

CANE

AUSTRALIAN

GROWER



CANEGROWERS

12 February 2018 Price \$9.95



**MORE THAN
JUST A JOB**
**LOVING THE CANE-
GROWING LIFESTYLE**



**Minister
pledges
recognition
for grower
Reef efforts**



**Mackay
growers
asked to
consider mill
sell off**



**EU sugar
market and
ag policies
in a state of
flux**

SWEET DEALS

ON T7040 & T7060 HAUL OUT TRACTORS



LIMITED STOCK

SECURE YOURS
today

TRUE BLUE



When it comes to hauling out sugarcane you need tough tractors. And there's no tougher tractors than the T7040 & T7060. Derived from the already proven T7000 Series, you can count on these machines to get the job done with full powershift, 50kph transmission and pneumatic brakes. Plus for a limited time there's a low finance rate of just 2.95% with the benefits of a 2-year factory warranty.

Visit your local New Holland dealer today and see how much they've caned off the price.

2.95%*
P.A. FINANCE



VALID UNTIL
31ST MARCH 2018



*Terms and conditions apply. Finance rate subject to term and deposit requirements. Full 2-year Factory warranty across all tractors. Finance provided by CNH Industrial Capital Australia Pty Ltd AFS License No. 286664. Offer is available to business customers only and subject to credit approval. Contact your local dealership for full details.

CNH
INDUSTRIAL | CAPITAL

CONTENTS

12 February 2018



Features

- 5 Minister hails industry initiatives on water quality
- 6 Mackay growers to consider mill sell off
- 10 SRA – Approaching biosecurity risks proactively
- 11 The melting pot of EU sugar market and agricultural policies
- 14 Former bean and dairy farmers loving the cane-growing life
- 18 Case IH Step UP! Conference 2018
- 20 Innovative farmers and researchers share findings

Also inside:

- 2 CEO's comment
- 4 News in brief
- 8 Policy update
- 12 QSL report
- 23 Classifieds
- 24 Rainfall report

COVER IMAGE: After more than 20 years in green bean, ginger and dairy farming, Gympie growers Craig and Natalie Mellor are enjoying the lifestyle that comes with cane-growing.

Editor: Wayne Griffin

Design, subscriptions and classifieds:
Jacqui Segond

Articles appearing in *Australian Canegrower* do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS

Published every second Monday by
CANEGROWERS

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

AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039

Volume 40 Number 03

Printed by Printcraft

23 Links Avenue, Eagle Farm QLD 4009

Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 25 issues (postage included)

Within Australia \$160 inc GST

Overseas (AUD) \$220

Science – a blessing or a curse?

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

I have always felt that farmers are closer than many other people to the scientific process. Farmers are experts of trial and error, of establishing a hypothesis or theory and then testing it for success and tolerances, again and again.

In farming, the results of any experiment can be quite dramatic. A trial of a new variety, irrigation system, crop rotation, fertiliser or soil conditioner will yield a result.

Sometimes there's fantastic returns and sometimes it's a catastrophic failure. But the point is, anyone who thinks a farmer doesn't understand the process of investigation and study to yield and test results has no idea what they are talking about.

No wonder then, that farmers are often in the middle of any discussion around science and the role it plays - whether it be on climate change, nutrition, reef water quality or farm management systems. The role of science in good decision making is close to the top of the list of influences for farmers.

At times, this can deliver some difficult debates. The search for black and white when most things are grey is an uncomfortable experience.

Our industry is currently wedged in between these worlds on two very important issues. Does nutrition science say sugar is bad for you? Does water quality science say the Great Barrier Reef is dying?

As uncomfortable as it may be, the answer to both these questions, either for or against, can be supported by science. You can find scientific studies that either affirm or reject most assertions.

In fact, probably the only really consistent thing is that most scientific papers will end with a conclusion, no matter for or against the hypothesis, and a call for more funding for further work.

And that is a great elephant in the room. Does the money invested in the science influence the outcome?

Even the purists say that the more money you spend investigating one issue, the more you will (or should) know and therefore the more you will assert. That doesn't mean you are right. It only means you know more about one side of the problem.

While the scientific process certainly has its flaws, indeed sometimes by design, all science is not flawed. Certainly, the way we fund research is flawed, opaque and sometimes unbalanced. More notably for us, the way science is communicated, consumed and decisions made based upon it can be flawed.

This is a challenging time for farmers who feel they are the pinball in a never-ending ricochet of complex

science being trumpeted as delivering definitive outcomes. What is a problem for a cane grower is a problem that CANEGROWERS must tackle.

CANEGROWERS is working on ways to further influence this debate. We want to be part of the scientific discussion and we certainly don't think farmers should have to sift through confusion and deal with the consequences of decisions made on shaking or biased foundations.

But we also need to stick to our strengths. No one knows better about farming than farmers and to that end, CANEGROWERS is looking to take as many variables off the table as we can for our industry. BMP, training programs, insurance products, industry funded and led research and development and local extension services are all tools with which the farmer can be in the driving seat for the future.

Scientific organisations meanwhile, whether they like it or not, have a responsibility to build confidence in the validity of their work. This is done through peer review and scientists (their peers) asking questions of the findings and research.

Communicators, policy makers and industry organisations must be diligent, and look at things from all perspectives and hold these organisations to account. Where government policy impacts CANEGROWERS members, it is our role to challenge the policy, its basis and influence the effect of the policy on our industry.

CANEGROWERS aims to provide the balance and clear thinking that will allow you to make no regrets decisions, managing the risks, but avoiding short term thinking.

Our relationship with scientists is evolving, new disciplines that cut across old boundaries are being developed and to make this work better, to stop the blame, better, more trusted communication channels must be found. ■



CANE COUNTRY WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED



ACCESS THE BEST CANE-SPECIFIC COVER ON THE MARKET

Queensland is a beautiful place to live, but it can also be volatile and unpredictable. Making sure you have the right insurance cover is so important.

Get the right cover

CANEGROWERS Insurance brokers have access to a range of insurers to provide you with the most competitive cover.

No fees for members

As a membership service, no broking fees apply for CANEGROWERS members.

We come to you

CANEGROWERS Insurance brokers will visit you on farm to talk over your insurance needs.

Help to lodge claims

If something goes wrong and you need to report a claim, we are here to assist you during the claims process.

Contact your local CANEGROWERS Office to discover how WE CAN HELP YOU!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Escapee caught on Mackay farm

Oakenden cane farmer Col Sievers was recently at the centre of the recapture of an escaped prisoner.

The 23 year old escapee emerged naked from a cane paddock and asked for water.

He allegedly tried to take vehicles before helping himself to pants from a clothes line.

Mr Sievers told the *Daily Mercury* the escapee sat at his kitchen table and begged for a glass of water.

"I went looking for a copper and I went down to where I know they had a road block," Mr Sievers said. "They couldn't believe me.

"They couldn't believe me, they said 'you've got the escapee at your place?' I said yeah, stop f---ing around, let's go and get him."

"They said 'you've got the escapee at your place?' I said yeah, stop f---ing around, let's go and get him."

Another escapee was recaptured a few days later in Mackay. ■



Reef Trust Tenders Round 3 Open

The Federal Government has announced it will put \$2.68 million into another round of Reef Trust on-farm projects to reduce nitrogen use and the likelihood of nutrients entering Great Barrier Reef catchments.

In the previous rounds, 29 growers have been successful in receiving funding for a range of projects including improved fertiliser budgeting, the use of legumes and biological fertilisers as an alternative source of nitrogen, controlled release fertilisers, and equipment for precision farming.

Cane growers in the Wet Tropics who are interested in applying should contact the WTSIP Reef Trust hotline 1800 899 486 or contact their local WTSIP extension officer via www.wtsip.org.au ■

Pictured: CANEGROWERS Cairns Region used Australian Government Reef funding to build a precision mill mud applicator.



NFF BUDGET BID

As part of the annual Federal Budget process, representative groups such as the National Farmers' Federation submit ideas for what the nation's budget should include.

This year, the NFF's key asks fall under seven main themes with a total of 60 recommendations including calls for:

- renewed funding for the Mobile Phone Blackspot Program ;
- investment to encourage the sector's increased adoption of digital technology;
- \$1 billion for a road and rail infrastructure fund;
- the expansion of agricultural trade counsellor network;
- tax system improvements; and
- measures to attract the right skills to regional areas.

The national farmer representative body has also asked for funding to better promote Australia's agriculture exports and to educate school students on where their food and fibre comes from.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Two CANEGROWERS district companies have welcomed new Directors following by-elections early this year, while a third is farewelling a long-serving member.

Douglas Rankine joins the CANEGROWERS Tableland board and Steven Bonso joins the CANEGROWERS Cairns Region board as a representative of the Babinda zone.

CANEGROWERS Isis is now holding a by-election (more info on page 17) to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Geoff McCarthy after more than 20 years of service to the organisation.

A dinner in Childers recently celebrated and acknowledged the outstanding contributions of Geoff and his wife Maureen to the community.

AG LAND SALES

Farm land worth more than \$15 million going up for sale will have to be marketed widely to potential Australian bidders for at least 30 days before it could be sold to overseas buyers.

The new advertising rule will become part of the guidelines the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) considers when assessing the sale of farmland. ■

MINISTER HAILS INDUSTRY INITIATIVES ON WATER QUALITY

Queensland's Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch has praised industry-driven innovation for generating positive results for the Great Barrier Reef during a visit to a Far North cane farm.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman **Joe Marano** showed Ms Enoch around his farm, explaining the process of growing sugarcane and how farm practices have evolved to minimise any impact on the environment and particularly the Great Barrier Reef.

The Minister highlighted two projects during her visit as positive partnerships between government, industry and farmers demonstrating the commitment and stewardship of farmers.

"Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project and Cane Changer are breaking new ground in how they're helping farmers manage the sustainability of their enterprises, industry, and achieve accelerated water quality improvements for the Great Barrier Reef," Ms Enoch said.

"The Wet Tropics MIP is using farmer-led ideas to test and trial fresh ideas, with a view to roll out these solutions to other reef catchments."

"Some innovative approaches include the opportunity for landholders to trial the Reef Credits scheme, which allows those who have implemented projects that reduce nitrogen, sediment or pesticide losses to earn and then sell Reef Credits to buyers, including government, industry and not-for-profit organisations.

"Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project and Cane Changer are breaking new ground in how they're helping farmers manage the sustainability of their enterprises, industry, and achieve accelerated water quality improvements for the Great Barrier Reef."



"Meanwhile, Cane Changer is coming up with transformative ways to better understand and recognise the factors that influence the adoption of best management practices in the cane industry, and how these practices can bolster the resilience of the cane industry."

Joe Marano is involved in both projects and says the reason for their success is their positive approach.

"They've listened to growers and recognise the positive changes we're making on our farms, so we've been able to work collaboratively towards better outcomes for all."

During the visit Ms Enoch signed her own Cane Changer document pledging to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of growers in improving farming practices, especially as they relate to the health of the Great Barrier Reef, recognise the important role that growers play

for the State of Queensland and work collaboratively with the sugar industry for a better future. ■

Pictured: CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman Joe Marano gave Queensland's newly appointed Minister for the Environment and Great Barrier Reef Leeanne Enoch a tour of his cane farm. While there the Minister signed a Cane Changer commitment, pledging to recognise the ongoing efforts of growers to implement practice change and protect the Reef.





Mackay growers to consider mill sell off

At a series of shed meetings cane growers have been told they will need to consider selling a controlling interest in Mackay Sugar to raise the money needed to help the company deal with its debts.

The company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer **Mark Day** said there were a number of interested buyers who want a majority share of the business for a figure around \$150 million.

Mr Day said he believed it would be necessary to pay down some of the company's debt and invest in improving milling performance after the company's three mills ran at around 80% reliability last season.

Grower shareholders would need to give any deal a 75% supportive vote. ■



With over 30 years experience, Drain Tech can ensure you get every drill to the Mill.

- Sub-surface Drainage
- High Pressure Drain Jetting
- Irrigation Mains
- Contour Mapping and Design

~ Servicing growers from Mossman to Mullumbimby ~

Call Richard on 0428 528 054
www.draintech.net.au

Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

A TOP PERFORMING SUPER FUND

AustSafe Super has been announced as the second top performing superannuation fund for the 12 months to December 2017, with a 13.5% return for the year¹, according to a report by leading research and consultancy firm, Chant West.

Now in our 30th year of operation, AustSafe Super is the industry super fund for rural and regional Australia and looks after more than 100,000 members with \$2.4 billion funds under management.

The Chant West report² shows industry super funds outperformed retail super funds in median investment returns over the year, returning 11.6% compared to 10%, and hold the advantage over the medium to longer term – ahead by between 0.7% per annum over the 10 year period; and 1.5% per annum over the 3 year period.

According to our chief executive, **Craig Stevens**, the result is testament to the Fund's active approach with strong returns from property and an overweight to unhedged international equities.

"This is a particularly strong result for the Fund despite some challenging market conditions, such as the anticipated fallout from Brexit, the timing of further interest rate increases from the US Federal Reserve, and the potential for ongoing risks with North Korea.

"Given these factors, it's a tremendous result from the AustSafe Super team and further validates our aim of delivering returns to our members, which will help them achieve financial security when they need it most – in their retirement," he said. ■

To find out how you could benefit from being a member of one of the top performing super funds of the year, call us on **1300 131 293** or visit austsafe.com.au

Disclaimer:

¹ Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

² Chant West. 'A Stellar Year For Super Funds' <https://www.chantwest.com.au/resources/a-stellar-year-for-super-funds>, 18 January 2018.





JOHN DEERE

Why wait?



ASK FOR A
DEERE
DEMO
TODAY

In stock and ready for haul-out

Take your harvest to the next level with a John Deere 6, 7 or 8 Family Tractor. All the power and speed you'll need to be in for the long haul. And right now you can pick one up just as quickly because they're in stock and ready to go.

Don't miss out, available now at your local John Deere cane equipment dealer or visit JohnDeere.com.au/Cane

Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Industry with Burn Ashburner

International Year of the Reef

2018 is the International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2018) and, because it's on our doorstep, the Queensland sugarcane industry is innately connected to the Great Barrier Reef (GBR).

This proximity and its World Heritage Status, mean the GBR influences our industry, our farming practices and our future.

This is the third International Year of the Reef, with the previous two occurring in 1997 and 2008.

These years are declared by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), which is an informal partnership between nations and organisations that strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world. The ICRI is concerned about the increasing threats to coral reefs ecosystems, mangroves and sea grasses.

The group is informal, which means its decisions are not binding on members, however the ICRI's work has been acknowledged in United Nations documents, thereby giving it legitimacy.

As the Queensland sugarcane industry knows, there are many programs, research projects and policies (including regulation) funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments to improve the health of the GBR.

If we compare the values of IYOR to what CANEGROWERS and growers have been doing over the past 10 years, there are many synergies. IYOR objectives include:

- strengthen awareness globally about the value of, and threats to, coral reefs and associated ecosystems;
- promote partnerships between governments, the private sector, academia and civil society on the management of coral reefs;
- identify and implement effective management strategies for conservation, increased resilience and sustainable use of these ecosystems and promoting best practices; and
- share information on best practices in relation to sustainable coral reef management.

Growers and the industry have embraced programs to support the GBR including Smartcane BMP (with 70% of Queensland's cane area now in the best management practice program), research projects on enhanced efficiency fertilisers (EEF60), water quality monitoring (Project 25) and nitrogen (RP20) and grant programs to support water quality including Reef Trust and Reef Rescue.

The International Year of the Reef is designed to increase awareness of the need for conservation of reefs around the world, the GBR included.

The Queensland sugarcane industry should take this opportunity to showcase the positive actions growers are taking to improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef and to get some much-deserved international recognition. ■



EEF60 update

CANEGROWERS won a \$7.1 million tender to trial enhanced efficiency fertilisers (EEF's) compared to urea at different rates and over a range of districts and conditions under a project called Support of Cane Farmer Trials of Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser in the Catchments of the Great Barrier Reef — nicknamed EEF60.

With SRA as the main subcontractor, 60 trial sites have been selected and 55 have been successfully established.

Of these, six sites have water quality monitoring equipment which will look at the differences between the treatments in any runoff and at deep drainage.

The SRA staff and all who have assisted have worked hard to get to this stage quickly and are to be congratulated.

The consultancy, Behaviour Innovation, has been contracted to establish if there are any attitudinal differences before and after the project while Queensland's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will complete the picture with an in-depth look at the economics.

Extension capacity has been secured through CANEGROWERS Innisfail, Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited, Burdekin Productivity Services, Mackay Area Productivity Services and SRA.

This has been a difficult process with the demand for good extension at a premium.

There are two points I would like to make:

Firstly, this difficulty has highlighted that the SRA's new adoption strategy is long overdue and CANEGROWERS will have a significant role to play in the process of allowing each district to develop suitable extension and adoption services.

Secondly, a fair amount of work has been done on EEF's in sugarcane and the resellers are selling hard.

We must be careful to not jump the gun and think that EEF's are a silver bullet. The results of these trials will assist in the formulation of robust recommendations which will be of interest to all growers.

So a big Thank You to the cooperating growers, hosting the trials, who are making a contribution for the good of the whole industry. ■



Economics with Warren Males

The most adaptable survive

I was privileged to recently join the National Farmers Federation (NFF) delegation visiting the European Union (EU). The purpose of the visit was to build relationships and deepen our understanding of issues faced by European farmers in the lead up to negotiations for an EU–Australia free trade agreement and in the context of Brexit.

Led by NFF President Fiona Simson, the delegation included representatives from Australia's red meat (beef and lamb), grains, dairy, horticulture, egg and sugar industries. Young farmers were also represented.

The delegation met Australia's Ambassadors in Germany and Brussels, as well as the High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (UK). We also met with farm association leaders and senior officials from the European Commission's Directorate Generals for Agriculture and Trade.

Meetings with Germany's sugar beet growers, Tate & Lyle Sugar and the European Sugar Refiners Association also featured in the program along with visits to farms and world leading R&D facilities.

There is a surprising similarity in the core issues faced by farmers in Australia and Europe. In the environmental and sustainability space pesticide, herbicide and fertiliser use are closely monitored as is the use of veterinarian chemicals in livestock industries. UK farmers are required to have an agronomist verify the presence of weeds or the need for fertiliser before the relevant products can be applied.

Record keeping is a must. Not just to meet regulations but also supply chain needs, which can be higher. Do farmers get a market premium? In short, no! They get an opportunity to sell their product in the best markets.

These sustainability pressures are increasing in the global sugar supply chains. Most international sugar traders are working to establish and document the sustainability credentials of their supply chains.

Change is coming and through Smartcane BMP, Queensland sugarcane growers can be world leaders in adapting to emerging market needs.

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent. It's the most adaptable to change." (Charles Darwin). ■



THE SPRAYING AND MACHINERY PROFESSIONALS!

4 & 6 ROW
CONFIGURATIONS AVAILABLE

CANE BOOM SPRAYER DESIGNED FOR AUSTRALIAN CONDITIONS

- Shielded spray heads and air induced nozzles to minimise spray drift
- Comes standard with a hydraulic twin folding ram mechanism and adjustable tracking arms
- Optional broadacre boom attachment
- Fully galvanised boom & frame

NEW 300HP
3 & 4M FIXED ROTARY HOES AVAILABLE

PREPARE THE PERFECT BED WITH BREVI ROTARY HOES

- Brevi Rotary Hoes are engineered for quality performance up to 400HP applications
- Rigid or folding configurations up to 6.3m
- A range of rotor blades (including removable flange rotors for zonal tillage) and roller options available

breviglieri

Silvan

1300 745 826 silvan.com.au

APPROACHING BIOSECURITY

risk proactively

By Matt Reynolds, Adoption Officer, Mackay

The importance of international biosecurity to Australian agriculture is well understood, although often this approach is limited to preventing pests, weeds and diseases from entering the country. SRA is working on a project funded by the Australian Centre for International Research (ACIAR) to combat a disease in Indonesia.



Pictured: The ACIAR-funded project is employing novel extension methods, such as animation (below), to work with Indonesian farmers to raise awareness around sugarcane streak mosaic virus, which is a potential biosecurity risk to Australia.

SRA's ACIAR-funded project on sugarcane streak mosaic virus (SCSMV) takes a proactive approach to biosecurity.

Working with local growers, the project aims to reduce the levels of the disease within nearby countries that pose a biosecurity risk to the Australian industry.

Reducing the presence of SCSMV within Indonesian cane paddocks has the potential to reduce the likelihood of an incursion into Australia.

SRA's collaborative work with CIRAD, University of Bogor, Indonesian Fibre Crop and Sweetener Research Institute and the

Indonesian Sugar Research Institute aims to gain valuable information to prepare and protect the Australian industry.

The project focuses on both research and extension of the research to the industry.

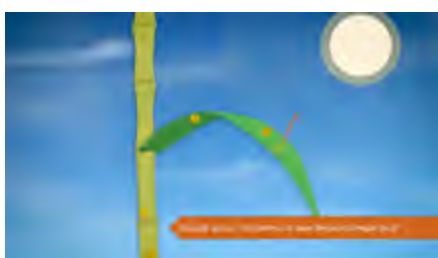
One of the ways the project will aim to promote the importance of SCSMV to Indonesian growers is with the use of animation.

Animation is a powerful tool to convey the importance of a disease, which could go unnoticed due to the subtlety of its leaf symptoms.

The animation centres around the significant impact of the disease and the importance of using clean planting material. This is fundamental in the effective management of sugarcane diseases.

For further information please contact Matt Reynolds on 0431 100 062.

You can see the animation, created for an Indonesian audience, on the SRA YouTube page by searching for "Australian Cane Learning Centre" in YouTube. ■





Warren Males

CANEGROWERS Head - Economics

The EU's sugar market and agricultural policies are in a state of flux.

THE MELTING POT OF EU SUGAR MARKET AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

The European sugar market is changing rapidly at a time when many in the region are beginning to contemplate the future of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). All the pressures for change are internal.

Reform of the European Union's sugar market, including the lifting of production constraints, appears to be designed to bring EU sugar policy into closer alignment with the CAP before 2020, its next major overhaul.

The initial objective of the EU sugar quota was to encourage farmers to produce sugar in Europe to ensure security of supply.

Consistent with the removal of quotas in the dairy and some other EU agricultural sectors, the sugar reforms will more closely align the EU market with the world market.

With quotas removed, EU sugar beet growers were free to choose their own production levels and the response was to increase plantings.

The increased area and ideal growing conditions resulted in a five million tonne surge in EU white sugar production over 2016/17 levels.

The consequence is clear - intense competition amongst sellers for internal sales pushed prices towards export parity levels. On some reports, EU buyers can source sugar below the export parity price and many are insisting the price provisions of their contracts be altered to reflect the new market conditions.

The squeeze is also being felt by EU raw cane sugar refiners who, with limited access to competitively priced raw sugar, are facing much narrower refining margins.

Needless to say, exports of the surplus EU white sugar have also been a factor dragging the world sugar market to its present level.

To date, in many EU regions, the lower prices are being absorbed by processors and have not yet passed to growers in lower beet prices. This can be expected to change as new beet processing contracts are settled.

When the sugar prices do flow through to beet prices, expect EU sugar beet growers to respond to the new market circumstances. The response is unlikely to be even.

With sugar beet productivity increasing by 2% to 3% annually, many of the EU's world competitive growers will thrive with their new production freedoms. Others are likely to face difficulty and may turn to the support structures of the CAP for assistance.

The CAP too is under pressure for change. Money available to support its budget is tightening. The EU's expansion has added new net demands on its agricultural budget, while Britain, a major net contributor to the EU's budget, is scheduled to leave at the end of March 2019.

There are also increasing environment and sustainability pressures and some EU members are concerned about the differential treatment of support programs by different member states.

While it is too early to say what the EU's new Common Agricultural Policy will be, the direction of change seems clear. Less emphasis on payments linked to supporting specific commodities and greater emphasis on programs designed to meet ever tightening environmental requirements.

The EU's sugar market and agricultural policies are in a state of flux. ■

Pictured: The National Farmers Federation delegation met with Australia's High Commissioner to the UK Alexander Downer in London.



Annual IPS adjustments explained



By QSL Finance Manager – Supplier Relations Bryce Wenham

Not all tonnes of sugar are equal, with the sucrose content of sugar – as measured by Polarisation – varying from batch to batch.

The ICE 11 sugar prices are quoted on a basis of 96 degrees of polarisation (pol), which means that the price assumes the sugar's pol will be 96 degrees.

The International Polarisation Scale (IPS), pictured below, is then used to adjust the ICE 11 price for sugar that has a polarisation above or below 96 degrees. ►

Under the Cane Supply Agreement (CSA), the cane payment formula initially assumes all sugar will be produced at a standard polarisation of 98.95 degrees.

As a result, QSL adjusts the ICE 11 and QSL pool prices quoted throughout the season to incorporate an IPS calculation based on a pol of 98.95 degrees (hence the reference to 'IPS tonnes' for most QSL pricing figures).

Pol level	Adjustment
above 96° to and including 97°	add 1.5%
above 97° to and including 98°	add an additional 1.25%
above 98° to and including 99°	add an additional 1%
above 99 to 99.3°	add an additional 0.3%
below 96° to and including 95°	deduct 1.60%
below 95° to and including 94°	deduct an additional 2%
below 94° to and including 93°	deduct an additional 2.5%

ANNUAL IPS ADJUSTMENT

While 98.95 degrees may be the basis for IPS calculations for Queensland growers, in reality, the polarisation achieved during the season is usually different.

So, at the end of each season, once all sugar deliveries are completed, the true polarisation figure can be determined and the real IPS factor applied.

As a result, when the final IPS results are released in late February each year, QSL needs to make one final adjustment to ensure the ICE 11 prices paid to growers reflect their actual IPS result.

The final IPS factor changes the amount of sugar in tonnes actual that is deemed to have been produced from a grower's cane tonnage. This change

in the final amount of sugar delivered is reflected in the tonnes of sugar a grower has in the Harvest Pool. In recent years this final IPS adjustment has seen a change of less than 0.5% per tonne of sugar.

As was the case in the past, this month most growers will likely see a small adjustment to their Grower's Economic Interest in sugar (GEI Sugar) tonnes on their payment statements, reflecting the final polarisation results for the season.

At this stage it appears likely that the average polarisation of sugar produced in the 2017 Season will be lower than 98.95 degrees, but current indications suggest that any adjustment will again be less than a 0.5% adjustment to sugar tonnages. ■

IPS levels for sugar produced in Queensland are finalised each February following the crush.



Nominations closing for new early pool

Nominations for QSL's new 2018 Early-Start Actively Managed Pool close this month.

Just like the standard QSL Actively Managed Pool, the QSL Early-Start Actively Managed Pool is an in-season Committed Pool managed by QSL that has a minimum tonnage nomination of 10 metric tonnes.

But as its name suggests, it starts pricing two months before the standard QSL Actively Managed Pool, giving it a longer pricing window. This pool provides an opportunity for growers who are prepared to commit some tonnage early to join a pool that commences pricing early, or they can wait or join the other QSL in season pool at later date.

For further information about QSL's Early-Start Actively Managed Pool, please read the applicable Pricing Pool Terms available at www.qsl.com.au or by contacting your local QSL Grower Services Team representative. ■

Important QSL dates

WHEN	WHAT
15 February 2018	Last day to complete pricing for MAR18 contract orders in the 2017 In-Season Fixed Price Contract and 2017 In-Season Target Price Contract.
28 February 2018*	Last day to nominate tonnes to the 2018 QSL Early-Start Actively Managed Pool.
1 March 2018	Nominations open for the 2018 QSL Harvest, Actively Managed and Guaranteed Floor Pools, as well as the 2019 2-Season Actively Managed Pool.
30 April 2018*	Last day to nominate tonnes to the 2018 QSL Actively Managed Pool, 2018 QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool and/or 2019 2-Season Actively Managed Pool.
30 April 2018	Last day to transfer any unfilled orders from the QSL Target Price Pool and/or QSL Individual Futures Contract Pool to other QSL pools for the 2018 Season. <i>Please note: Growers can only transfer unfilled orders from the QSL Individual Futures Contract Pool if they have not priced any portion of their nominated tonnage.</i>

* Please note: Isis Central Sugar Mill, Mackay Sugar and Bundaberg Sugar growers will be advised by their miller of their local QSL Pool nomination deadlines for 2018.



DISCLAIMER:

This document contains information of a summary/high level nature and therefore does not purport to be comprehensive on this topic. Growers should read the relevant Pricing Pool Terms before participating in any QSL pool. While care is taken in the preparation of this document, QSL does not make any representations as to its accuracy or completeness. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance, nor should this Statement be taken to include representations as to future matters. This Statement does not constitute financial or investment advice. The information in this document is current only as at the date of the document.

CANE-CHANGE: FORMER BEAN AND DAIRY FARMERS LOVING THE CANE-GROWING LIFE

By Wayne Griffin

After 20 years of hard slog growing fresh green beans, followed by forays into dairy and ginger farming, CANEGROWERS Maryborough members Craig and Natalie Mellor are enjoying the lifestyle change that has come with cane-growing.

The couple operates two cane farms on the banks of the Mary River at Bells Bridge, just north of Gympie.

The farms total almost 220 hectares, 150 ha of which is under cane rotation.

"It was a definitely big shift going into cane," Natalie said, when *Australian Canegrower* visited the Mellor family farm recently.

"From hand picking beans for 15 years to milking 200 cows twice a day, 365 days a year — it was pretty labour-intensive.

"Even with the ginger, which we did after we sold the dairy, there was quite a bit of manual labour involved, lugging buckets of ginger around. But with the cane it's really all tractor work, so it's not as labour-intensive."

Unsurprisingly, Craig, who does most of that tractor work, disagrees. Although even he is forced to admit life is just a little bit more relaxed these days.

"I wouldn't say it's easy, there's still a lot of work involved. There's a lot of dragging irrigators around. We do our own spraying and fertilising," he said.

"But I do really enjoy growing cane. You wouldn't be in it for the money because there isn't a lot, but it's definitely a much better lifestyle."

It's not Craig's first foray into the cane industry. Back in the mid-1990s, a then 20-year-old Craig grew cane on the bean farm he worked with his father at Goomboorian, east of Gympie.

"We grew about 20 ha of cane, probably for about five or six years, but we were growing it on marginal country which wasn't irrigated, and at that sort of scale the money just wasn't there, so we gave it up."





"I really enjoy growing cane. You wouldn't be in it for the money because there isn't a lot, but it's definitely a much better lifestyle."

Craig continued in the bean business for another 15 years before deciding it was time for a change in 2009.

"I just woke up one morning and I'd had enough of the beans, so we decided to sell up," Craig said.

"We sold the farm up as multiple lifestyle blocks. It was at the top of the residential market so we got a good price, which enabled us to buy the dairy."

The couple successfully operated the Bells Bridge dairy for four years, but decided to leave the industry when an opportunity to sell arose.

"There was no money in it, especially for the amount of work involved, so we sold the dairy," Craig said.

"We went into ginger for a while, but I'd always wanted to go back to growing cane."

In 2013, they bought the first of their two cane farms, a 170 ha block of pasture country on the banks of the Mary River, which they planted under cane.



Pictured (main): Good soil and easy access to water has been key to Craig and Natalie Mellor's success. (Above) The couple have invested in an old grader, which Craig is repairing, and a new travelling irrigator.

Continues page 16 ►



"Last year, because it was so dry we only expected to get about 90 tonnes per hectare, but ended up averaging 106, so we were really pleased with that."

Then three years later came the second farm, a 50 ha ex-cropping property which also had to be planted under cane and where they now live with their daughters Kirsten (11) and Caitlin (10).

"We bought these particular farms because of the soil type, which is good to excellent," Craig said.

"We probably paid a premium for them, but because we knew the soil was good we were happy to do it.

"We've got a few different types – sandy loam, and it's a deep sandy loam so the roots can chase moisture. Another block is more heavy flood country and we've also got a heavy clay soil. So we're very fortunate in that respect."

It's not only the soil that makes this land prime cane country. Being just metres from the Mary River means the crop has easy access to water, even in the driest of years and this has contributed to the impressive tonnage the couple have achieved since getting into cane.

"In 2016 we did pretty well. We averaged about 120 tonnes per ha, which was above average for the area, I think," Craig said. "Last year, because it was so dry we

only expected to get about 90 tonnes, but ended up averaging 106, so we were really pleased with that.

"Obviously, having access to enough water plays a big role in that and the proximity to the river is another big reason we bought where we did."

When *Australian Canegrower* visited the Mellors, the district hadn't had a drop of rain in more than three months.

"I can't see how you can farm successfully anymore unless you've got a guaranteed water supply," Craig said.

"Here we have a water supply that is as guaranteed as they come. We could obviously go on restrictions, but there'll always be water there.

"I think the weather has got to a stage now where it's not possible to dryland farm anymore, simply because of the unpredictability of rainfall. The beauty of this river is its main catchment is up in Kenilworth where there's plenty of rain to keep the river flowing."

Now that they've been in the industry for a couple of years, Craig and Natalie are looking at ways to improve and expand their cane business.



"We're definitely looking to put more land into cane in the next few years, maybe even employ one or two people to work on farm," Craig said.

"But I'll only do that if I can get the right land, with the right soil and good access to water.

"We're also looking at changing our farming system up a bit – going to 1.85m rows (currently 1.65) and I'd ultimately love to get the whole farm on controlled traffic and zero till – so we've plenty of work ahead.

"One thing is for sure, we'll be growing cane for many year to come. We feel very lucky to be surrounded by plenty of helpful people both within industry bodies and fellow farmers who are all willing to share good advice.

"We jumped around a bit trying to get to the right end product, but I think we're happy with where we are now." ■



CANEGROWERS
ISIS

Important Notice for **CANEGROWERS Isis Members** **By-Election 2018**

CANEGROWERS Isis are running a by-election to fill a current vacancy that now exists on the Board.

If you are interested in nominating, or you know a grower who would make a great contribution to the CANEGROWERS organisation in that role, please contact the Company Secretary – **Angela Williams** on **0427 217 077** or call into the District office to pick up the relevant paperwork.

Nominations open on 16 February 2018 and close at 5pm on **9 March 2018**. If an election is required, ballot papers will be posted by 14 March 2018.

Important Information

- Nomination forms must be signed by the eligible nominee and not less than six (6) Members as defined in the Constitution.
- A candidate must be the Authorised Representative for the Member.
- Nomination forms and full particulars regarding appropriate qualifications of nominees can be obtained from the CANEGROWERS Isis office or direct from the Returning Officer by telephone **1800 177 159**.

Jodie Mittelheuser

Returning Officer

jodie_mittelheuser@canegrowers.com.au

GPO Box 1032 Brisbane Qld 4001



CASE IH STEP UP!

2018 CONFERENCE ALL SET FOR 26-28 MARCH



After Cyclone Debbie all but washed the 2017 conference away, Next Gen is pleased to announce the return of the Case IH Step UP! Conference in 2018.

More than 130 cane farmers, industry professionals and other stakeholders will converge on the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre from Monday 26 to Wednesday 28 March 2018 to discuss topics of interest to the next generation of the Australian sugar industry. Tickets are still available but are selling fast.

The 2018 conference will continue to build on the Next Gen's burgeoning network of young and established cane farmers and professionals from across Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

Next Gen Officer **Gerard Puglisi** says the Case IH Step UP! 2018 conference aims to give a voice to young farmers, many of whom work with their parents or off the farm to supplement their incomes.

"We want to encourage younger people to step up and take more of an industry role," Mr Puglisi said.

"Decisions are being made about our industry that are not going to necessarily affect the decision-makers for as long as they will impact on the next generation of cane farmers."

Mr Puglisi is encouraging all who have an interest in the future of the industry to attend the event and participate in the conversation.

"In 2015 we had the first hugely successful Case IH Step UP! Conference with a gathering of more than 150 people," he said.

"Of the group, around 80 younger farmers were able to identify and address issues of succession planning and the flow of information from mills to the younger generation as common issues across all mill areas.

"The event theme, Transition & Innovation, will focus on ever-advancing technology like drones, automation and blockchain; emerging world best practices and how we can ensure our industry remains a global leader as it transitions from one generation to the next," Gerard continued.

"Our speakers are from all corners of the industry. They include Australia and New Zealand Case IH Marketing Manager

Pete McCann, Queensland Sugar Limited's (QSL) Managing Director **Greg Beashel** and Professor **Ian O'Hara** from QUT's Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities."

"Tickets are selling fast, and with only a limited number available I encourage anyone interested in attending to register as soon as possible to avoid missing out."

While there will be plenty of interesting ideas discussed by the speakers, Case IH Step UP! will also present a rare opportunity for guests to network and socialise with key industry leaders and other progressive stakeholders, particularly at the Welcome Function (hosted by NAB Agribusiness), the event Gala Dinner and in the trade hall, which too is set to be the biggest and most diverse to date.

In addition to these events, guests at Case IH Step UP! 2018 will also have the chance to participate in daily field trips to experience world class technology in action.

"Tickets are selling fast, and with only a limited number available I encourage anyone interested in attending to register as soon as possible to avoid missing out," Mr Puglisi said. ■

Case IH is joined by several other leading brands in supporting Case IH Step UP! 2018 including Australian Cane Farmers Association (ACFA), QSL, NAB Agribusiness, Sugar Research Australia (SRA), Smartcane BMP, CANEGROWERS, Mackay Sugar, QRAA, Reef Catchments, Farmacist, Wilmar, Whitson Dawson and Stoller Australia.

YOU ARE INVITED!



Next Gen invites cane farmers, cane professionals and industry stakeholders, young and old, to join us at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre on Monday 26th - Wednesday 28th March 2018 to discuss topics of interest to the next generation of the Australian sugar industry.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

26-28 MARCH 2018

CASE IH **next gen**
AGRICULTURE
Case IH StepUP!
Transition & Innovation 2018

REGISTER AT:
www.nextgenstepup.com
nextgenfarmers@gmail.com



INNOVATIVE FARMERS AND RESEARCHERS SHARE THEIR FINDINGS

More than 50 people recently joined a tour of sugarcane farms in the Tully region.

Innovation was the name of the game when the farmers, researchers, cane and natural resource management representatives visited farms to learn more about a wide range of trials and research projects aimed at boosting productivity while reducing nitrogen usage and better protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

CANEGROWERS members **Brian Dore**, **Ray Zamora**, **Mario Raccanello** and **Mark Savina** shared information about trials on their farms, and researchers **Charissa Rixon** and **Danielle Skocaj** discussed current projects.

"Farmers find it invaluable to see results for themselves and hear directly from people involved in testing these innovative ideas."

Charissa Rixon, of T.R.A.P. Services, also organised the event.

"It was great to have so many farmers take the time to come and see some of the research being conducted." She said the feedback about the day was positive and there were some interesting group discussions.

Terrain NRM's **Michael Waring** said there had been farmers from Ingham to Cairns.

"Farmers find it invaluable to see results for themselves and hear directly from people involved in testing these innovative ideas," he said.

The on-farm trials are the product of Project Catalyst, Reef Trust III and More Profit from Nitrogen funding programs. ■



Pictured (Top): Farmers, researchers, cane and natural resource management representatives share research and trial update results during a tour of the Tully region.

(Centre L to R): Ingham's Allan Lynne and David Morsell check for nitrogen nodules.

(Bottom L to R) David Morselli (Ingham), Mark Savina (Freshwater) and Stephen Accornero (Ingham) examine nitrogen nodules on a sun hemp plant during a mixed species intercrop trial talk.

Irrigators Energy Savers Program

targets significant energy savings for a
Queensland sugar cane farm

IMPLEMENTED
SOLUTION 

Potential
energy
savings 

Key facts

Farm / Industry

Sugar cane

Product

Sugar cane and rice

Location

Proserpine

Irrigation

Flood and travelling gun

Pumps

Centrifugal

Solution

Implemented:
Variable speed control

Farm profile

The farm, located north of Proserpine, cultivates sugar cane as the primary crop and has recently diversified to rice. Flood irrigation is the preferred method, along with travelling gun irrigators at certain crop stages or locations.

Six irrigation pumps are in use that draw water from the nearby Proserpine River or are used to provide good quality water from bores.

Current irrigation

The irrigation system comprises:

- Four skid-mounted irrigation pumps ranging from 22kW to 55kW. These pumps can be moved prior to flooding and draw river water using suction spears.
- Two fixed bore pumps of 37kW each.

Action

An energy audit of the pumping systems evaluated:

- installation of variable speed controls
- replacing pumps and pipelines
- changing the irrigation method.

Results

Of the energy saving opportunities evaluated, one initiative was identified with potential savings of up to 30% and a payback period of 2 years (approx).

The energy audit report identified the potential for installing a variable speed control panel on five of the six irrigation pumps, two of which would have payback periods of less than three years. These two are some of the larger skid pumps at 55kW and 45kW. The remaining three pumps could be considered for upgrade to high efficiency pumps when they are due for replacement.

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





Energy savings

The energy audit recommendations are summarised below:

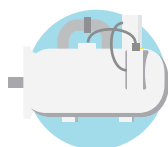
Solution



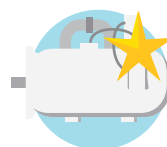
Install variable speed drives on two 55kW pumps

Est. energy savings (kWh/annum)	38,879
Est. operating cost saving	\$7,338
Est. cost to implement	\$14,500
Payback period (years)	2
Est. demand reduction (kW)	24
Est. energy savings	30%

Forecast savings in pump operating costs



Existing system



Upgraded system



Reduction in operating costs

Annual operating cost	\$41,011	\$33,673	-
Cost to implement	-	\$14,500	-
Operating costs for first 2 years	\$82,022	\$81,846	\$176
Annual pump operating cost for years 3 to 10	\$41,011	\$33,673	\$7,338
Total pumping costs for 10 years	\$410,110	\$351,230	\$58,880

Farmer feedback

With recent crop diversification to rice and expansion of the crop area serviced by flood irrigation rather than travelling gun, the owner has installed variable speed drives on two pumps to achieve more efficient operation and lower energy costs.

The owner is very satisfied with the improved pump operations which deliver the required flow output at the most efficient energy consumption setting. Determination of actual energy savings is subject to completion of measurement and verification.



Case studies

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

FIRST 5 LINES FREE* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

Book online anytime of the day or night at www.canegrowers.com.au or email us at ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au

Next deadline is **19 February 2018**.

* As a FREE service to CANEGROWERS members, *Australian Canegrower* will print suitable classified advertisements **UP TO 5 LINES FREE, FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY**. 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.

Beaulieu R.U.M.

Attention Canegrowers

The first step in achieving a high yielding cane crop is a good strike and vigorous growth in the early stage of your crop.

This can be achieved easily by simply adding 5 litres of R.U.M per acre to your dip water.

**For a cost of around \$25 per acre
Can you afford not to give it a go?**

For further information contact –

Burdekin & Northern Region call Wally Ford 0417 937 722

Mackay Region call Noel Jensen 0438 595 325

Childers Region call Peter Irwin 0428 427 212

Do you want a **FREE** electronic version of *Australian Canegrower* delivered to your email inbox every fortnight?

To receive your free electronic copy, email us on: editor@CANEGROWERS.com.au



WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS
AND PHOTOS?

Find *CANEGROWERS* on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/CANEGROWERSAustralia





Conversion Track System (CTS)



- Increase field access
- Over 65% reduction in ground pressure
- Increase stability and ride comfort
- Quick installation
- Available in 30" and 36" widths

Contact > Marney Strachan
0408-162-085

Neil's Parts Australia
www.neils.com.au

Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

Specialising in Used Cane Harvesting Equipment Sales

2012 JD 3520 Wheel Cane Harvester

9 Litre 375 HP 7,700 Hrs 8 blade chopper system, Standard toppler. Elevator rebuild.

2010 JD 3520 Track Harvester

9 litre 375 Hp engine 9,200 Hrs. 10 Blade Twyford chopper system. 16" grouser plates, new track hubs 2017. 24" elevator extension. Standard toppler. Good machine for age!!

JD 2004 6920S 4WD tractor

155 Hp 9,000 hrs. Front suspension 40K, IVT transmission, coupled to a single axle 10 tonne 1994 Carta elevating trailer. Located in Mackay.

JD 7810 4WD tractor 40 K,

fitted with a 1999 14 tonne Carta elevating cane trailer.

CARTA 14 tonne elevating cane trailer

fitted to a JD 7710 4WD tractor 40 K gearbox tractor. Immediate delivery in Mackay.

1999 POWERHAUL ELEVATOR

Cummins 170 HP engine. 5 speed transmission 40 K model. Front suspension.

CUMMINS QSL 8.9L Eng.

325 HP @ 1900 RPM. 750 Hrs.

NEW! BILLET PLANTER 2500

Rubber belt cane feed, Immediate Delivery. In Mackay NOW.

New 18" curved GROUSER PLATES

Suit D5 Case 8800 type chain, full set.

Used 10,000 series

CHAR-LYNN MOTORS 40 cubic inch.

Used 2 x 6,000 series

CHAR-LYNN MOTORS 60 cubic inch.

WHOLE TOPPERS 2 x CASE

as new one is complete.

OMNITRAC Full Track walking gear

complete with 24" rubber belts. Hi-Track drive. 5 roller suit Case or JD.

NEW! 4 SLAT OPEN BUTT ROLLERS

Suit JD 3510/20 and CASE.

Helps Drop Dirt. Enquire NOW!

IN STOCK NOW — 12, 10, 8 & 6 blade

DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS, suit '05 Cameco to JD 570.

Tungsten hard faced on wear areas. New seal plates, clamping bars & dowels with kit.

Graham Twyford

48 Central Park Drive, Paget, Mackay

Mobile: +61 (0) 418 742 696

graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au

www.gtmachinerysales.com.au

Classifieds

Mossman-Tully

8240 New Holland Ford with or without GPS. New rear tyres with Air-Cab, GC. Ph. 0418 154 557

Bonel 7 curved tine drawbar heavy duty ripper. Been in shed for a few years, rams need redoing, shafts pitted otherwise in very good condition. \$11,000 neg. Ph. 0417 774 214

FORD 8210 4WD air cab low hours excellent condition. \$22000 inc gst ono. FIAT F140 excellent condition. \$33000 inc gst ono. Ph. 0417 717 013

Toft Chopper Drums - Heavy Duty 2 x 15" differential chop to suit 65mm blades. 1 x 15" differential chop to suit 95mm blades. Phone Ryan on 0427 676 133

2005 John Deere 6620 - 7310 hrs - Coupled to Austoft Trailhaul; 2008 Massey Ferguson 7465 - 4630 hrs - Coupled to Austoft Trailhaul. Ph. 0407 162 514

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

HB MACHINERY

EST. IN 1960

invites Expressions of Interest for buying or long-term leasing of the business.

The brand name of **HBM** is known and respected throughout the Australian Sugar Industry for quality and innovation, some of which have become Industry Standard.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

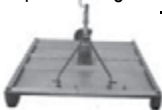
email hbmach@bigpond.com
or ring 07 4064 2049

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 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740

Oak casement windows, reasonable condition \$25 ea. Assorted timber: black penda 220mmx75mm, oak, hickory, tongue and groove, and hardwood. Ph. 0408 793 756

MF 8110 to sell for Parts. 1995 model. One owner used as a farm tractor 7405 hrs. Tyres good, can send photos and provide information. Offers welcome. Ph. 0429 633 620 or email markjmcavoy@gmail.com

For sale: **New 2 Row Planter** Hydraulic Drive Only. Granular and/or Liquid Fert. For details email: hbmach@bigpond.com or ring 07 4064 2294 or 07 4064 2049

Herbert River-Burdekin

120 inch Howard Rotary Hoe \$8000. 16ft stock crate and trailer \$7000. 4 Liddle and Sons shields o.n.o. Milner 8ft heavy duty slasher \$3500. New irrigation motor ready to go, make an offer. Ph 0428 382 084

MF165 with bucket & forks \$5000; 5-leg HD ripper with crumble roller \$3000; 3-leg ripper \$400; Howard 60" rotary hoe \$500; Ratooning discs \$400; 3-row weeder \$300; 2000L fuel tank on 2m stand \$1200; 2-tonne cement blocks \$75 each; 2 x HD swivel coulters \$1000 each. Ph. 0447 183 182

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–February
	29.01.18	05.02.18		
Mossman	59	1	233	918
Mareeba AP	60	12	157	444
Cairns	222	41	705	835
Mt Sophia	279	168	968	1165
Babinda	330	0	694	1368
Innisfail	139	166	548	1100
Tully	185	0.3	471	1336
Cardwell	68	0	233	902
Lucinda	83	23	220	846
Ingham	80	49	265	827
Abergowrie	89	69	302	718
Townsville	33	20	141	566
Ayr DPI	8	5	105	445
Proserpine	54	65	162	645
Mirani	34	85	139	652
Mackay	27	85	122	598
Sarina (Plane Ck)	34	67	169	749
Bundaberg	5	86	203	330
Childers South	13	93	299	250
Maryborough	0.4	81	156	338
Tewantin	24	130	162	453
Eumundi	20	94	129	474
Nambour	18	34	59	489
Woongoolba	16	45	172	330
Murwillumbah	17	32	95	428
Ballina	13	127	243	377
Woodburn	0	89	110	306



**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.

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. Howard rotary hoe HR40, 255cm wide - GC. Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler - VGC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay)

Sprayrite Tempo 1200 Spray Tank, Brand New, 1200L Capacity UV resistant, 170LPM PTO driven Pump feeding 5 section electric controlled spray controller, H Duty 3pl carry frame, \$15,200 Inc. Ph. 0428 236 165

EHS Manufacturing 4 tonne trailable side dress galvanised fertilizer bin. \$5500. Ph. 0419 710 280

100 mtr roll of high pressure water hose or air hose 300psi 38mm (1½") hose. Never unrolled but roll is dirty. Good condition. \$500 o.n.o. Ph. 0407 509 399

Case IH 7230 with 12T Maclean Elevating Bin. Ph 0417 796 468

Confidor applicator, with a 300 litre tank and Hodge coulter assemblies. \$4000 (plus GST) Ph. 0418 710 958 / 4950 3048

1997 Cameco 2500 cane harvester; 5000 engine hours; 13,500 machine hours; full track; good condition. \$65,000 + gst ono. Ph. 0455 128 742

Massey Ferguson Cane Harvester 102 \$5,500; Bonel Billet Planter \$5,500; Side Dresser with disc openers \$6,500. Ph. 07 4959 6197

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Wrecking TOFT 6500 harvester. Many parts available. Ph. 0413 584 728

Machio 6.2 metre double G heavy duty rotary hoe, Ford 5000 with 6 ft slasher, inter row 6 row cultivator (soya beans), 2 BKT 20.8 / 42 tyres 40% left. Call for details all in good condition 0408 768 489

Half-tracks to suit 4000, 5000 or 6000 TOFT harvester. Fair condition. Open to offers. Ph. 0419 717 006

Full billet planting outfit: includes Toft 4000 harvester, HBM billet planter and double 3-tonne tractor-hauled tipper bin, 2 bins. \$27,000 + gst, all good condition (farm sold). Ph. 4159 3323

Bonel whole stick harvester with hydraulic topper and trailers. \$2,500 + gst; MASSEY 205 cane harvester \$6,500 + gst. Ph. 4159 3323

IG2 IDROFIGLIA - hard hose irrigators (2 only) 140mm x 400m hose. Sime Gemini (Dual Speed) Sprinkler. 12v hyd pump/res with 120w solar panel. \$35,000 + GST ea or \$60,000 + GST for both (neg). Ph. 0448 177 458

Fiat 640 31" high clearance tractor. Ideal for cane spraying wide wheel track with excellent stability \$11,000+gst. Sylvan Spray Tank 900 litre, new high volume pump & Irvin Hydraulic boom \$3,900+gst. Ph. 4159 9242

MF 290 Tractor-low hours-very good condition \$10,500+gst. John Deere 2130 Tractor-good condition-ready to work \$9,900+gst. Ph. 4159 9242

Ford 7810 - needs work. Qty Aluminium Pipes, Ajax 4" and 5" & A.C. 6" - new. Ph. 0423 288 639.

Wanted

STL shares wanted. Genuine grower. Pay market price. Let's keep STL shares in the hands of non-miller growers. Ph. 0419 717 006 or 0408 448 227

Tractor tyres - BUY & SELL. All sizes. Ph. 0418 775 698

Wanted to buy. Cane stick planter, ground driven. Ph. (07) 4776 1386 a/h

Wanted. 5.9L Cummins 6B Naturally aspirated motor, for irrigation pump setup. Ph. 0408 870 182

Lower Mary River Water Allocation wanted to permanently purchase. Consider any quantities. Ph. 0427 930 696

Wanted: International 574 for Restoration. Northern Region. Phone: 0457 468 472

Positions Vacant

Harvester Driver required for coming Season and beyond. Good conditions. Ph. 0409 472 263 or 0417 763 826

Harvest Contractor required to cut 4000 tonne of cane in CALEN district. Good clean farm. Please phone Nigel 0427 588 477

Property

INGHAM: Cane Farm for sale. Hawkins Creek. Total Area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6ha. Shed, electricity & water. Genuine enquiries Ph. 0407 635 175

Wanted cane farm to lease MIRANI area Ph. 0400 583 247

Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls phone 4777 4633 or 0408 608 664

Cane Farm Cone Creek Road MT CHRISTIAN via Koumala. Total area 93.43ha CPA 70.81ha. House, 4 sheds, machinery, irrigated farm with 2 dams. Genuine offers/enquiries only. Ph. 0428 852 279

CANE FARM FOR SALE \$750,000. 507 Eton-Homebush Rd, OAKENDEN (Mackay Region, Central Qld). 6brm home and sheds. 65.58ha (162 acres), 2 freehold titles, WIWO. Irrigated, close cart, flat, no rocks, good soil, 25 mins to town. Ph Pauline 0428 575 787 or Kent 0427 877 874



WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS
AND PHOTOS?

Find CANEGROWERS on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/CANEGROWERSAustralia



CUTTING AND HAULING LOOKS BETTER IN RED

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.