance) and crop vigour, which, if measured at the correct time, can be associated with yield.

The project aims to validate the use of canopy temperature and canopy conductance as a predictor of yield.

"This is a new concept for breeding, especially for sugarcane," Dr Basnayake said. ►



"It has been done with corn and wheat, in which the knowledge of physiological parameters has been incorporated into the breeding program to increase the predictability in yield.

"But this is a first in sugarcane. We are responding to requests from industry to modernise the breeding program and find ways of further improving our trait selection.

"Most of this work is based on our experience with other crops, but we know we are leading the way globally."

The work that is occurring now will use a mini Clonal Assessment Trial (CAT) to compare ground based measurements with observations from the drone.

It will use multiple layers of data to see how the progeny perform and assess which ones are growing quickly, or slowly, as well as high biomass at three, five and six months.

The technology is currently somewhat restricted by the capabilities of the cameras and sensors on board the drone. That is why it is currently assessing 'groups' of varieties via the CAT stage.

Dr Basnayake said that as the research advances and the technology improves, the long-term goal is to use this method to select individual plants within a trial.

It is also hoped that the technology will reduce the variability in observed physiological traits that are influenced by weather. Each year, potential new varieties may perform very differently depending on the weather conditions.

By providing assessments through the growing cycle, this research hopes to even out some of those issues, and ultimately deliver better varieties for Australian sugarcane growers and millers.

For more information contact Dr Jaya Basnayake, SRA Brandon, (07) 4783 8617.

Ag tech and data collection

Supplied by Australian Farm Institute

Automated irrigation, driverless tractors, "smart" implements, swarm farming, real-time soil sampling, aerial imaging, mobile ag apps – agriculture, it seems, is becoming more technologically advanced by the day. But as growers get to grips with the massive strides being made in ag tech, some are starting to ask the question, "what happens to all the information being collected by smart ag technology?"

If trends observed in the United States are any indication, we may soon see the establishment of farm data cooperatives in Australia.

During a recent trip to the US to investigate how the digital agriculture and big data environment is evolving, Australian Farm Institute general manager Richard Heath found that several data cooperatives have emerged in response to farmers wanting greater control over how their data is being used.

The trip was part of the Precision to Decision Rural Research and Development for Profit program (P2D), a project funded by the Federal Government in conjunction with Australia's 15 rural research and development corporations.

In the context of the P2D project, agricultural big data is defined as being the collection and analysis of extremely large datasets derived from digital information systems from multiple farms.

The analysis of the data generally occurs through probabilistic decision-support tools which help users make management decisions.

New technology which automates the collection of data from monitors and sensors and delivers that data to the cloud using wireless connectivity is making available the volume and velocity of data that big data analytics relies on.

Most farmers acknowledge the potential insights that big data analytics will deliver to their business, however they are also expressing concern that they are potentially losing control over their own data.

Most machinery companies and data analytics platforms have now adopted policies that explicitly state that farmers retain ownership and control of their data, however, there remains a desire amongst large sections of the farming community to develop structures and platforms that leave no doubt as to who is gaining value from farm data.

Data cooperatives are one response to the desire to have more control over how farm data is used.

Three organisations that have emerged recently in the US with platforms that are being promoted as data cooperatives are: The Ag Data Coalition (www.agdatacoalition.org/); Grower Information Services Cooperative (www.gisc.coop); and Farmers Business Network (www.farmersbusinessnetwork.com).

These organisations provide various levels of data management and storage and/or data analytical services.

While the market for agricultural big data products is extremely dynamic with many new products emerging, there are still significant trust issues for some farmers in adopting cloud-based data analytics platforms.

Agricultural data cooperatives are emerging as a mechanism to address these trust issues.



Liquid fertiliser innovation

Helping growers save time and money, while increasing environmental stewardship

Supplied by LiquaForce

A north Queensland company that pioneered a three step, easy application liquid fertiliser for the sugarcane industry more than a decade ago says growers are well placed to improve production and profitability by embracing new technologies and innovation.

Ingham-based family business LiquaForce started supplying its LiquidEzy3 products to sugarcane growing areas in the Wet Tropics nearly 14 years ago, and now also supply to a variety of cane, horticultural and general agricultural growing areas in the Burdekin, Mackay and Whitsunday areas.

Managing director Cameron Liddle said LiquaForce offers a complete nutrient management system – Liquid Ezy3 – that is built around liquid fertiliser as opposed to traditional granular fertilisers.

"More and more farmers from Mackay, Sarina and Koumala, up to the Burdekin and Herbert regions and in to Tully and Mareeba, are using our products now," Mr Liddle said.

"The feedback we're getting is that making the change to liquid fertiliser allows them to adopt BMP standards with greater ease and accuracy, while still ensuring profitability and efficiency.

"Our highly researched products offer an option to cane growers to save time, save money and encourage environmental stewardship, which is incredibly important as governments look to further regulate farming alongside the Great Barrier Reef."

Research carried out by the National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture – led by the University of Southern Queensland – tested LiquaForce products against best practice environmental regulations for the sugarcane industry.



The research established that using LiquaForce offers a greater strike rate, improved yield, but most importantly, a reduction in leaching and nutrient run off, as well as improved soil quality, when measured against its granular counterpart.

Other key findings of the study found that liquid PlantStarter had 23% less nitrogen leaching when trialled against the granular counterpart, as well as 98% faster emergence and 52% greater shoot length in plant cane.

"In light of the Queensland Government's plans to enhance reef regulations, and the funding packages now available under Reef Trust 3 with support from Reef Catchments, nitrogen reduction and practice change around nutrient management is more important than ever," Mr Liddle said.

"After 14 years of research into the technology and make-up of our products, it is really exciting to be able to present the LiquidEzy3 range to industry at a time when environmental expectations on growers are ever-increasing.

"The opportunity to plant and fertilise more area per day, as well as offer accurate and better placed fertiliser in the right amounts with the right environmental mix.

"Adopting new technologies, new practices and innovative changes are

accepted in our industry as necessary in the current climate growers have to operate in," Mr Liddle said.

"Of course in saying that, practice change in an industry as important as the cane sector must be a considered process, but we're confident that with the continued support of progressive and innovative growers from the central and northern Queensland growing regions, the transition to liquid fertiliser will ensure high environmental standards are met and the local sugar sector will remain successful and confident."

The LiquidEzy3 range includes:

PlantStarter – a unique mix of nitrogen, phosphorous, zinc and organic and synthetic growth stimulants.

BigShot – a balanced high analysis NPKS blend for ratooning cane that also features organic elements to help the microbial slow release of nitrogen which helps to reduce leaching. The fertiliser also gives farmers the ability to add trace elements more consistently.

Value N – a nitrogen based foliar fertiliser that is compatible with common industry herbicides, which allows the grower to get a single pass nitrogen application using aircraft or ground rigs combined with weed management programs. ■

For more information visit www.liddles.com.au/liquid-ezy3



Liquid EZY3

Complete Nutrient Management Strategy



Step1 – Plant Starter

The unique mix of nitrogen, phosphorous, zinc and growth hormones, synthetic and organic, are the key to the success of PlantStarter. It is these nutrients at this critical early stage of germination that provide just the right conditions for growth, delivering potentially a 98% faster strike rate and 52% greater shoot length, compared to traditional granular fertilisers.



Step2 – Big Shot

Big Shot is a single application of high analysis N.P.K.S fertiliser incorporating 9% organic carbon base. This aids the microbial slow release of nitrogen fertiliser, which has not only been proven to stabilise the release of nitrogen, but also increase the efficiency of plant available nutrients. LiquaForce BigShot also gives growers the ability to add trace elements more consistently in their fertiliser program, offering the flexibility to create unique mixes specific for their requirements, including trace elements of zinc, copper, boron, or molybdenum.



Step3 – Valu N

LiquaForce Valu N is a nitrogen based foliar fertiliser. It is compatible with common industry herbicides, allowing the grower to get a single pass nitrogen application using aircraft or ground rigs combined with weed management programs – saving time, minimising labour costs as well as reducing energy consumption. Valu N is set to become more common as reef regulation steers industry to split applications of nitrogen.

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HOME OF THE CANE HARVESTER

Australian cane industry a shining example to the world

By Bruce Healy, Case IH Brand Leader – Australia and New Zealand

At Case IH we're extremely proud of the Australian sugarcane industry. And we know that those who work within the industry are all equally proud. Australia sets an example for sugar-growing nations around the world - no mean feat considering we produce just 2% of the world's sugar.

Queensland is where the world's first cane harvester was developed, where today's process for how sugarcane gets from paddock to mill was first explored.

For Case IH, the Australian sugarcane industry has been a big part of our development as a company.

Since the purchase of Toft Industries in 1995, we have been determined to maintain their legacy of innovation, and we endeavour to do this through consultation with the industry.

Production of the Austoft began to move over to Brazil in 2005. Since then we have striven to keep its spirit Australian, bringing people from the Brazilian factory over to Australia so that they can really understand where the Austoft has come from and what our customers value about it – cost of ownership, reliability and ease of operation.

The Austoft – conceived and developed on Australian soil – is now servicing industries in locations as diverse as India, China, Brazil, Sudan, Papua New Guinea and, of course, Australia.

But it's not all about us - the story of the Austoft's development is one of an industry's innovations, which got us to where we are today.

There have been many such innovations throughout Case IH's history, and the common theme that has always guided our approach is providing customers with ever-improving technologies that enable them to farm more efficiently and profitably.

2017 is an exciting year for Case IH - we're celebrating our 175th anniversary. For us, this is an opportunity to reflect on the past in order to prepare for the future.

And boy, have we come a long way in those 175 years. We've seen incredible changes throughout our industry - from changes in machinery, to improvements in emissions and the advancements in technology that have made the way we farm today possible.

Farming has changed, and has been constantly changing for hundreds of years.

From the year 400, when the Romans first developed crop-rotation systems, to the Agricultural Revolution in the 1700s, which saw improvements in crop-growing and animal-husbandry.

For the sugarcane industry, the big game-changer came in the 1940s when the Toft brothers saw an opportunity to make their industry more economical, and consequently developed and patented the world's first cane harvester.

Last year revealed another game-changer – the autonomous concept vehicle, known as the ACV or the driverless tractor.

At Case IH, we believe that the technology that has emerged from the ACV's development – technology that has been in the works for years – is the start of something amazing for agriculture.

Information and information control – rather than the actual hardware – are the biggest advances that we see in ag tech.

The whole idea of bringing that autonomous tractor out of the development shed was to show people that we're not sitting back waiting for change to happen; we're driving change.

Think about feeding that future global population of nine billion. In Australia, we farm the driest continent on Earth, with some of the world's highest produce yields.

We're constantly trying to ensure that we get the optimal return on every square centimetre of dirt.

Ag tech is the way forward. There are many different opportunities out there for the development of new and exciting technologies, leading to the big question: "what's next"?

What can we do? Well, we can do anything - we just need to find the right technology. ■



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Classifieds

Mossman-Tully

FOR SALE John Deere 8430 \$170,000 incl GST ono. 2009 JD 8430 ILS, powershift, 2800 hrs, duals front and rear 75%, full set front weights, RTK auto steer ready, UHF, quick hitch. Ph 0417 180 378

For Sale 1982 VOLVO F10 Tip truck Machinery inspection valid till January 2018 Ring 0418187474

3 x JCB 2135 with 6 Tonne HBM Tipper, Good Condition, \$44,000 each inc GST. Ph: 0437932489 or 0427337601

Howard M130 Rotary Hoe for sale. \$6000 + GST. Phone Alan on: 0408 665 955

600L Sylvester spray tank - good for parts - pump and control bank in GC, boom bent (Bellenden Ker). Ph. 0427 142 102

98 Cameco CHW 2500, VGC, Westhill half tracks, POA. Mulgrave area: 0407183680

Irrigator Upton 80, 4-inch soft hose, 1hp diesel, 40m boom. Ph. 0427 142 102

Herbert River-Burdekin

Billet planter, moller design, liquid fert & fung/insect tanks, good cond.6600 Toft harvester for billet plant, CAT engine, some maint. reqd. Double tipper bin on trailer. Ph 0429772276 Ingham

John Deere 7520 with toft billet planter Mercedes with 4x2.5t tipper bins Tipper body and water tank to fit truck. John Deere 4290 with 4x2.5t tipper bins. Phone 0428827048 Brennan Quick-Hitch Category 2, \$1,000 ONO Ph. 0447 215 230

Toft 6000, Series 4, swinging knife, fully rubberised, suitable for cutting plants. Ph Michael 0418 738 641

Galion 118 Grader, 160 Cummins approximately 1000 hours since rebuild, Recon Fuel Pump, 12 Ft Blade, Fully Hydraulic, 50% Tyres with Spare, good brakes, \$25,000 plus GST. Phone Darrin: 4788 5524

T7030 New Holland tractors with 10 tonne Newton elevated tippers. Front suspension, cab suspension, 7000 hours, excellent condition. Case Maxxum 125 tractor with 10 tonne Newton elevated tipper. 3500 hours, excellent condition. Ph. Mario 0408670702.

Mackay-Proserpine

5000 litre diesel tank c/w stand and ladder. Ph.0435111968

iFIT ENGINEERING

29 Richardson St TULLY

CHOPPER DRUMS

- Clean efficient cutting with minimal losses
- Use 95mm blades
- Heavy duty
- Not prone to crossing over
- Proven conventional clamping (Bisalloy clamp bars optional)
- Good blade life
- Thrower mounting bars standard on 4, 6 and 8 blade drums (Optional on ten blade)
- Available in 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 blade, 15" and 12" to suit Case and John Deere harvesters
- Very competitively priced

EXTERNAL CHOPPER ADJUSTERS

Maximize your chopper performance and blade life with our chopper adjusters.

- Very easy to use
- Proven over the last three seasons in a wide variety of conditions
- Available to suit Case and John Deere harvesters

CHOPPER IDLE BEARING FOR JOHN DEERE HARVESTERS

Our bearing modification kit uses an economical spherical roller bearing in a housing that allows end float when the machine flexes.

CHOPPER DRUM RECONDITIONING AND MODIFICATIONS

We modify existing drums to provide similar cutting geometry to our new drums for improved cutting, and add gusseting for extra strength.

For further information on these and other products and services, contact **Ian or Brenton Fagg.**

Ph 4068 2811 or 0408 199 309
E: admin@ifitengineering.com.au
www.ifitengineering.com.au

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Year to date	Average rainfall (mm) January-April
	7 days to 9am 10.04.17	17.04.17		
Mossman	99	8	1554	1585
Mareeba AP	3	0	564	680
Cairns	142	6	1134	1459
Mt Sophia	291	36	2077	2260
Babinda	0	0	1217	2708
Innisfail	73	39	2013	2224
Tully	177	31	1412	2623
Cardwell	74	7	1211	1513
Lucinda	17	17	1228	1465
Ingham	40	29	915	1397
Abergowrie	75	18	572	1286
Townsville	0	14	471	814
Ayr DPI	0	0	598	643
Proserpine	0	0	1118	911
Mirani	10	1	913	996
Mackay	27	4	1569	996
Sarina (Plane Ck)	26	0	2294	1147
Bundaberg	0	0	338	489
Childers South	0.6	1	478	396
Maryborough	2	0	290	581
Tewantin	8	2	728	867
Eumundi	17	0	626	861
Nambour	11	0.2	536	859
Woongoolba	12	0	451	617
Murwillumbah	0	0	844	800
Ballina	94	18	826	780
Woodburn	46	0	1103	629



**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.

Volvo tip truck 10m3. Good steel body. Good condition. \$12,000 or swap for tractor or machinery equipment (ripper etc). Ph. 0448605722.

Ford TW10 4wd air cab 128hp tractor in good condition \$10,500 + GST. Ph. 0428 611 714

2 x Southern Cross SX100 Travelling Irrigators, 3 1/2" x 200 mtrs old style Angus hose. In excellent condition, always kept in shed and hose always kept loose on the reel Ph. 0400766053

We can help with screened headland gravel, rock for washouts and fill. Also graders, loaders, tippers and excavators available. Local farmer/contractor phone: 4956 4197

Howard Crumble Roller, HO-CROLLCH365DT, brand new still in crate, fits rear tool bar of Howard CH2365DT, 2 rollers each@2M. \$4,422 GST inc. Ph. 0428236165

4 complete wheel motors, as new, to suit 1998/1999 Austoft Powerhaul. Ph. 49592260.

2 x 6 Ton side tippers c/w with removable dividing panel, one with pto driven hydraulics, the other with tractor hydraulics, on 23.1 x 26 high floatation tyres, with levelling/jacking ram on one side of each unit. Good condition. Ph. 0400766053

2 x 2-tonne billet Planting side Tippers, good condition. Paget Engineering 6 tonne bulk Fert or Grain bin for truck, good condition. Ph. 0458545313 OR 0458545312

DitchWitch R100 trenching machine with back hoe attachment. F10 Volvo 10-tonne tipper with tagalong trailer used to transport trencher. Ph. 49592260

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. 0438606578 (Mackay)

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

J I Case 1194 tractor 49hp 12 forward speeds 4 reverse, 2 speed PTO, power steering, 3 point linkage, drawbar 3000hrs approx \$7700. 4 row Janke precision Planter with fert boxes with plates for soy beans corn peanuts etc. \$5900. Approx 10500 Isis Mill shares offers. ph 0418874615

Ford 7710 4x4 tractor no cab 7700 hrs good condition. Ford 5000 tractor with Dalmore forklift good condition ring for more info 0408768489

Wanted

Wanted to buy. Sugar cane juicing machine. Large or small. Call 0429984920

Wanted to buy PTO Shaft 1000RPM 21spline to suit M120 Kubota. Phone: 0418 872 514

Wanted: 8' or 10' laser scoop in good or reasonable condition, Ph 4959 8974

CANE WANTED for 2017 and subsequent seasons. Tully area. Shawn Ph. 0418782815

TRACTOR TYRES of all sizes. 0418775698 all hours.

Positions Vacant

Wanted: Cane Harvester Driver wanted for Bundaberg area, approx 50,000 tonnes. Start June 2017. Ph: 0413 698 922.

Experienced farm hand wanted for Calen area. Position involves general farm work such as cultivation, planting, spraying and machinery maintenance. C and HR licence required. Permanent position for the person who meets requirements. Contact Keith 49588248.

Experienced cane harvester operator; 7700 full track; 2017 crushing season. Upper Pioneer Valley area; must have mechanical knowledge and hill experience. 30,000t plus. Apply in writing: PO Box 31 FINCH HATTON QLD 4756. More information: 0419260879

Work Wanted

Genuine, fit, hard-working couple seek cane harvest work. Male: Mechanical experience with heavy machinery, HC truck licence, bobcat, forklift, excavator licences and white card. Female: HR licence and white card.

Currently working on rice harvest. Have motorhome. Not soft or soaks, good sense of humour. Call Shell & Bunny on 0476298148 or email shell1976.rb@gmail.com

Property

Wanted Cane Farm 80ha +, with or without a house 30mins from Mackay or Marian, Mirani area. Ph 0407629940

MIRANI area farm land appr. 34 Ha Fully laser levelled Fully irrigated. Perfect Block for lateral move or centre pivot irrigator. Reply to cooperbob2014@gmail.com or Ph. 0456624027

WALKERSTON area: Cane farm for sale, fully irrigated. 42.5ha cane 3.6ha grazing. Ph 0418185663

MARYBOROUGH: Pocket area. Cane farm for sale. 60 acres, 40 acres in cane, fully irrigated, 2 houses, sheds etc. Ph. 41222295

HALIFAX: Cane land for sale. Taylors Beach Road. 27.6 ha. Freehold. Genuine enquiries phone: 4777 7277

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

ABERGOWRIE: Cane farm on Tarakan Rd, 270 acres freehold. Genuine enquiries please phone 47774633 or 0408608664

Farm for sale (Bellenden Ker), 40km south of CAIRNS. 80ha-40ha under cane. 5brm home + big shed. Around \$800K. Ph. 0427142102

JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY



**New Hydraulic Heavy Duty
OFFSETS**

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



**New Heavy Duty
SLASHERS**

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

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

WESTCOTT ENGINEERING

HARVESTER BLADE RESHARPENING

Various sized resharpened harvester
blades for sale

Tungsten Hardfacing

- EXCAVATOR TEETH
- BUCKET TEETH
- RIPPER POINTS
- BASECUTTER BLADES
- BASECUTTER DISKS
(BUILT-UP, REPAIRED AND HARD FACED)
- HARVESTER SHOES
(BUILT-UP, REPAIRED AND HARD FACED)
- FAN HARD FACING & BALANCING

Phone Brendon 0428 220 789
 20 Westcott Rd, Homebush, QLD 4737



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Backed by over 50 years of product research and development Austoft® sugarcane harvesters deliver high performance when you need it most. Match it with the big iron power and performance of a Puma™ tractor built to the haul out specs, and you'll be productive and comfortable during long working days. Talk to your Case IH dealer about a cutting and hauling package to suit your needs.