

CANE

AUSTRALIAN

GROWER



CANEGROWERS

16 July 2018 Price \$9.95

CROP NUTRITION AND PROTECTION

The latest products to grow
and protect your crop



Government
announces
Code of
Conduct
review



High CCS
levels give
Herbert
growers
a boost



New
investment
to revitalise
Six Easy
Steps

INNOVATION, NOT PERSPIRATION!

**BILLET PLANTERS. SIDE DRESSERS.
STOOL SPLITTERS. DEEP RIPPERS.**



DOMINATE THE LANDSCAPE

GESSNER

GESSNER.COM.AU



CONTENTS

16 July 2018



Features

- 4 Code of Conduct Review
- 5 High CCS gives Herbert growers a boost
- 12 New investment to revitalise SIX EASY STEPS
- 14 Ozcal trials show increase in fertiliser efficiency
- 18 Maryborough identity retires
- 20 CANEGROWERS Policy Update
- 22 Industrial Manslaughter Laws

Also inside:

- 2 Chairman's comment
- 4 News in brief
- 6 Regional round-up
- 10 QSL report
- 23 Classifieds
- 24 Rainfall report

COVER IMAGE: Harvesting of plant material on the farm of CANEGROWERS Burdekin Chairman Phil Marano.

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 14

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) \$250

Code of Conduct delivers fairness

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

Federal Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud has announced a review of the Sugar Code of Conduct. The review was anticipated and your industry body, CANEGROWERS, is ready to respond.

Unfortunately, some of the media around this announcement was less than accurate and growers could be forgiven for thinking that a new industry crisis is emerging. That is not the case and, while there is no cause for alarm, this is a time to be vigilant.

The Code was introduced in mid-2017 to guide the conduct of growers, millers and marketers in negotiations in an effort to hopefully avoid a recurrence of the sugar marketing dispute that dominated our industry for three years.

From the outset it was made clear that the Code would be reviewed after 18 months and the review has been launched a little inside that timeframe.

From a CANEGROWERS perspective, the review is welcome and we are well-prepared to make a submission.

As was the case during the marketing dispute, CANEGROWERS will work closely with the Australian Cane Farmers Association and the Burdekin District Cane Growers organisation. It is vital that growers are united and consistent in our messages to this review.

CANEGROWERS believes the Code is crucial to industry stability and grower confidence.

Queensland's 4,500 growers have approximately \$11 billion worth of assets in play in this industry and are exposed to two-thirds of the returns on the 4.5 million tonnes of sugar produced. We are not going to be commercial passengers in the supply chain.

Some of the commentary from the milling sector has suggested that the Code undermines the ability of growers and millers to determine commercial outcomes on a mutually agreed basis.

Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the Code was introduced to ensure that hard working cane growers are guarded against the power imbalances in the sugar supply chain.

The absence of a Code of Conduct gave some milling companies an opportunity to exploit their monopoly status and adopt a take it or leave it approach to cane supply and marketing contract negotiations.

Australians believe in fairness and the Code of Conduct delivers fairness to Australian cane growers.

One of the statements often made by opponents of the Code is that it has stifled investment in the industry.

However, the evidence shows the opposite to be true. Over the past two seasons, with marketing choice legislation and the Code in place, milling companies have publicly revealed that in excess of \$350 million has been spent on upgrades and maintenance.

MSF Sugar has gone further and is spending \$75 million on a green energy power plant and has flagged three more for a total spend of \$500 million. Tens of millions of dollars is being discussed for biotechnology investments using sugarcane as a feedstock.

The review of the Code of Conduct is important to Australia's cane growers and CANEGROWERS will leave no stone unturned as we work to ensure that sound, credible and fact-based arguments support our case that the Code be retained.

Growers are also being encouraged to make submissions themselves. When our marketing arrangements were under threat, growers rallied to protect their livelihoods, contacting local politicians, attending meetings and even taking part in demonstrations to support our cause.

I am sure that growers will once again rise in strong numbers to support the retention of the Code. ■



"The review of the Code of Conduct is important to Australia's cane growers and CANEGROWERS will leave no stone unturned as we work to ensure that sound, credible and fact-based arguments support our case that the Code be retained."

Follow us



Bobcat® i-MAXX SG

Weed Control Maximised.



Introducing the new Bobcat i-Maxx SG formulation from Adama. Strengthening Adama's commitment to providing outstanding weed control in sugarcane.

- Knockdown and extended residual control of key grass and broadleaf weeds
- Flexible use window with no time-of-year application restrictions
- Unique easy to measure, mix and apply granule formulation.



To find out more about Bobcat® i-MAXX SG use your QR scanner here.

ADAMA
Simply. Grow. Together.

For Technical Assistance: 1800 327 669

adama.com

For Customer Enquiries: 1800 4 ADAMA

NEWS IN BRIEF

Code of Conduct now under review

The Federal Government has announced a review of the Sugar Code of Conduct and CANEGROWERS is ready to tell it the mechanism is working as a safety net for members as they negotiate with mills.

The Code was put in place in mid-2017 towards the end of the long fight to secure grower choice in sugar marketing. Along with the *Queensland Sugar Industry Act*, it guarantees competition in sugar marketing services but it also importantly sets out guidelines and expectations of behaviour for all parties involved in commercial negotiations in the sugar industry.

It was slated for review in October but the Federal Government has brought the process forward with Agriculture Minister **David Littleproud** saying it was important to determine whether the Code was still relevant.

CANEGROWERS will tell the inquiry that the Code's mechanisms for stability and

security underpin grower confidence to continue to invest in the industry, to get on with the business of producing high quality export sugar for the global market and drive our regional economies.

"We see the Code as requiring very little modification and CANEGROWERS looks forward to contributing to the review," Chairman **Paul Schembri** said.

The Code helps to address the imbalance of power that exists when growers and milling companies sit at the negotiating table by requiring that each party acts reasonably, fairly and honestly without intimidation. It also provides for an arbitration mechanism if there's a deadlock.

"Having this set out in the Code is important for growers because in each of our districts the milling company has a monopoly," Mr Schembri said.

"The Code sits as a safety net in the background of our industry, preventing mills from abusing their monopoly power in negotiations and it has ensured that commercial discussions have been conducted fairly."

Submissions need to be received by the review by 22 August and some targeted consultation will be undertaken in September before a final report is given to government before the end of the year. ■

For more information on the process visit <https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/sugar-code-of-conduct-review>

"The Code sits as a safety net in the background of our industry, preventing mills from abusing their monopoly power in negotiations and it has ensured that commercial discussions have been conducted fairly."



LOW GI SUGAR

A new low GI sugar is about to hit Australian supermarket shelves, with New South Wales miller Sunshine Sugar announcing the launch of its latest product, Nucane.

Targeted at today's health-conscious consumers, Nucane is being marketed as "the good sugar" — a wholesome cane sugar that is rich in antioxidants with a low glycemic index.

"The NSW sugar industry is focussed on delivering a range of new products that meet the demands of consumers and give returns to our growers," Sunshine Sugar CEO **Chris Connors** said.

"With a worldwide focus on health concerns such as obesity and diabetes, Nucane offers our business the opportunity to manufacture a healthier cane sugar on a scale that makes it widely available and affordable." ■



QUEENSLAND FARMERS STILL IN THE DARK

This month marks two years until the end of transitional and obsolete electricity tariffs. From 1 July 2020, many of the tariffs that were specifically designed to meet the needs of irrigation and other farming activities will be phased out, leaving farmers to negotiate higher cost demand-based tariffs.

Queensland Farmers' Federation President **Stuart Armitage** has called on the Queensland Government to set out a path to affordable energy, saying the standard business demand-based tariff options were unsuitable for the agriculture sector and without a genuine transition program, farmers would be left in the dark.

"The current lack of clarity on what tariffs would be suitable for irrigation and other agricultural-specific operations, and the significant bill increases farmers will face moving from transitional tariffs to standard business demand-based tariffs is unacceptable," Mr Armitage said. ■

High CCS gives Herbert River growers a boost

It's been a forgettable six months for cane growers in the Herbert River region. With low world sugar prices depressing the entire industry, Herbert growers suffered an additional blow in March when flooding wiped out more than 10% of their crop.

However, the early weeks of the 2018 harvest have brought a glimmer of hope with unexpectedly high CCS levels potentially offsetting some of those crop losses.

"CCS levels are very good in the Herbert at the moment," said CANEGROWERS Herbert River Chairman **Michael Pisano**. "They're sitting around 12.5 units, which is above the five-year average for this stage of the harvest.

"It won't make up for the low world sugar price, obviously, but it will go some way to compensating for the smaller crop we are looking at as a result of the flooding we had earlier in the year.

"As a grower you're always trying to maximise your productivity, increase your sugar per hectare, so it's quite pleasing to have CCS as high as this, especially considering the year we've had."

Almost 80% of the district's 67,000 hectares of cane area was inundated when floodwaters swept through north Queensland's cane country in March.

While a number of other districts including Cairns, Innisfail and Tully also suffered some crop losses and infrastructure damage during the floods, Herbert River was by far the hardest hit, with 1525 tonnes of cane condemned to date and more expected.

"Thankfully things are starting to look up a bit," Michael Pisano said.

"We've had a great start to the crushing - we had perfect weather for harvesting and so far the crop is maturing and cutting out quite nicely.



"That's going some way to lessening the negative impacts we've had."

Herbert River isn't the only district enjoying unexpectedly high sugar content. In June, Tully had its best early season CCS since 2009 with a 12.28

average, while the Burdekin's average was up a full unit on 2017.

Innisfail, Mackay and Proserpine have also reported higher than expected CCS.

Pictured: CANEGROWERS Herbert River Chairman Michael Pisano



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

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Mossman

Mill factory mechanical issues continued to hamper harvesting activities in Week 5, resulting in 31,156 tonnes of cane being crushed with a mill average of 12.51 CCS.

Coastal growers supplied 19,730 tonnes of cane for a mill average 11.90CCS, while Mareeba growers supplied 11,425 tonne of cane for a mill average of 12.73CCS.

To date Mossman Mill has processed 147,497 tonnes of cane with mill average of 12.10CCS.

We encourage all growers to get behind and support the Next Gen group cane display at our District show to be held on 22 and 23 July.

Cairns region

Wet weather has been experienced across both the Mulgrave and Babinda areas, affecting harvesting, crushing and planting activities. CANEGROWERS representatives are involved in discussions with MSF regarding transport issues, including

general communications and delayed cane. Pleasingly, the Mulgrave River Bridge has been reopened and hopefully this should alleviate some delays in the future. At the time of writing the sun is out and hopefully here to stay for a while.

Innisfail

Significant rain across the district resulted in harvesting coming to a stop for a period of 13 days meaning 297 hours lost crushing time. Harvesting recommenced at South Johnstone Mill in the early hours of Friday 6 July

At the time crushing was halted the average seasonal CCS was sitting only at 11.69 which is higher than in 2017 but lower than other northern mill districts. As at 22 June, 7% of the pre-season estimate had been harvested.

Wet weather has continued to hamper farming activity across the district and very little land preparation and planting has been achieved.

MSF Sugar, through Colliers International and in conjunction with Innisfail local agents A&A Realty, has on offer 11 separate farms for sale by Expressions of Interest, totalling 1,105 hectares. The farms range in size from 14.16 ha to 320 ha and are located from Mirriwinni to Silkwood. Expressions of Interest closed on 11 July.

Tully

At the time of writing, 400,000 tonnes of the estimated 2,500,000 tonne crop had been harvested, which is great going considering 200mm of rain fell in the district during the last week of June and the first week of July. Sugar content has been pleasing with the season to date average at 12.7 CCS, while growers have been receiving scores of 14 in some blocks.

Planting was disrupted in the northern section of the district by the rain, however a number of growers to the south have finished for the year and are progressing to other jobs.

Tully Cane Productivity Services has completed its plant source inspections and also undertaken a RSD survey, with the results currently being compiled. The use of Clean Seed planting material has proven to be a key factor in grower productivity and profitability over the years. WITSIP Extension Officer Alix Lindsay is busy with Nutrient Management Plans, and BMP Facilitator Nick Stipis is focused on having 75 growers accredited by the end of the year.

The Cane Changer team combined with CANEGROWERS Tully staff to host two successful information sessions for women in the sugar industry. The purpose of these meetings was to hear the views and insights of women working in the industry and gain a better understanding of what they want from their representative body going forward.

The town is looking forward to the Tully Show at the end of the month, albeit without a grandstand.



WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS
AND PHOTOS?

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



Herbert River

Harvesting and crushing settled into a steady pattern by the end of June. Isolated heavy showers leading up to some general rain overnight on 1 and 2 July provided challenges to the harvest for a few days, but delivered much welcome moisture to hold the mature crop and benefit the young cane. It also gave a confidence boost for areas where planting had stopped because of dry conditions.

The highlight of the harvest has been a stronger CCS than the five-year average which is also welcomed as a counter to the woeful prices on the New York ICE.

By 7 July the Herbert had processed 634,364 tonnes of cane for a season to date CCS of 12.51.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River has moved to recruit a Field Liaison/ Extension Officer under the government-funded program to extend Smartcane BMP in the region.

This new position will help the industry set the record straight about the important projects and innovative practices adopted by growers in recent years as they continue to fulfil their role as the nation's most important, dedicated and best land managers.

Plane Creek

Wilmar Sugar crushed 56,819 tonnes in the week ending 7 July, bringing the season to date total to 169,520 tonnes. Throughput for this week was over budget despite one unplanned stop on Friday to repair a leak in the secondary mixed juice tank. A scheduled maintenance stop was brought forward to maximise the advantage of downtime. CCS average for this week was 12.97 with the season to date average at 12.55 units. Bin weights for the week averaged 3.94 tonnes. Highest CCS for the week was 15.30 from a rake of Q240 first ratoon in the Mt Christian productivity district.

Burdekin

Favourable weather conditions have held up for harvesting with rain delaying cane firing operations for less than a day.

The Harvest Management Group held its first meeting on Tuesday 3 July to review operations for the first three weeks. The Burdekin as a region is ahead of Wilmar's forecast on throughput and CCS, with Pioneer and Kalamia mills being ahead and Invicta and Inkerman slightly behind the forecast.

Several safety-related incidents were reported to the meeting including loco derailments, collisions between haulage equipment and bins, plus a harvester crossing a rail line in front of an oncoming loco.

At the end of Week 4 (7 July) the Burdekin mills had crushed a total of 1,334,951 tonnes of cane or just over 15% of the estimated cane available.

Tonnes crushed for Week 4 were 386,843 which is the highest weekly

throughput so far for the 2018 season. Season to date CCS is sitting at 13.78. So far the highest CCS samples of 16.7 have been recorded in Inkerman and Pioneer areas during weeks 2 and 3.

The best performing variety in Week 4 on a regional basis was Q183 with 21% of supply and 14.1 CCS. It was followed by KQ228 at 27% and 14.03 and Q240 at 34% and 13.89 CCS.

At this stage, actual cane yields are cutting just below estimate but average weekly CCS levels are above the forecast. We expect to see an improvement in CCS levels over the coming weeks providing the dry and cooler conditions continue.

Proserpine

Proserpine Mill has made a solid start on the 2018 crop. After three weeks, 240,232 tonnes of cane have been crushed (or nearly 14% of the estimated 1.76 million tonne crop). CCS started strongly before steadying last week following a few scattered showers. Season-to-date CCS currently sits at 13.35.

Dry weather has been forecast for the next few weeks which should benefit the harvesting sector. However, rain is desperately needed to sustain the current crop and promote the early plantings.

Mackay

Mackay Sugar mills crushed a total of 215,323 tonnes in the week ending 8 July, bringing the season to date total to 1,048,999 tonnes.

Individual mill throughput was: Farleigh 68,905 tonnes, Marian 87,704 tonnes and Racecourse 58,714 tonnes. PRS for this week was 12.57 with year to date PRS at 11.69.

Bundaberg

It's been quite dry over the district in the past couple of weeks. There have been a few showers totalling around 10mm but this has done very little to alleviate the continuing dry spell.

Some moisture would reduce the risk of frost if we get another cold snap. There have already been small areas of cane frosted right across the district.

Both mills are now crushing standover from 2017 along with the 2018 crop.

Bingera commenced on Monday 4 July. Millaquin had problems processing cane in the first two weeks. Some of this was due to standover cane in the supply that choked the mill

and caused lengthy delays.

Approximately 214 tonnes of cane has been condemned following an accidental fire in early May.

The crush rate has also been lower than the advised rate, with some IT issues in the first week and some blockages around the pan stages slowing performance. These appear to have been addressed with crush rates now exceeding the budgeted rate.

We are cutting about 95% of the original estimate. CCS at Millaquin is currently at 12.60 and Bingera is at almost 13.00.

Continues page 8 ►

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Isis

A number of showers across the region saw crushing cease for a short while on Saturday 7 July. June was a dry month with just 6.4 mm of rain recorded at the official weather station at Childers South, with 4.4 mm of this recorded on Wednesday 27 June.

Crushing has progressed well with 184,918 tonnes of a revised crop estimate of 1,315,000 tonnes of cane now processed. The season-to-date average CCS is at 13.07 (as at 9 July), however Week 4 saw one Isis grower record a CCS of 13.48 for Q240 second ratoon.

Mill staff have noticed an improvement in cane quality and have seen some very impressive rakes of cane being supplied by harvesting contractors.

Obviously, the modification and optimisation of harvesting equipment that occurred pre-season are delivering the desired outcomes for all stakeholders.

These modifications occurred after extensive trial work, which was led by SRA, across the Isis region during the 2017 season. More trials which will involve additional harvesting contractors are set to commence across the region in the coming weeks.

Maryborough

In the previous issue of *Australian Canegrower* we confidently reported that the 2018 harvest was progressing full steam ahead.

That turned out to be short lived with wet weather hampering operations around the Maryborough District.

Sunshine Coast growers have had wet feet for weeks and are still working towards suitable conditions for a continuous supply, but Mother Nature will have the final say.

Production through MSF's mill has been steadily over 43,000 tonnes for the past few weeks and we are 16% harvested against estimates. CCS is proving to be fickle, with the average currently sitting at 11.83 for the season.

Having spent a lot of time focusing on Chain of Responsibility impacts prior to the start of season, it is timely that the Queensland Trucking Association has organised a workshop in Maryborough on 18 July.

It will cover requirements on safety paperwork, maintenance records and risk assessments. The workshop commences at 5.30pm at the Brolga Theatre, Maryborough. Bookings required.

Rocky Point

The Rocky Point season is due to commence on Monday 16 July.

The Cogeneration Plant is now operational after an extensive maintenance program and we are hopeful for improved performance during the 2018 season.

The crop estimate is sitting at 392,000 tonnes.

Weather conditions have been very mild, with small amounts of rain which won't affect ground conditions for harvesting.

It appears that large areas of the crop are flowering this year, which is unusual for Rocky Point. ■

Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

MAXIMISE YOUR SUPER, DOWNSIZE YOUR HOUSE

The kids have left home, yet you're still living in a four bedroom house. As your retirement gets closer, you might be considering selling the family home.

The Government's Downsizing Contributions measure allows those aged 65 years or older to contribute up to \$300,000 from the proceeds of selling their home into their super account.

If you have a family home that has been owned by you or your spouse for at least 10 years, it has been your main residence for any part of that time, and you plan on selling that house, you can contribute up to \$300,000 each from the sale of the house into your super accounts.

The contribution does not count towards your contribution caps, and you don't need to meet the Work Test requirements to make the contribution.

Will this affect my age pension eligibility?

When determining eligibility for the age pension, the Government looks at all non-exempt assets and this includes superannuation. As the Downsizing Contribution needs to be put into a super account, this means it may affect your eligibility.

Find out more

For more information, visit austsafe.com.au/memberhub.

Disclaimer:

Source: Australian Taxation Office. Downsizing contributions into superannuation (2018).

This editorial is general information only and does not take into account your individual objectives, financial situation or needs. You may also wish to seek the advice of a qualified financial planner. Please also read the relevant AustSafe Super Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) before making a decision in relation to the product available at austsafe.com.au which summarises important information about being a member of AustSafe Super.

Austsafe Pty Ltd ABN 96 010 528 597, AFSL 314183 is the Trustee of AustSafe Super ABN 92 398 191 503





9% ORGANIC CARBON

LIQUAFORCE BIG SHOT

LIQUID IS...THE FUTURE IN FERTILISING

Reduced N leaching • Faster application • Easier application • Safer application • Placement accuracy • Trace element consistency

BIG SHOT RANGE

Big Shot is a one application high analysis N.P.K.S fertilizer. The inclusion of molasses in BigShot, aids the microbial slow release of fertiliser nitrogen. The molasses used in Big Shot has not only been proven to slow down the release of nitrogen, it also increases the capacity of tillering plant cane to absorb nutrients.

LiquaForce BigShot gives you the ability to add trace elements more consistently in your fertiliser program. This offers farmers the flexibility to create unique mixes specific for their requirements, meeting their nutritional needs to the very last drop, including trace elements of zinc, copper, boron, or molybdenum.

VALU RANGE

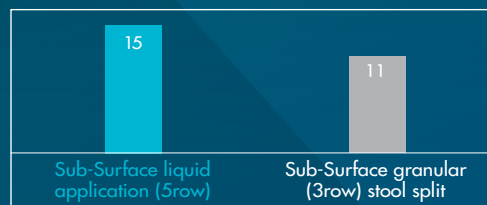
Liquaforce had developed its Valu range to work in synergy with BigShot. Demand for the Valu range is growing as farmers become more conscious that plants not only need N, P, K and S but also micro nutrients.

The LiquaForce advantage over granular is that trace elements are mixed evenly through a blend and not shuffled out of consistency when blended in a one ton bag.

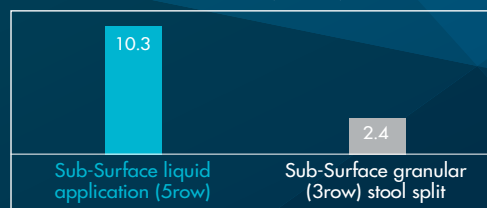
A FEAT analysis was undertaken to calculate estimated variable costs associated with fertiliser application. The estimated variable costs were based upon information supplied by fertiliser contractors surveyed, within the Herbert cane growing region (2012). The analysis considered the various fertiliser placement options and various options for the number of rows treated during an application. These figures are indicative of costs associated with fertiliser application methods found within the Australian cane industry.

Estimated variable costs associated with fertiliser application.

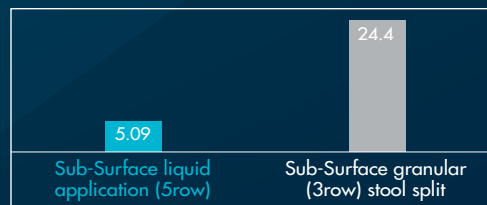
Average speed of application (km/hr)



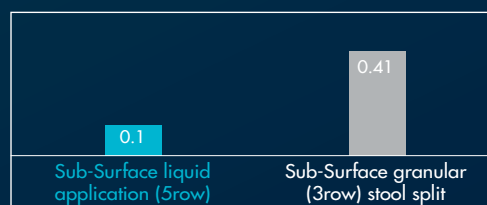
Work rate (ha/hr)



Variable cost + labour (\$/ha)



Labour (hrs/ha)



CALL 07 4776 5711 OR VISIT LIQUAFORCE.COM.AU

Bumper Thai Crop Hits Qld Premiums



By Ginette Barrett,
QSL Treasury Manager

In years gone by, Queensland producers of raw sugar could always rely on a premium above the ICE 11 price that was roughly in line with our ability to deliver high-quality raw sugar into our most-valued markets in Asia at a more competitive rate than our largest competitor, Brazil.

This competitiveness was primarily driven by our freight advantage.

In simple terms, the stronger the freight market the more competitive Queensland raw sugar exporters could be, given our vessels spend fewer days on the water sailing to the Far East than a similar vessel sailing from Brazil.

This freight advantage is often referred to as the 'Far East Premium'.

Over the past 12 months the cost of freighting bulk cargoes to our traditional markets such as Korea, Japan, Indonesia and other Asian ports has increased, so given our sailing time is shorter, our competitive advantage into these markets compared to our Brazilian counterparts has improved.

However, in conjunction with the rising freight market seen over the past couple of years, Thai sugarcane production has reached record levels.

So, while we continue to hold a freight advantage over Brazilian exporters,

unfortunately the Thai exporters hold a similar advantage over Queensland exporters for the exact same reason, as their sailing time is less than half of ours to our traditional markets.

IMPACTS FOR QUEENSLAND EXPORTERS

Thai sugar production reached record levels this year and a similar-sized crop is forecast for next year, with the slowing global demand for raw sugar resulting in a real dogfight between Queensland and Thai exporters for Asian markets.

When two large competitors clash, the unfortunate result is prices tend to reflect this oversupply.

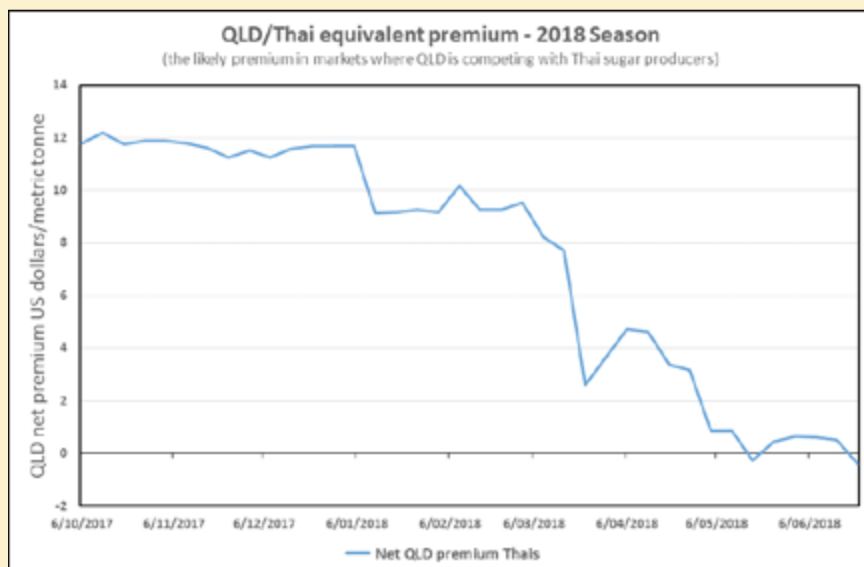
In actual terms, Thai sugar is currently being traded at a discount to the ICE 11 and with Queensland's freight disadvantage evident, the traditional Far East premium enjoyed by Queensland exporters for many years is suffering.

On the upside, the Thai production numbers are very fluid.

In less than the six months between January and June this year the Thai cane crop estimates increased by about the same size as the entire Australian cane crop. And while next year's forecast is similar, the variability of production due to weather and substitute crops like tapioca and rice can quickly and dramatically change this landscape.

Additionally, Thai sugar is less favoured by refiners due to variances in quality and the unreliability of their supply chain. So given the choice, most refiners still prefer Australian raw sugar and pay a premium for this.

The implementation of the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and



Current as of 10 July 2018.



improvements bought about by the Trans-Pacific Partnership for our Japanese exports have made both of these markets more accessible and competitive for Queensland exporters.

IMPACTS FOR THE SHARED POOL

While the current global surplus has had a strong and very noticeable negative impact on the ICE 11 price, the impact of freight markets and premium reductions is primarily reflected in QSL growers' Shared Pool element.

Freight rates from Queensland to our Asian markets have increased by approximately US\$4.50 per metric tonne (mt) in the last year, while competitor freight rates from Thailand to our markets have remained relatively stable.

The premiums for Thai sugar are also down due to the larger Thai crop, dropping approximately 25 points (US\$5.60/mt) compared to the same timeframes last season.

The ICE 11's recent trading at lower levels has also reduced the Polarisation Premium revenue in the QSL Shared Pool by approximately US\$1.60/mt.

Each US\$1 movement in the ICE 11 results in a change to polarisation revenue of about US3 cents/mt.

These factors, combined with a US exchange rate of 0.73 equates to an estimated impact of A\$15.70 per mt IPS.

The effect of this reduction in revenue has been offset by a lower AUD/USD exchange and a reduction in some other costs, but overall, net premiums in the 2018 ICE 11 Shared Pool have fallen by approximately A\$14/mt IPS since they were last updated in May.

It is important to note that the QSL Shared Pool values are only indicative until the end of each season, and will continue to fluctuate until finalised in July after the harvest each year.

Until this time they are an estimate only. They also vary between milling regions to reflect the applicable local contractual arrangements.

For this reason, QSL recommends that growers regularly check the current indicative QSL Shared Pool applicable to them.

You can find this by clicking on your milling area in the QSL Pool Prices section of the QSL homepage (www.qsl.com.au), illustrated below:



The Shared Pool estimate includes a breakdown of the current indicative pool value under the following key categories:

- Net Market Premiums
- Storage and Handling Costs
- Finance Costs
- Marketing and Shared Services Costs
- Regional Costs
- Loyalty Bonus

For more information about the QSL Shared Pool, please refer to your QSL Grower Handbook (available online at www.qsl.com.au) or contact your local QSL representative. ■

DISCLAIMER:

These articles contain information of a general or summary nature only and should not be relied on to make any pricing or pool selection decisions. This information does not constitute financial or investment advice, and growers should seek their own independent advice before making any such decisions, in addition to reading the full Pricing Pool Terms which are available on QSL's website. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance, nor should anything in relation to these articles or the Cash Flow Forecast Tool be taken to include representations as to future matters.

New investment to revitalise **THE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TOOL, SIX EASY STEPS®**

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) is leading a major investment to improve upon the sugarcane industry's crop nutrient management program, SIX EASY STEPS®, and to also make it more accessible for farmers and advisors.

Pictured: Bryce Davis.



The SIX EASY STEPS program has been developed to ensure that sugarcane growers across the industry are applying fertiliser and nutrients to optimise their productivity, profitability, and sustainability.

SRA Key Focus Area Leader for Nutrient Management, Dr **Barry Salter**, said that SIX EASY STEPS is a science-based nutrient management program that enables the adoption of best-practice nutrient management on-farm.

"It is acknowledged as industry best-practice for nutrient management to optimise productivity and profitability without adversely influencing soil fertility or causing off-farm effects," Dr Salter said.

"SRA recognises the need to further improve the SIX EASY STEPS and to explore opportunities to refine recommendations where there is evidence that the crop has a reduced response to fertiliser nitrogen.

"As part of a new investment by SRA, the Queensland Department of Environment and Science and CANEGROWERS, in

collaboration with the University of Southern Queensland and Farmacist, we will develop specific decision support tools which will form part of a broader SIX EASY STEPS TOOLBOX.

"The TOOLBOX will contain practical guidance for growers to refine nutrient management practices based on evidence from industry research projects. These tools fit within steps five and six of the SIX EASY STEPS, and will assist growers and advisors to develop nutrient management plans that are specific to their farms. SRA is also creating a SIX EASY STEPS Advisory Committee to actively manage the SIX EASY STEPS program and specifically the recommendations within it."

The new investment will deliver upon the following specific objectives:

- Package trial data, case studies and develop decision support tools for the refinement of nutrient rates for specific production system issues;
- Create a web platform for these tools with evidence to support decisions;
- Consult with advisors on the utility of the decision support tools; and

- Integrate the use of tools into relevant adoption programs and grower services.

This investment is the result of extensive work, particularly over the past five years, by CANEGROWERS and industry in bringing together divergent views, opinions, science, trials and research on nitrogen in the cane industry.

This has included CANEGROWERS, government, SRA, productivity services organisations, universities and the private sector providing valuable input and effort into the development of this project. This TOOLBOX will be another tool to ensure growers can refine their crop nutrition, increase their production and reduce the impact to the environment and the Great Barrier Reef.

For more information on SIX EASY STEPS, please visit the SRA website www.sugarresearch.com.au ■

Protect your
nitrogen and reel
in the benefits.



Peter Rose
Palmer's Channel, NSW

Get the best out of your soil and its nitrogen while going into the running to win first-rate fishing gear with ENTEC®. We're giving away a Shimano Curado reel and Jewel rod – all you need to do is enter the draw online before 29th July, and the winner will be announced the following day.

Simply follow the link and enter your details to be in the draw:
http://bit.ly/ENTEC_Canegrowermag

See the terms and conditions here: <http://bit.ly/2loll4A> NSW permit number: LTPS/18/24718

ENTEC®

FROM INCITEC PIVOT FERTILISERS

Trial results show

OZCAL INCREASES FERTILISER EFFICIENCY



By Brian Foster, Technical Sales Agronomist, Nutrifert Australia



It is a scientific fact that soil pH has a major impact on mineral availability, and therefore the efficiency of soil applied fertiliser. Recent trial results from the Mackay region proves that you can improve fertilizer efficiency by blending it with Ozcal and applying onto an acidic soil.

Mackay Region Fallow Ground Trial

A soil trial was conducted in the Mackay region from March to May 2018 to illustrate the benefits of blending Ozcal with fertiliser.

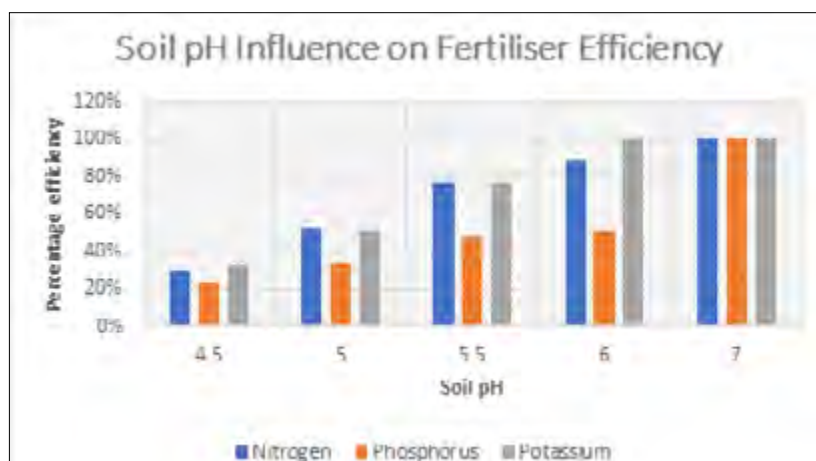
Sugarcane soils in the Mackay to Proserpine areas are typically acidic, with pH's ranging between 4.5 and 5.5. This pH range has a negative effect on mineral availability and plant root health. Soluble phosphorus availability is a major concern in acidic soils, especially those with a pH below 5.5. The majority of P can lock up with aluminium, iron and manganese sometimes within a matter of hours.

The ultrafine particles contained in Ozcal granulated lime offer precision placement targeting the root zone where fertiliser acidifies the soil. By including Ozcal with DAP in a blend we improved the efficiency of nutrient release and availability from DAP. The high reactivity and quick release of Ozcal lime changed the pH in and around the root zone inside two months.

The soil tests were taken prior and then two months after applying the Ozcal and DAP blend at various rates.

KEY RESULTS:

- 1 Ozcal successfully INCREASED THE AVAILABILITY of phosphorus when applied with DAP
- 2 Ozcal also successfully improved soil nitrogen levels, and calcium levels
- 3 Ozcal successfully increased pH



Source: Dr. Cliff Snyder, Efficient Fertiliser Use Manual – pH



Ozcal Granular Lime for Sugarcane

The ultra-fine particles contained in every granule of Ozcal lime (95% under 45 micron) deliver superior soil pH adjustment and calcium release in the soil. The smaller the lime particle size, the greater the exposed surface area for reaction with acidic soil to neutralize pH and release calcium. Each Ozcal granule releases ultra-fine particles immediately upon contact with moisture, working deep into the soil to amend not just the top few centimeters, but the entire root zone.

This means you achieve your desired pH faster using Ozcal compared to broadcasting bulk lime, while also supplying your crop with available calcium, a nutrient strongly linked to plant health. You will also achieve results at much lower rates to standard coarse bulk lime.

Precision Application

The granular form of the lime in Ozcal allows direct placement in the fertilizer band where plant roots are active. Continuous nitrogen fertilizer use will acidify the root zone over time, therefore it is important to focus on concentrating lime applications in this area.

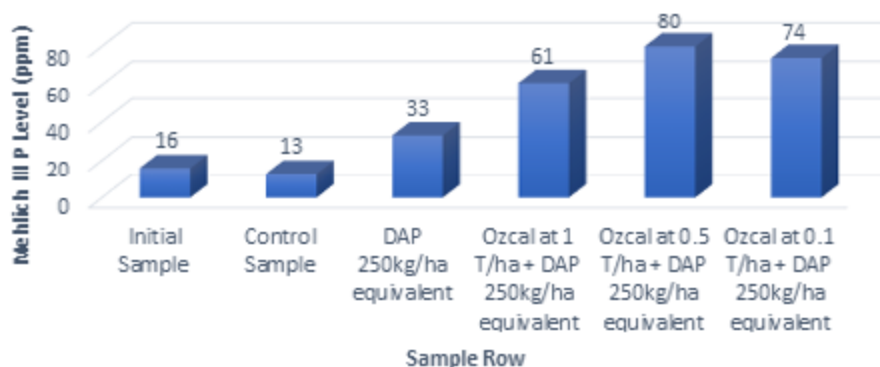
Being in granular form, Ozcal can be applied straight or in a blend with fertilizer for a one shot application (broadcast or banded). The research has shown that Ozcal enhances the power of fertiliser when blended together.

Application Rates

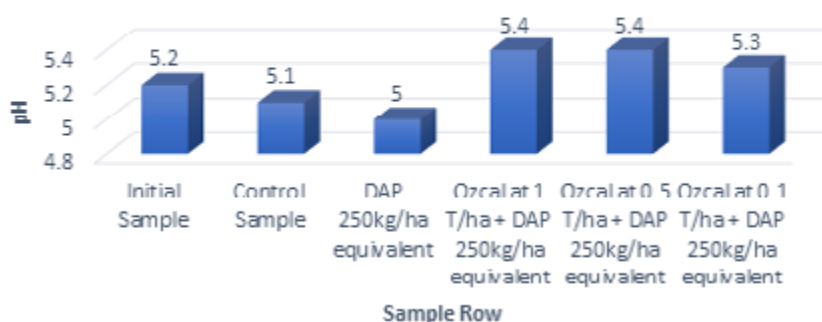
The superior release capabilities of Ozcal allow it to be broadcast right up until the day of row forming for planting crops. Rates of around 200 kg/ha are recommended in these situations.

The most common method of application is side dressing in ratoon crops or after planting. Common rates used in these situations are 125 kg/ha.

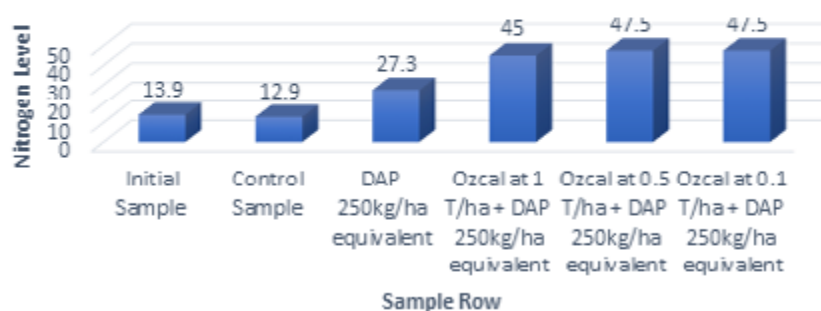
Soil Phosphorus levels 2 months after various Ozcal and DAP applications



Soil pH levels 2 months after various Ozcal and DAP applications



Soil Nitrogen levels 2 months after various Ozcal and DAP applications



For optimum results, we recommend yearly applications to maintain a steady pH throughout each season, and to boost beneficial soil microbes and maintain soil structure. ■

GETTING TO THE “ROOT” OF PRODUCING BETTER SUGARCANE YIELDS

Supplied by Martin Shaw - Stoller Australia FNQ Area Sales manager

Sugarcane planting is once again in full swing and growers are wanting to maximise the yield potential of the varieties they plant. To achieve maximum yield potential we must start with the roots.

Root tips serve as the 'brains' of the plant. They are the growth control centre, regulating all plant growth processes and focus on maintaining vigorous root growth throughout the crop cycle.

Why is root tip growth so important?

Maximum yield potential is affected from the time the seed piece germinates and the plant begins to grow.

Through signals transmitted by calcium and certain proteins, root caps respond to the environment and signal the plant to absorb water and nutrients.

Every 7–14 days root cap cells die and must be replaced by new cells.

Without this replacement process, there will be fewer roots and root tips with the capacity to synthesize plant hormones and control the cane growth.

Root hairs absorb nutrients from the soil solution. However, without a consistent availability of soil moisture to solubilize and transport nutrients, they will deplete the nutrient supply.

Since soil moisture conditions are rarely consistent, the cane plant must continuously grow new root and root hairs into areas of optimal soil moisture conditions.

Stoller-ClearStart 14KZ & 13KZ Liquid fertilisers plus Action10 or Bio-Forge applied in furrow at planting supplies a balanced package of available nutrients N, P, K, Zn Co, Mo — and importantly calcium — to achieve maximum root growth throughout the growing season to produce high cane yields and quality.



Pictured: The billet on the left ad Stoller Clearstart15KZ + Action 10 liquid in-furrow, the one on the right had granular fertiliser only with both planted into dry soil in the 2018 season.

More Cane. More Sugar. More PROFIT.

From planting to harvest, reap the benefits with Stoller.

Healthy, early and sustained growth is essential to get the best out of any crop and maximise its yield potential. By tapping into Stoller's advanced knowledge and innovative product range, your crops will achieve greater productive growth and increased profit.

For more information on the benefits of CLEARSTART and ACTION 10 contact Stoller on 1800 337 845 | info@stoller.com.au | www.stoller.com.au



www.stoller.com.au



NEW IMPROVED HERBICIDE SET TO BOOST WEED CONTROL IN CANE CROPS

Supplied by Adama

Pictured: 630g Bobcat i-MAXX SG with 1.6l Paraquat 12 weeks post application.

A new soluble granule formulation of a powerful herbicide recently used in sugarcane is set to provide improved weed control and handling benefits, while its future use in conjunction with an app will help to further boost its effectiveness for growers.

Soon to be launched by Adama, Bobcat® i-MAXX SG herbicide follows the successful introduction of the liquid formulation, combining the strengths of two active ingredients for excellent knockdown and extended residual control, as well as providing important resistance management benefits.

Increased active loading in the new granule formulation also allows easy mixing and welcome storage and logistics benefits for growers.

Extensive field testing of Bobcat i-MAXX SG across key cane growing areas has shown strong broadspectrum control of major grass and broadleaf weeds in plant and ratoon crops, including barnyard grass and summer and liverseed grass, as well as blue top and ipomea vine species.

The new registration has also added control of guinea grass using hand-held or optical spot spray technology.

Adama Portfolio Manager **Stuart Moncrieff** said the label extension had added an extra use pattern to the existing application windows of directed post-emergent application in emerged cane, as well as pre-emergent application in ratoons.

Applications in emerged cane should be applied as a directed inter-row spray in combination with the Adama knockdown herbicide, Spraytop® 250. Application of Bobcat i-MAXX to emerged cane should follow final cultivation and hill formation.

Best results are achieved when incorporation by irrigation or rainfall

occurs within 3-4 days of application to a depth of 5 centimetres.

"The registration and launch of Bobcat i-MAXX SG demonstrates Adama's ongoing commitment to improving crop protection products for Australian cane growers," Stuart said.

"The new granule formulation was designed with growers in mind – and importantly, the unique formulation ensures the application window remains flexible for them, with no time-of-year application restrictions."

He said in the future growers could also further improve the effectiveness of Bobcat i-MAXX SG by using it in conjunction with the Adama ReefAware app.

Developed on the back of the company's UK WaterAware app for management of pesticides in groundwater, the ReefAware app helps cane growers and advisers maximise herbicide efficacy whilst minimising run-off and its potential impact on the environment.

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

The app also considers any neighbouring water bodies, as well as label use requirements, to determine the suitability of immediate herbicide application (within

the next 24 hours), as well as within 72 hours.

"It allows users to map and name cane fields and it provides instant, location-based information and a simple 'stop' or 'go' application indication," Stuart said.

He said Adama considered its stewardship responsibilities seriously and the ReefAware app was an example of the company's efforts to help land managers use its products safely and responsibly.

"Australian cane growers have adopted water quality management practices that 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."

"As well as wanting to protect the Great Barrier Reef, growers know that managing their farms in ways that protects the environment has a direct positive impact on their profitability," Stuart said.

Bobcat i-MAXX SG will be available this season. Growers, advisors and agronomists can contact their local Adama representative for information. The ReefAware app is available free to download. Growers can visit their app store or www.adama.com for more information. ■



MARYBOROUGH IDENTITY RETIRES

Supplied by Incitec Pivot Fertilisers.



A well known identity in the Maryborough sugar industry has retired, after 46 memorable years in the fertiliser business.

Bill Baxter has handed over the reins to his son, Mitchell, and the small team at Northern AgriServices in Maryborough, to take a welcome break and pursue new interests.

A jeweller by trade who hailed from suburban Melbourne, he and his young family headed north to Bundaberg in 1972, to be close to his wife's family.

A week later, he landed some casual work at the local fertiliser depot at Gooburrum, run by one of Incitec Pivot's predecessor companies, Consolidated Fertilizers (CFL), and he's never looked back.

"The heat nearly killed me in those first few months," Bill says.

"It was hard work in those days, unloading semi-trailer loads of fertiliser by lugging 50 kg bags off the trucks without pallets.

"I remember going home and lying on the vinyl floor just to cool down."

However, he was offered a permanent job at the end of the sugar season in 1972 and as worked until his retirement on 5 July 2018.

In 1981, Bill moved to Maryborough to look after CFL's depot, describing himself as a one-man band who knew nobody and not much more about sugarcane or farming.

But over the years, he's proven to be a constant in the business, weathering eight changes of ownership and numerous company name changes over 37 years.

He has also been a loyal supporter of Incitec Pivot Fertilisers and its predecessor businesses, notching up fertiliser sales in excess of 200,000 tonnes and submitting thousands of soil tests to the Nutrient Advantage laboratory for analysis.

In 1986, CFL sold the business to Phil Carlson, renaming it Maryborough Rural Services before it was taken over by Frank Sauer & Sons in 1990.

It was owned by IAMA from 1994 to 1997 when Wesfarmers acquired the whole operation before selling it to the Australian Wheat Board in 2002.

Bruce Drysdale from Mackay acquired the business in 2005, adding it to his group of rural businesses, renaming it Maryborough Ag Services and operating it for a decade.

He sold the business to BGA AgriServices in 2015, which has recently rebranded to become Northern AgriServices.

"Over the years, I've worked with some amazing people – growers, suppliers, people in the industry and my small team here," Bill said.

"Retirement will be tough for me because there's never been a day when I haven't wanted to go to work."

The lengthy years of service and low staff turnover at Northern AgriServices reflects Mr Baxter's people management skills.

His son, Mitchell, has taken over as manager after 26 years, while Barry

Chester has been a part of the business driving trucks for 32 years. The recent recruits are Mr Baxter's grandson, Travis, who's worked there for two years and Yolande Kliese who joined recently to strengthen the soil testing and agronomy services.

Only three employees have ever left, a rare achievement in any business.

"It's always been a three or four man show here and all we sell are fertilisers and farm chemicals, sticking to what we're good at," Bill said.

"I think growers appreciate that we are all hands-on people, going home dirty after a good day's work just like them."

The branch does 90-95% of its business with cane growers, with some fertilisers also sold for pasture and horticultural crops.

Sugarcane production in the Maryborough and Hervey Bay region has more than doubled from 400,000 tonnes annually to in excess of 900,000 tonnes in the 37 years since Bill arrived.

"Computers and automation in tractors and harvesters have made a huge difference to farming," he said.

"Growers here have been around a long time and they have always been very willing to teach me about farming."

Bill said one of their best moves was installing a fertiliser blending operation in the 1980s, which meant they could deliver custom blends to local growers within 24 hours instead of sourcing supplies from Incitec Pivot Fertilisers in Brisbane.

"This has made it much easier for growers, especially during the busy crushing season, when we open at 5 am six days a week and deliver most of our fertilisers in our own vehicles."

Bill's contribution to the local industry was recognised by CANEGROWERS Maryborough during this year's growers' productivity bus tour and pre-season meeting, where he was presented with a commemorative cane knife.

It's been a remarkable journey for a young jeweller from Melbourne. ■

Pictured: Bill Baxter (left) receives a commemorative cane knife from Jeff Atkinson, Chairman of CANEGROWERS Maryborough, after 46 years of serving local canegrowers.

Sweet research results a game changer for sugar industry

Supplied by LiquaForce

A well-known sugar by-product looks to be the cane industry's best ally in reducing farm fertiliser run off and improving water quality for the Great Barrier Reef.

Independent research by the University of Southern Queensland has found replacing traditional granular fertiliser with liquid fertiliser that includes molasses reduces nitrogen leaching by up to 17%.

The Harnessing microbial slow-release to improve fertiliser profitability and sustainability research project was led by Dr Pam Pittaway in north Queensland's Herbert River region with support from Liddle and Sons Agricultural Services in Ingham, the manufacturers of LiquaForce liquid fertilisers.

"Our results show that molasses-amended liquid fertiliser should be considered an enhanced efficiency fertiliser as it significantly reduces the risk of fertiliser nitrogen leaching," Dr Pittaway said.

"This is a major finding for the sugar cane industry as we can confidently say that liquid fertiliser as a whole improves the retention of nitrogen in soil."

Dr Pittaway's research team specifically tested a liquid fertiliser blend manufactured by LiquaForce and marketed as 'Big Shot' – a fertiliser

developed for ratooning cane made up of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, zinc and sulfur, as well as the addition of organic components.

"The complex sugars used in BigShot slow down the release of fertiliser nitrogen by stimulating soil microbes to take up luxury amounts of nitrogen (N), converting some fertiliser to organic N," Dr Pittaway said.

"So the reduced amount of fertiliser required for ratoon cane, and the improved work rate associated with applying the liquid product, improves the growers' bottom line and reduced off-site nitrogen loss improves the environment."

The research found that 39% of the nitrogen from the BigShot liquid fertiliser blend was still in the soil 119 days after application, compared to just 27% with granular fertiliser.

"This means 73% of the nitrogen from the granular product and only 61% of the liquid product was lost – mostly as leachate," Dr Pittaway said.

"This superior supply of nutrients provided to ratoon cane by BigShot liquid fertiliser, justifies the reduced application rate recommended by LiquaForce, and represents significant savings for growers and the Great Barrier Reef."

Managing Director of LiquaForce, Cameron Liddle, said the expert results were of huge advantage to all producers working alongside the Great Barrier Reef.

"We started manufacturing liquid fertilisers 15 years ago with a focus on increasing farming profitability through increased tonnage and sugarcane CCS and overall fertilising efficiencies," Mr Liddle said.

"The core aim is to increase the longevity of the ratooning sugarcane cycle through soil health but also to ensure that we are formulating a product that has a positive impact on the environment – specifically water quality and the broader natural resources we're lucky enough to have in north Queensland."

Mr Liddle said having impartial evidence that categorically proves that LiquaForce liquid fertiliser improves the economic and environmental sustainability of sugar cane production for growers signaled a landmark day for the LiquaForce brand, and all the clients they supply.

"It hasn't been something that's happened overnight – the adoption of liquid over granular is an ongoing process we have worked on and will continue to work on with hundreds of growers along the eastern seaboard," he said.

"But the results can now speak for themselves and we're thrilled to be in a position to make life easier for farmers and also make a beneficial impact on the future of the Great Barrier Reef." ■



Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Using tech to get a premium for sustainable sugar

Imagine getting a premium for the sustainable sugar you have been asked to produce.

Not only would you be playing a part in creating a sustainable future for the next generation of cane growers while building a more efficient and profitable business, but you would also be helping to give Australia's sugar industry an edge over our international competitors.

But how do we do it? After all, sugar is a commodity. Growers don't supply their sugar to local restaurants or sell it at farmers markets.

It must be processed at a mill and stockpiled at bulk storage facilities, making it more than a little difficult to distinguish your bit of sustainable sugar from the mountain of common crystals.

The answer - we create a premium using blockchain technology.

Sugarcane in Queensland is grown under some of the toughest environmental regulations, using some of the best practices in the world.

To show provenance and sustainability, we could offer Smartcane BMP accredited growers a sustainable sugar unit for every tonne of sustainably produced sugar from their cane.

The sustainable sugar unit could then be bought by an end-user, such as a food and beverage company, who needs to demonstrate they're using sustainably produced sugar in their products.

This provides the end-user with a way to meet their sustainability targets and it rewards the grower for producing the sustainable sugar.

So what is blockchain? Simply, it's a secure online ledger in which all transactions are recorded and visible.

Each block in the chain represents a transaction and is encrypted so it can't be altered but can be followed.

By using Smartcane BMP and blockchain technology, CANEGROWERS is seeking to provide provenance for our product, increase our market access and provide greater value to growers and the market.

We will be testing the theory through a National Landcare Program Smart Farming Partnerships grant and hope to determine in the near future whether blockchain technology can be used effectively in real-world situations to provide growers with premiums for their sustainably produced sugar. ■



Farm Input and Research Committee

At its most recent meeting, the CANEGROWERS Farm Input and Research Committee discussed a number of issues which could significantly impact the sugarcane industry.

SRA Adoption Strategy

The implementation of SRA's adoption strategy is a critical issue which could influence the future of many cane-growing businesses.

Addressing the meeting, SRA's Executive Manager for Regional Delivery, **Ian McBean**, made it clear that the benefits of changes to the adoption strategy will directly correlate with how well each region manages the change. CANEGROWERS, particularly at a district level, will play an important role in this.

To paraphrase Charles Darwin - It won't be strongest or the most intelligent who will survive, but those who can best manage change.

Transport

The committee received a report on a series of transport workshops held across Queensland's cane-growing districts recently.

The 10 workshops gave growers district-relevant information on access to public roads for over-dimension agricultural vehicles and explained changes to the chain of responsibility laws which come into effect in October 2018.

A Class 1 agricultural vehicle harmonised National Notice is still in the process of being developed.

Bio-futures

Biofuels are one of the potential value-adding options for bagasse and/or tops and trash and/or whole cane. The committee has been tracking a number potential projects and working with project developers where necessary.

It is early days for most of these projects, but strategically CANEGROWERS believes that at some stage a viable bio-futures product will be an option for growers to diversify their income.

Cane Analysis Auditing

CANEGROWERS employs a consultant to assist districts with the cane analysis auditing process. This involves weekly scrutiny of results and trouble-shooting, when necessary. ■



Economics with Warren Males

Economics Trade Committee – working for members



The CANEGROWERS Economics and Trade Committee (pictured) had an opportunity to gain an understanding of local issues impacting growers in the Tableland district during a meeting in Mareeba recently.

The Committee toured MSF Sugar's Tableland Mill, where Manager Kirk Lang provided a briefing on the cogeneration plant presently under construction.

The Committee also inspected the Mareeba-Dimbulah irrigation scheme and was briefed on the Mount Emerald Wind Farm.

Electricity is a key driver of economic activity in the region and an important issue at farm level, especially in a low sugar price environment.

These briefings informed the Committee's meeting which dealt with a broad range of issues associated with the cost of electricity and irrigation water.

Tariff Trial

The agricultural electricity tariff trial - funded by the Queensland Government and implemented by Ergon Network and Ergon Retail, in a partnership with CANEGROWERS, QFF and Cotton Australian - is delivering results.

CANEGROWERS is working closely with Energy Queensland to develop electricity tariffs for longer term use in food and fibre production.

Global Sugar Price

The Committee also considered key market issues impacting growers' returns, particularly the subsidies to support sugar production and exports being paid by India and Pakistan.

CANEGROWERS is also examining the different marketing and pricing options available to growers and examining ways to distil and simplify the information available to members in making their marketing and pricing decisions. ■



Wesley Moller joins fight against yellow crazy ants

The Wet Tropics Management Authority has appointed a sugarcane industry engagement officer to assist cane growers to eradicate yellow crazy ants south of Cairns.

Wesley Moller (pictured) brings 30 years of cane industry experience to the Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program. He will provide a primary contact point for the cane industry to bolster ongoing eradication efforts.



Photo: Wet Tropics Images

Project manager, Lucy Karger, said the appointment would build on the Authority's recent work with industry, which includes training sessions, information sharing and drafting of machinery movement protocols for the infestation area.

"Wes will be a familiar face to many in the Mulgrave milling area. His local knowledge and industry expertise will provide a vital link in continuing our close working relationship with mill staff, farmers, contractors and farm workers," she said.

Forty percent of the total yellow crazy ant infestation area exists within sugarcane. In addition to posing a threat to the neighbouring Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, the pest farms whitefly and other sap sucking insects, which can reduce sugarcane crop yields.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority is able to assist with information and training on ant identification and reporting, as well as treatment advice and support. ■

Please contact Wesley Moller for more information.

Telephone: 0436 613 383

Email: wesley.moller@wtma.qld.gov.au

www.wettropics.gov.au/yellow-crazy-ants



INDUSTRIAL MANSLAUGHTER LAWS



Farm safety is an important consideration for everyone in the sugarcane industry and new laws around workplace fatalities mean the time is right to review your obligations.

Under changes introduced on 1 July 2018, a person conducting a business or undertaking must either comply with an approved code of practice under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act) or demonstrate that equal to or better measures are being taken.

The Queensland Parliament introduced industrial manslaughter provisions into the WHS Act, *Electrical Safety Act 2002* (ES Act) and *Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011* (SRWA Act) in October 2017.

A new offence has been created to capture a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU), or a senior officer, who is found to have negligently caused the death of a worker. A PCBU can include a sole trader, a partnership or a company.

THE OFFENCE APPLIES IF:

- a worker dies, or is injured and later dies, in the course of carrying out work for the business or undertaking (including during a work break), and
- the PCBU's, or senior officer's, conduct causes the death of the worker (i.e. the action or inaction of the PCBU, or senior officer, substantially contributes to the death), and
- the PCBU, or senior officer, is negligent about causing the death of the worker (i.e. the person's action or inaction is not up to the standard of care required).

A maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment for an individual or \$10 million for a body corporate applies.

A SENIOR OFFICER MAY INCLUDE YOU:

If you have an ability to take part in decisions which affect the business, including how money is spent, deciding the strategic direction, influencing how resources are used, or have oversight of workers, you may also be a senior officer.

WHAT IS THE STANDARD OF CARE REQUIRED?

The existing standard for criminal negligence in Queensland applies to the industrial manslaughter offences. This means that a PCBU or senior officer will be found negligent when their conduct departs from the standard of care expected to avoid danger to life, health and safety, and the conduct substantially contributed to the fatality. This may include any unwritten rules or conduct authorising non-compliance, or which undermines a culture or compliance within the workplace.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WorkerCover Queensland produces a wide range of resources to help employers meet their obligations under work, health and safety issues. It also produces a useful publication called *Serious About Farm Safety* which is available free of charge to download from the Worksafe QLD website or a hard copy can be provided upon request.

For further information or advice please do not hesitate to contact CANEGROWERS or Chris Cooper directly on free call 1800 177 159. ■



By Chris Cooper
CANEGROWERS legal adviser

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

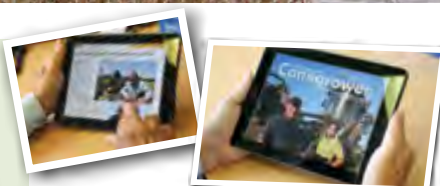
Next deadline is **23 July 2018**.

* 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.



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



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!!

CUMMINS QSL 8.9L Eng.

325 HP @ 1900 RPM. 750 Hrs.

NEW ! BILLET PLANTER 2500

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

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



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



Neil's Parts Australia

HIGH QUALITY TRACTOR PARTS

1800 463 457

AH 0417 662 137, 0408 735 148

www.neils.com.au

WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS AND PHOTOS?

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

Classifieds

Mossman-Tully

98 Cameco CHW2500 in very good condition, used for cutting plants and for Backup Machine. 1 set of McLeans 6 roller ¾ tracks with 24" plates, needs repairs. Mulgrave Area. Ph. 0407 183 680

4 Tonne Tipper, good spare for contract or billet planting, heavy duty homemade HBM copy tipper, lucky to have had hauled 100k of cane in its life. Silkwood area. \$6500 ono. Ph. 0407 144 637

Isuzu FVR Series Crane Truck, 1995 model 6 cyl. non turbo diesel 610klms, 3 seater with Rwc and 9months rego, 7 speed manual, 7m x 2.3m tray, 4.3 tonne hiab up close, \$30k inc gst ono. Ph. 0409 271 016

2005 JD 6620 7310 HRS Coupled to Austoft Trailhaul. 2008 MF 7465 4630 HRS Coupled to Austoft Trailhaul. Ph. 0407 162 514

Lockable Chemical Cabinet 1.65m x 850 x 1.6m - \$500. 10 x 25mm Spring Coil Tyne Tool Bar - \$400. All O.N.O and All Plus GST. Ph. 0419 988 158

John Deere 6630, 3,720hrs, 18.4.38 Rears, Quick hitch & Hyd. Third arm - \$79k. 3 Point Linkage Leveller - \$300. 10 x 25mm Spring Tyne Toolbar - \$400. ALL O.N.O Plus GST. Ph. 0419 988 158

Gessner 2 Row Sidedresser 1.5 Tonne, Confidor injection (both sides of each row), ground drive, canvas cover, modified for Tableland red soil conditions, VGC, works great, no longer needed. \$16,500 incl GST. Ph. 0414 604 974

Herbert River-Burdekin

International 786 100HP 3468 hrs gc \$7,500 + gst; 5-leg ripper with crumble roller \$2,800 + gst. L&R crop divider saws \$600. Ph. 0447 183 182

Mackay-Proserpine

MF6290 4WD tractor, 4335 hours, 135HP. 20x8x38 rear tyres & 16x9x28 front tyres. GPS ready (Trimble) just needs GPS screen. Very good condition, \$50,000. Ph. 0418 986 693

Parts available for Howard AR & AH Rotary Hoes from \$50 to \$500. Ph. 4959 5883 or 0407 643 441

AR 80" Howard Rotary Hoe fully reconditioned, new galvanised doors and gear box panel, good blades \$6600. Other fully reconditioned AR & AH Rotary hoes also available in different sizes. Ph. 4959 5883 or 0407 643 441

Howard Crumble Roller, 4m long (bolts together at centre), brand new still in crate, fits rear tool bar of Howard CH2365DT Rotary hoe, \$4,422 GST inc. Ph. 0428 236 165

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)

Toft 6000 harvester long chop Don/Moller billet planter and 3t tipper bin. \$27,000. All in shed. Other surplus machinery. Neg. Ph. 0417 393 142 or 0428 186 261

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Maschio Rotary Hoe G400 4m (160") new blades, depth wheels & crumble roller. Photos avail. \$16,500 (incl GST) Ph. 0417 798 005

John Deere 6430 Premium FWD Cab Suspension 1138 hours; Lely Tulip Multi Disc 3m as new; Howard 3 furrow square plow; Silvan 800l firefighting unit, 5hp Honda motor, 30m of 1" hose on reel, all on Galv. sled frame. P.O.A. Ph. 0427 115 364

2011 M135X Kubota fwd tractor. 135hp, one owner since new with only 2500hrs. Full led light set up and always shedded and serviced regularly. \$45,000 neg. Ph. Nick 0401 084 763

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

| Location | Recorded rainfall (mm) | | Average rainfall (mm) | |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------|-----------------------|------|
| | 7 days to 9am | | January–July | |
| | 02.07.18 | 09.07.18 | | |
| Mossman | 70 | 12 | 2102 | 1761 |
| Mareeba AP | 0.4 | 0 | 651 | 724 |
| Cairns | 56 | 1 | 1957 | 1628 |
| Mt Sophia | 100 | 3 | 3237 | 2655 |
| Babinda | 0 | 0 | 1667 | 3402 |
| Innisfail | 166 | 19 | 2868 | 2849 |
| Tully | 105 | 7 | 3171 | 3303 |
| Cardwell | 46 | 1 | 1592 | 1686 |
| Lucinda | 56 | 0 | 1433 | 1705 |
| Ingham | 50 | Tce | 1622 | 1591 |
| Abergowrie | 48 | 0.4 | 1681 | 1457 |
| Townsville | 14 | 0.6 | 753 | 882 |
| Ayr DPI | 2 | 1 | 574 | 727 |
| Proserpine | 9 | 4 | 816 | 1049 |
| Mirani | 5 | 0.2 | 614 | 1155 |
| Mackay | 6 | 0.8 | 661 | 1209 |
| Sarina (Plane Ck) | 0 | 0 | 773 | 1316 |
| Bundaberg | 5 | 8 | 443 | 652 |
| Childers South | 10 | 10 | 586 | 552 |
| Maryborough | 13 | 7 | 604 | 781 |
| Tewantin | 41 | 14 | 894 | 1217 |
| Eumundi | 33 | 23 | 965 | 1172 |
| Nambour | 51 | 24 | 805 | 1169 |
| Woongoolba | 21 | 16 | 640 | 906 |
| Murwillumbah | 17 | 26 | 527 | 1103 |
| Ballina | 23 | 36 | 988 | 1265 |
| Woodburn | 18 | 37 | 650 | 968 |



**AustSafe
Super**



The industry super
fund for rural and
regional Australia

Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent. These rainfall figures are subject to verification and may be updated later. Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the farming community can be accessed on www.bom.gov.au. Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.

Hydraulic 3-point linkage wire rope winder. Excellent for disposing of old irrigation ropes; Hodge stand up whole stalk cane planter with Suscon box; Oxy Acetylene kit, new hoses, bottle trolley, suit class G bottles; Toft loader on 4DM Nuffield Tractor, complete, great project, AIWI. P.O.A. Ph. 0427 115 364 Millar spray unit 5240 purchased mid-2016 to spray wattle but property now sold. 77hrs, 24m boom, 3 nozzles, auto grease, quick release, air blowout boom, garaged in shed at all times. \$360,000 + GST. Ph. 0407 155 524 or 0428 155 524

Fiat 411R H/C tractor on 42" tyres, Bonnell planter, 3-row stool splitter. Make an offer. Ph: 0428 180 492

New South Wales

Howard HR35-80" rotary hoe, Teflon lining, lift out rationing centre, excellent condition. Ph after 7pm. Ph. 02 6646 4375

Wanted

STL Shares. Ph. 0419 717 006

Spray unit, 600L minimum, prefer 800L+. Boom spray and/or Irvin spray or similar. Ph. 0419 788 376

Toft 6000 35-1 planetary hub or parts. Ph. 02 6646 0207

Property

Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls phone 07 4777 4633 or 0408 608 664

GLEN ISLA Cane Farms - Tightly Held Area. Approx* 334.82 acres in 8 FH titles with fertile alluvial soils. 2 equip irrig bores, mains & hydrants, 190ML allocation. Queenslander style home. Motivated Vendors looking to retire. Please ph. Gary Johns 0427 241 250

HOMEBUSH/OAKENDEN Cane Farm for sale in Mackay region. 100T/HA 5 year average 54HA property. Fully laser levelled farm with a large bore and underground water mains throughout. Block has 2 deeds 90 acre and 50 acre which can be sold separately. This years crop, Machinery shed with 3-phase power and water, tractor, irrigation winch, some implements and tail water pit pump all included in sale. Siding on boundary, great soil and no rocks. Ph. Andrew 0428 597 324

VICTORIA PLAINS Cane Farm 84ha - average 6000 tonne - Kinchant dam allocation and bore water. Irrigation equip, 2 sheds, machinery. Renovated 4-bedroom home. Genuine enquiries 0409 342 123

100ha VICTORIA PLAINS cane farm for sale, 318ml Kinchant dam allocation, this years crop, tractors, irrigation and implements included. 15x9m shed. For more information Ph. 0419 541 372

600 acres Cane & Cattle - SARINA, 9 Titles, 2 Large Houses, 2 Sheds, Near new Tractors & Implements, 20 mins City Gates, 5 mins Sarina. Ph. 0418 186 525

For sale cane farm PROSERPINE 199 hectares total 155 hectares under cane. 2018 crop 10,500 ton approx. 495megs of water. 2x hardhoses and half of the farm is flood irrigated. Farm comes with machinery. 3 houses on the farm, main house is fully airconditioned and has a large swimming pool. 0400 794 857

Tropical Paradise Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property, 96 acres 6km to PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable land, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. More Pics www.horsedeals.com.au/listings/tropical-horse-paradise-b46ffd33-0236-427b-9f3e-ddaad136bb28. Easy farm to maintain. Call 0408 880 724 Mandy

WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS
AND PHOTOS?

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



Register your interest in attending:
Canegrowers Mackay District Network

25th
anniversary celebrations

This special 'silver-themed' event
will be held on:
Saturday, November 24, 2018
@ Mackay

Register your interest and be updated on details as they
are confirmed...

Contacts:
Chairperson Ann Jansen | ajansen78@gmail.com | 0402 248 462
Or Secretary Jill Fox | jfoxfarm@outlook.com | 0404 469 899

Women in Agriculture

**CANEGROWERS
NETWORK**
Mackay District

Knowledge • Support • Confidence



Knowledge grows



Nutrient solutions for planting - regardless of the fertiliser applicator

Improve planting efficiency with high quality fertilisers from Yara Crop Nutrition this season.

- Yara Liquids FLOWPHOS 10 – true liquid
- YaraMila 17-5-10(4) – compound granule
- YaraVita BORTRAC & MOLYTRAC – liquid micronutrients



For more information visit www.yara.com.au or contact your local sales agronomist.