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Source: Assessment of potential benefits of EEFs in sugarcane cropping systems by Wejin Wang et al, Queensland Department of Environment and Science. Significant difference, P < 0.05.

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COVER IMAGE: CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman Mark Mammino is one of more than 140 growers who have completed the CANEGROWERS-TAFE Pricing Essential Course and are now confident in making pricing decisions. Read more on page 24.

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India "not considering subsidies" in 2022

Australia's World Trade Organisation action against India's market distorting sugar subsidies could be paying dividends with a senior Indian official saying his government was not considering any subsidies at the moment for 2022.

"Under current circumstances, as we see the scenario, there appears to be no need to have the support of the subsidy," **Sudhanshu Pandey**, the most senior civil servant at the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, told Reuters in a recent interview.

"The demand for Indian sugar is going to be higher, so (global) prices are expected to firm up. If exports can happen on their own, then it's also better for the global market that no subsidy is provided," he said.

Australia, Brazil and Guatemala made a formal complaint to the WTO in February 2019 about the harm caused by Indian subsidies. The WTO panel's report is expected to be handed down in coming months.

A recent analysis by Green Pool Commodity Specialists, commissioned by the Australian Sugar Milling Council, found that Indian Government's regulation of sugarcane prices was causing large production surpluses and India's subsidised exports had contributed to substantially lower global sugar prices.

The report concluded that Queensland cane growers and sugar millers have been losing almost \$5 million every week since 2017. ■

Milling Council appoints new CEO

The Australian Sugar Milling Council has appointed a new CEO following the departure of **David Pietsch** in August.

Rachele Sheard brings a wealth of experience to the position including more than 15 years at Royal Dutch Shell, most recently in the role of External and Government Relations Manager.

CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** welcomed Ms Sheard to the industry during a meeting in Brisbane last month.

"Rachele has a come to the sugar industry at a challenging time, but also an exciting time," Mr Galligan said.

"**CANEGROWERS**, **ASMC** and **SRA** have been leading the development of a new 2030 vision for the industry and through the course of the rest of this year the entire industry will be brought into this work.

"It will be crucial that we continue to work collaboratively to provide opportunities for growers and millers and I look forward to working together on a range of important issues, including the industry roadmap to deliver on our new vision with other industry stakeholder organisations." ■

NASA sets sights on cane fires

Best known for studying the depths of space in its ceaseless search for knowledge, US space agency NASA is turning its attention to planet earth - and more specifically the US sugar industry - as it seeks to understand the impact of cane fires on air quality.

The agency has invested quarter of a million dollars into a research project investigating the impact of cane fires on public health in Florida's Glades region.

The project, which will be led by Colorado State University Professor **Sheryl Magzamen**, will use satellites to track smoke from cane fires and air quality sensors to measure its impact.

"What NASA has been great at is using this technology to help improve health of communities on the ground," Magzamen said. ■





Plan B - High hopes for low-tech solution

Maryborough growers are hoping a newly constructed second cane transfer site at Isis Central Sugar Mill will be the key to getting their season back on track, after a multi-million dollar transloader facility at Childers failed to live up to early expectations.

The original transloader, built specifically to transfer Maryborough cane from truck to rail for delivery to the mill, will still handle the bulk of supply, with growers hoping it can continue to process at its current rate of around 3,000 tonnes per day. The remainder, about 1,500 tonnes, will be handled at the new, lower-tech transfer site at Isis mill.

"The new loading site at the mill will basically see cane brought in by truck and tipped onto a concrete pad. From there it will be scooped up and loaded into bins for transfer into the factory," CANEGROWERS Maryborough manager Cameron Waterson said.

"It's not perfect, but it will allow us to get the crop off and crushed and finish the season on schedule - weather and breakdowns permitting. We can then look at addressing the issues with the transloader and hopefully have it fully operational for next season."

While the automated transloader worked well during limited preseason trials, when the season started it quickly became apparent that the mechanism was struggling to handle real world conditions with the harvested cane, leading to long delays and excessive haulage costs as trucks backed up waiting to be unloaded. ■

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Funding boost for pig management

The Federal Government has announced almost \$1 million in funding for two Queensland projects to improve management of navua sedge and feral pigs.

The funding, which is part of government's \$30 million Established Pest Animals and Weeds Management Pipeline Program, will be used for research into control options for navua sedge and to improve the capacity for effective management of feral pigs in northern Australia.

"One project aims to develop best practice protocols to manage navua sedge, a vigorous weed that grows in south-east Queensland and the tropics," Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, **David Littleproud** said.

"The project will evaluate the efficacy of herbicide control and investigate biological control options.

"The second project will support coordination of feral pig management in key areas of Queensland, using demonstration sites to test monitoring and control strategies based on research into feral pig behaviour.

"By validating feral pig monitoring, control tools and strategies, we are making sure farmers and land managers are getting the best bang-for-buck for their efforts in managing these destructive pests.

Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities **Mark Furner** said the funding will help manage two major pests.

"Agriculture is an essential industry and a vital part of Queensland's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan, and controlling pests supports our farmers to be their best," Mr Furner said.

"Feral pigs are a serious agricultural pest that damage crops, threaten livestock, and degrade Queensland's natural environment," Mr Furner said. ■

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No end in sight to high fertiliser prices

Input costs look set to remain high in 2022, with no relief in sight from high fertiliser or glyphosate prices, according to Rabobank's August Agribusiness report.

"We don't expect any major relief on the price or supply fronts ahead of next season," Rabobank Senior Agricultural Analyst **Wes Lefroy** said.

"With this in mind, we consider now a good time commence discussion with input suppliers ahead of 2022."

Global urea prices increased between 60% and 70% in 2021, while and phosphorus prices rose by 55% to 75%, the report says.

"The 2021 winter season has been characterised by high prices and tight supply, which has prompted farmers to secure supply of their inputs early," Mr Lefroy said.


"Meanwhile, ocean freight prices have added as much as 10% to the farmgate cost.

"Shipping times have also blown out, adding delays and uncertainty."

Rabobank expects the ongoing high prices will not be limited to fertilisers.

"Chinese glyphosate prices have also nearly doubled this year, primarily due to high demand, and, to a lesser extent, increasing costs of production," Mr Lefroy said.

"We expect that prices will remain high due to ongoing demand and no signs of relief on the costs of production.■




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CELEBRATING REAL CLIMATE ACTION BY AUSSIE FARMERS

Queensland cane growers have stepped up to participate in a new national campaign highlighting the massive role agriculture plays in helping the nation address climate change and meet emission reduction targets. The campaign uses the hashtag #RealClimateAction on social media.

The National Farmers Federation's (NFF) Real Climate Action campaign tells the stories of Australians who have made significant changes on-farm to reduce their carbon footprint and farm more sustainably.

The campaign features a number of TV and online promotional videos highlighting the changes undertaken by a group of growers. These include a dairy farmer from Moe VIC, a cattle producer from Ebor NSW and a grain grower from Marrar NSW.

The NFF also put a call out to farmers across the country, asking them to make their own videos documenting their efforts to reduce the environmental impact of their farming systems.

It's a call that was answered by Burdekin grower **Phil Marano** and Cairns grower **Len Parisi**.

Both have submitted videos explaining the impressive actions they've taken to ensure they are farming sustainably.

These video are now available to view on the NFF website.



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The campaign comes on the back of research commissioned by the NFF that measured community sentiment towards agriculture, climate change and sustainability.

Of those surveyed, just 21% of Australians strongly believed farmers were committed to improving their environmental performance and adapting to a warmer, drier climate; while 44% somewhat agreed and 17% were neutral.

NFF Chief Executive, **Tony Mahar** said the survey results indicated the community recognised farmers were on the frontline of the climate solution and wanted to learn more about what action farmers were taking.

"Through Australian Farms – Where REAL climate action happens we're telling the stories of our farmers, who take seriously their responsibility as environmental stewards of 51% of the Australian landscape.

"The good news is through research, innovation and on-farm management, farmers are world leaders in carbon abatement. In fact, agriculture is one large carbon cycle: generating emissions but also taking a significant amount of carbon from the atmosphere.

"Now mainstream practices such as rotational grazing; zero soil disruption when planting a crop and the conversion of livestock effluent to renewable energy have seen Australian agriculture reduce its direct greenhouse gas emissions by 65% between 2004-05 and 2016-17.

"Farmers are on a journey and there is more work to do. Through new science and technologies, like feed additives that drastically reduce livestock emissions, agriculture is poised to continue being part of the climate solution."

"Australian farmers not only produce the world's highest quality meat, wool, cotton, grain, dairy, timber and more, but they are also a vital part of the climate change solution.

"By hearing the overwhelmingly positive stories of our farmers, we want Aussies to continue to enjoy the Australian-grown food and fibres they love with the peace of mind and the confidence that farmers are part of the climate change solution."

CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** thanked the cane growers who have so far participated in the project.

"I would sincerely like to thank the growers in our industry who have been involved. It is your willingness to participate and share your stories that gives us the impetus to drive this industry forward," he said.

To find out more about the #RealClimateAction campaign or submit your own video visit www.farmers.org.au.

Phil's Story

Phil Marano installed two 30kW solar systems on his Burdekin cane farm with the dual goals of cutting electricity costs for his irrigation pumps and reducing the farm's carbon footprint.



"I believe it's important that we all do as much as we can to cut pollution and look after the planet," he said in his #RealClimateAction video.

"Pollution is probably one of the biggest concerns all of us have at the moment.

"People that work on the land understand how important the environment is.

"And it's not just carbon emissions that have the potential to do damage into the future ... all sorts of pollution can have a detrimental effect.

"That's why I'm also part of a small group of growers in the Burdekin that is currently investigating ways to gain more value from our crop by using sugarcane to produce renewal energies and the biofuels of the future."

Len's Story

In 2019, Cairns grower Len Parisi won the Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability award for work he had undertaken on farm



"Five or six years ago I realised that if we were going to continue farming we'd have to be very sustainable in the future," he says.

"I engaged with Landcare and Greening Australia and as a result we donated seven hectares of wetlands to do environmental work.

"We built a sediment pond that takes a lot of water off the farm before it starts its journey down through the trees, of which we've planted about 10,000, before entering a couple of lagoons. On the way down it gets filtered by natural reeds and sedges, taking out a lot of nutrients before it enters the catchment.

"This has been very satisfactory work for us, knowing that we're doing something for the environment."

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¹ AUSTRALIAN SUGARCANE NUTRITION MANUAL June 2019 Chapter 21 : Silicon (Si) 91

² Results may vary based on various climatic and soil conditions Trial work completed by Dr Graham Kingston's from 2014 to 2016 Bundaberg QLD



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CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

REAL STORIES BY REAL PEOPLE

The absolute bedrock of the CANEGROWERS philosophy is that we are an organisation that speaks from the perspective of farmers.

But more than that - we encourage growers, who are the heartbeat of our organisation, to step forward and be the voice of the industry.

This is more than just an aspiration; it is a core belief that we put into action every day. When we meet with politicians, present to parliamentary committees, or do media interviews, we call on growers to tell their story.

The organisation supports, guides and supplements these stories, highlighting the rich and diverse approaches growers take and the innovations they develop and adopt as they grow their businesses, support regional communities, and boost the Queensland economy.

It is a similar approach to that being taken by the National Farmers' Federation in a new campaign to promote and celebrate sustainability in farming.

CANEGROWERS is a proud foundation member of the NFF, which has taken a leading role in many high profile and sometimes polarising policy issues. Their leadership is crucial.

The NFF represents a 'broad church', bringing together representative organisations that focus on the needs of a specific supply chain, such as CANEGROWERS, and state farming organisations such as NSW Farmers and AgForce, which deal with more generalised policy issues across a myriad of rural and regional sectors.

The NFF's new digital campaign uses clever technologies to inform targeted audiences about the work being undertaken on farms across Australia to address climate change.

As we do at CANEGROWERS, they are using the strength of their membership to tell this story. Farmers from across the country, including our own cane growers, have shared videos online describing how they are responding to climate change.

There is no disputing that the science of climate change is complex, and for many it is the topic of much debate.

There is also no denying that strong government leadership is needed to resolve the pathway forward for Australia to deal with the risks of a changing climate.

As farmers, our industry and our communities are not new to this challenge, and in many respects we are at the coalface of climate change.

The very future of our industry is at stake, so we have an important voice that needs to be shared.

Growing cane in some of the most variable, risky climate landscapes in the country is entirely sustainable.

Unlike many production systems, growing cane can adapt to a changing climate and with our supreme capacity for energy production, we can be part of an energy transition for Australia.

We literally reside on both the impacted and mitigating side of the ledger on climate policy. A lack of clarity on that policy will only leave us exposed to the downside risks and none of the upside opportunities.

If you want to know more and, even better, if you want to be involved in the NFF #realclimateaction campaign, visit www.farmers.org.au/realclimateaction/.

I would sincerely like to thank the growers in our industry who have been involved. It is your willingness to participate and share your stories that gives us the impetus to drive this industry forward. ■





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Sugarcane innovation takes fungi twist

From biofuels to footwear, disposable cutlery to cattle feed, the diversity of products being produced from sugarcane is already mind-boggling.

But the innovative ideas for capturing more value from cane keep on coming, with New South Wales miller Sunshine Sugar unveiling its latest creation last month.

Mushrooms!!!!

In a partnership with biotech company Sustinent, Mushroom Grow Bags using sugarcane biomass are being developed as a commercial product at the Harwood Sugar Mill.

"With gourmet mushrooms in demand across the world for their flavour, versatility and health benefits, we see this project as a great fit for our diversification program," Sunshine Sugar CEO Chris Connors said.

"By teaming up with the experts at Sustinent, we will be producing a world-class product by the end of the year."

Long recognised for its benefits as a garden mulch, sugarcane trash is rich in carbon and energy, making it an excellent, low-cost growth medium for mushrooms.

"Much of this residual biomass in NSW is currently used for energy generation, but it is also a rich source of material for the production of fuels, chemicals and other value-added products," Mr Connors said.

This is the first phase of a project aimed at utilising cane trash for a diversified product range including nutritionally enhanced feedstock and packaging.

"Our team of scientific, industry and manufacturing experts has successfully cultivated edible gourmet mushrooms such as oyster and shiitake already, as well as medicinal mushrooms like reshi

and turkey tail," Sustinent Founder and CEO Peter Tomich said.

The richness of the sugarcane biomass allows for multiple flushes of mushrooms to be harvested before the substrate is then recycled as livestock feed or a rich compost, thus creating a sustainable, circular economy.

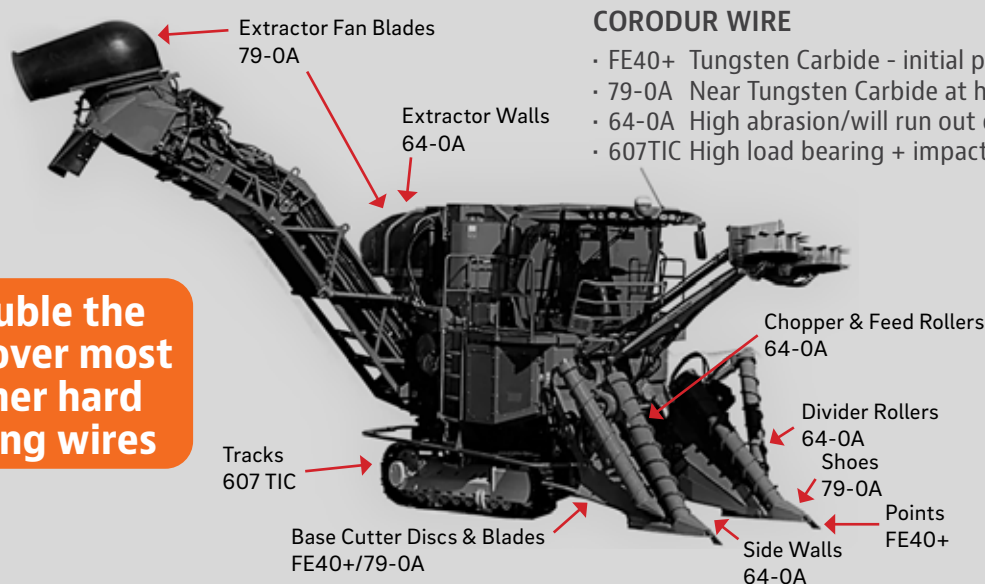
Ready-to-fruit gourmet Oyster Mushroom Grow Bags are expected to start flying off the production line by the end of 2021. ■



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FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

PRICE LIFT BUOYS INDUSTRY

Strong world sugar prices are injecting much needed confidence and optimism into the Australian sugar industry. Recently, the world sugar prompt price hit 20c/lb US – a price that just six months ago seemed unthinkable.

News of the severe impact that drought and frost is having in Brazil has some commentators suggesting the Brazilian crop could be down by as much as 100 million tonnes of cane.

Weather impacts are not just confined to Brazil. It has been reported that weather events in North America, Europe, and Asia have impacted on global sugar production.

Coupled with this is the new factor of a world grappling with food security in the COVID era.

The current demand for raw materials, minerals, and food is something unseen for a very long time.

There is a veritable perfect storm of factors that is finally breaking our way.

Of course, a burst of strong prices will not make all of our problems disappear, but at least it is a strong foundation to help stabilise the industry.

Australian cane growers are in an enviable position right now, as some of the only sugar producers in the world with the ability to forward price and lock in these highs.

For we know, as sure as night follows day, sugar prices will eventually fall.

So it's important to harvest these high prices while they last.

There is sometimes a mistaken view that forward pricing should capture only price highs.

But every grower has a different risk profile.

For some growers, price certainty is more important than holding off and gambling on a price peak that may not come.

The level of understanding and diversity of pricing options has increased significantly over the past five years.

Whilst many growers undertake their own pricing, some are content with the centrally managed pools that operate in some mill regions.

That form of price risk management, where a mill will lock in pricing for growers, is one that many growers are comfortable with.

As a grower, I have been amazed and impressed at how cane farmers have grown in confidence when it comes to managing their price risks.

A grower recently said to me that at 10am each day he receives a text message updating him on the market situation and then, with his phone marketing app, he places pricing orders.

We certainly have come a long way from a single average sugar price.

I am proud that CANEGROWERS has contributed to that journey - securing grower choice and backing it up with education and information.

With sugar prices playing their part in improving the industry outlook, the question now is will the weather hold out?

As I write this column, around 40% of the crop has been crushed.

Weather has been problematic in some regions, particularly in the far north where rain has hampered harvesting and planting operations and frustrated growers.

Climate reports are pointing to a wet and warm Spring, with above average rainfall. How that plays out will be the key to success of this year's harvest.

Stronger prices, albeit welcome, are of little value without cane crushed and sugar produced.

Let's hope that the weather gives us a fair go at harvesting the remainder of the 2021 crop. ■



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HAD IT WITH HOONS

Cane growers in the Rocky Point District are calling on their local council and police to take action against hooning in their area, saying it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or killed.

BY WAYNE GRIFFIN

Nestled between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, this quiet rural community has become a hotspot for hooning activities in recent years. Mass gatherings of drivers and spectators, organised through social media, have become an almost weekly occurrence and locals have had enough.

The absence of any significant police presence makes it a prime location for hoons, who can rev and race and do their 'circle work' on public roads without fear of arrest, locals say.

"There could be 100 cars out there on any given weekend, racing around, doing burnouts, it's crazy. And the cops can't seem to do anything about it. It's pathetic really," CANEGROWERS Rocky Point Chairman **Greg Zipf** said.

"It can be very dangerous. There are people just walking all over the road and you'll have cars doing burnouts and donuts."

Greg lives a few hundred metres from one of the hoons' favourite intersections, said locals use alternate routes when one of these gatherings is in full swing or, if they can't avoid the spot, are forced to navigate cars being driven erratically.

"It can be very dangerous. There are people just walking all over the road, and you'll have cars doing burnouts and donuts. You just have to go through at crawling speed, and sometimes you can't even do that, because you can't see the car in the middle when they get it really smoked up. You just have to wait until they decide to stop circling round and round and let you pass," Greg said.

Even when locals are not out on the roads, hoons are still a major nuisance, with screeching tyres and roaring engines cutting through the normally serene countryside.

"It's very frustrating, because we can't do anything to stop this activity. If we tried we'd probably end up the ones in trouble."

Pictured: (Opposite) The road markings are almost entirely obscured by tyre marks at one of the hoons' favourite intersections at Rocky Point; (below) CANEGROWERS Rocky Point Chairman Greg Zipf regularly has to clean up discarded tyres and wheel rims from his headlands after a hooning event.

"I live a few kilometres from the areas where these events happen, but even I can hear the cars screaming around at night," CANEGROWERS Rocky Point office manager Kate Armitage said.

The problems don't end when the engines eventually fade into the distance. Instead, growers are left cleaning up burnt out tyres, buckled wheel rims, empty alcohol containers and other waste strewn across their headlands.

"The council won't come and clean it up because they consider it to be on private land and therefore it's the landholder's responsibility," Greg said.

"They also bugger up your headland, spinning around on it, especially if it's a bit wet, and they go onto the loading pads as well and rip those up doing donuts on the gravel.

"It's very frustrating, because we can't do anything to stop this activity. If we tried, we'd probably end up the ones in trouble. We put up with it week after week and then we have to clean up the mess after these people leave."

On the day *Australian Canegrower* visited Greg's farm he found eight burnt out tyres and two rims scattered across one 50 metre stretch of headland from the previous weekend's gathering.

"I'll have to dispose of all of these, but there'll just be more next week," he said.

"We'll also have to walk through the cane right along the headland here before we harvest, because sometimes they'll roll tyres or rims into the cane. If you run over that with a harvester it will cause a lot of damage."

Considering the size of these events, locals are questioning why police are unable to catch the perpetrators in the act and make arrests.

Some have questioned whether police might be turning a blind eye to the problem in Rocky Point in an effort to keep hoons out of the suburbs of Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

It's a suggestion that Gold Coast Acting Chief Superintendent Rhys Wildman flatly rejects.

"Gold Coast police will not and do not tolerate dangerous driving and anti-social behaviour often associated with hooning events and have coordinated several large-scale operations tackling this behaviour in recent months," Chief Superintendent Wildman said.

"Police implement both proactive and reactive intelligence-driven strategies targeting known hooning areas and

Continues next page ►



mass gathering events, including those occurring in Rocky Point

"Rocky Point is included in taskings, patrol and enforcement for the Gold District's on-going hoon operation Tango Vinyl.

"Since March 2021, Operation Tango Vinyl has resulted in 107 people arrested on 146 charges, 12 of which were arrests for dangerous driving, 24 vehicles have been seized and over 400 tickets issued."

However, it is unclear how many, if any, of these arrests, seizures and fines were made in the Rocky Point area.

Greg also thinks it's unlikely police are turning a blind eye to hooning, believing the problem is probably one of resourcing.

"It's so widespread they're probably struggling to keep up. There is only one small police beat locally, so they don't really have the manpower here to deal with it effectively.

"Having said that, something needs to be done before someone gets seriously hurt or worse," Greg said.

CANEGROWERS Rocky Point wrote to local State MP **Michael Crandon** requesting immediate action, including the installation of CCTV cameras at the worst affected sites.

"We even suggested that they put up dummy cameras, just to act as a deterrent, if it was too expensive to get a proper CCTV system in place.

"We also suggested establishing a hotline to police that we could contact as soon as one of these events kicked off," Greg said.

"But the response we received was pretty unhelpful, to be honest.

"It was mostly just a generic letter about overall road safety measures the government has in place and didn't do anything at all to address the problems we're having."

Greg knows that cameras work.

Hooning activities dropped off significantly in 2019, when the Gold Coast City Council installed a mobile CCTV camera at one of the district's hotspots.

"When the camera was there the hooning basically stopped — they just went somewhere else. Unfortunately, it was only there for a short time and as soon as it was moved, they were back," he said.

Local Councillor, **Mark Hammel**, who hails from a cane-farming family in the area said the issue was well known to council, who were working with police to tackle hooning.

"I am very familiar with the issue of hooning, illegal dumping and littering in Rocky Point and surrounding areas," Cr Hammel said,

"I want to assure the local community council is not ignoring this issue. Myself and council take these matters extremely seriously."

Cr Hammel said he will advocate on behalf of the community to have a new



mobile camera located in the area to deter and assist in apprehending hoons.

"The city is commencing a trial of a dedicated mobile CCTV trailer for the purposes of detecting and recording evidence of hooning offences in support of police operations and investigations.

"I would be fully supportive of this device being considered at known hooning hotspots in the Rocky Point cane district."

On the issue of illegal dumping Cr Hammel said the council regularly undertook operations to clean up materials dumped by hoons on public land but acknowledged they would not clean up waste dumped on privately

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owned headlands, even where they run adjacent to public roads.

"Council unfortunately has no jurisdiction and is unable to clean up illegal dumping and littering on private land, as this is the responsibility of landowners."

The hoons don't always restrict their activities to the road, sometimes going onto farmland to do 'donuts', ripping up the ground in the process.

They can be quite brazen when challenged, as local grower **Lindsay Mischke** discovered when he approached a group of youths tearing around his property.

"They were on one of our loading pads just going around and around, tearing up the gravel and leaving big gouges," Lindsay said.

"I drove up to them in the tractor and asked them what they were doing, and the guy said to me, 'We're just doing a bit of circle work,' as calm as you like.

"I told them I'd have to spend money fixing up the damage they were doing, and they just said, sorry mate and drove off."

Lindsay is no stranger to finding people on his property that have no business being there.

He is one of the growing number of landholders who regularly find confused drivers traversing private farm tracks and headlands, following what they incorrectly believe to be public roads on the Google Maps app.

It's a dangerous situation that could have tragic consequences, especially at this time of year, with cane harvesters and haulouts driving between paddocks, often emerging from blind corners.

"We were cutting on a block one day and this guy came tearing down this track between the paddocks, he must have been doing at least 80," Greg said.

"If a haulout had come around one of those blind corners at the wrong time it would have cleaned him up, because he had no idea we were there."

On the day *Australian Canegrower* visited Lindsay's farm, two council contractors who had been cutting the road verge decided to take a short cut through his farm to reach their next job.

When approached, the workers seemed oblivious to the fact they were driving through private property.

"If you look at it on Google Maps, the farm track just looks like the continuation of a road but that road is actually a dead-end," Lindsay said.

"People see it and think they can just drive straight through. Then the next thing they know they're on a narrow dirt track with 10-foot cane on either side of them and they don't know where they are.

"That's bad enough during the day, but if it happens at night, it can be quite scary for people who aren't from the area or used to cane.

"I had one young lady who came through looking for the prawn farm down the road. She was following Google Maps and ended up in the middle of the farm with two young kids in the car. She was a bit shaken.

"It doesn't seem to matter if there's a 'no through road' or 'private property' sign up, or even if the road clearly ends and becomes a narrow dirt track — if they can see it on their phone, then they think it's fine to drive on."

Like others, Lindsay has contacted Google about the issue, but so far, he has been unable to have it resolved.

CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor **Chris Cooper** said it was a very concerning situation for growers.

"The risk of an accident involving these misguided travellers is difficult to manage with day-to-day farming activities," he said.

"Growers could potentially find themselves on the wrong end of a law suit for damages and personal injury, even though they have done nothing wrong.

"CANEGROWERS will support grower members in responding to and defending any claims against them and will do what it can to ensure Google and any other responsible party is held accountable." ■

Pictured: A growing number of drivers are finding themselves on private farm tracks while following Google Maps. It's a mistake that could prove fatal, especially during harvest.

QSL MARKET UPDATE

Current as of 25 August 2021.

Sugar



- Raw sugar prices spent the majority of August rallying higher as the ever-deteriorating Centre South (CS) Brazil crop whipped the market into a bullish frenzy. The October 2021 ICE 11 contract traded from its monthly low of 17.74 USc/lb up to its high of 20.37 USc/lb, breaking the 20 USc/lb level for the first time since February 2017.
- The latest UNICA (Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association) report for the first half of August showed the CS Brazil harvest tracking mostly as expected, with both cane and sugar down approximately 7% year on year. Market consensus for the size of the CS Brazil crop is approximately 31-33 million tonnes of sugar, which has been downgraded after damage was caused by early drought and three consecutive frosts.
- The Indian Food Ministry recently published a letter encouraging millers to take advantage of the rallying ICE 11 market and to lock in prices for next season's exports, hinting that a subsidy may not be available for the 2021/2022 Season.
- Closely watching:** Brazilian harvest statistics from UNICA, Indian export subsidy news, macroeconomic influences including COVID-19 and speculator activity.

Currency



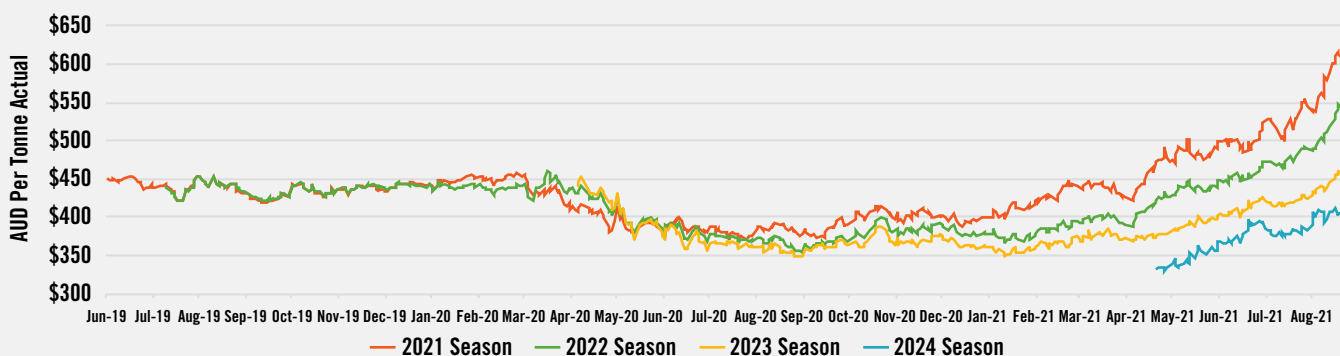
- After breaking lower from its 75-78 US cent range in July, the Australian dollar stabilised at the 72 cent level trading in a narrow range for the first three weeks of the month, before once again breaking lower as risk sentiment collapsed following outbreaks of the Delta strain of COVID-19. The AUD traded from its high of 74.27 US cents early in the month, down to its low of 71.06 US cents on 20 August.
- China reportedly shut down the world's third-busiest container ship port after a positive case of COVID-19 was discovered. The terminal, which accounts for around a quarter of China's container cargo business, was forced to close as China enforces its zero-tolerance policy to COVID-19 cases.
- The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) met in early August and, despite extended lockdowns in Sydney and a sixth lockdown in Victoria, remained optimistic towards Australia's economic recovery. Markets were surprised when the RBA stuck to its plan of tapering its quantitative easing purchases from \$5 billion per week to \$4 billion per week starting in early September.
- Surprisingly for markets, US Consumer Sentiment fell 13.5% in August to pre-pandemic levels. COVID-19 Delta variant concerns are quoted to be the main driver for the seventh largest monthly drop in the history of the survey.
- Risks Ahead:** US inflation and interest rates, the Delta variant of COVID-19 and worldwide hospitalisations, RBA commentary.

KEY INDICATORS

	25/08/2021	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (Oct21)	19.58 USc/lb	+1.41 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.25 BRL	+0.05 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US71.05/barrel	-\$US3.05
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	17.6 USc/lb	+0.86 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	257,000 (net long)	+59,000

	25/08/2021	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.7258	-\$US0.0117
\$US Index	92.89	-0.02
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.47 CNY	-0.01 CNY
S+P 500 Index	4,486.23	+74.44
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.10%	0.00%

RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 25.08.21, based on a 1:2:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 Seasons.

Disclaimer: This report contains information of a general or summary nature and is based on information available to QSL from many sources. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial or investment advice. You should seek your own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms, which are contained on QSL's website. Nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters or that a particular outcome will be achieved. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance. The information in the report is current as at the time of publication and is subject to change, as the information is based on many assumptions and is subject to uncertainties inherent in any market. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this report.

QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

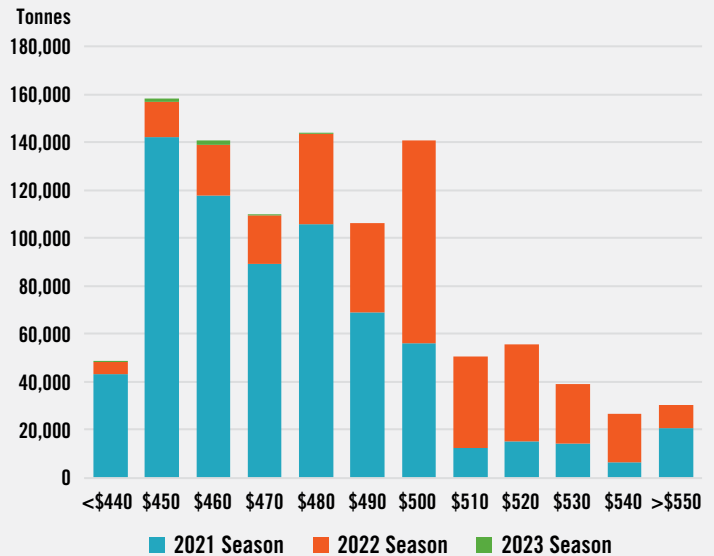
Grower Pricing



- > The highest 2021 Season Target Price Contract order achieved has been \$610/tonne* actual (gross).
- > As the forward sugar curve begins to normalise, 2022 Season prices have started to rally with the highest 2022 Target Price Contract order achieved being \$545/tonne* actual (gross).
- > Growers using the 2021-Season Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest Contract are reminded they have until **15 September 2021** to price or roll any nominated tonnage in the October 2021 contract (costs may apply). Contact your local QSL team for more details or to activate your roll option.
- > Growers in the 2021-Season Target Price Contract are reminded that they have until **21 September 2021** to price their nominated tonnage before their pricing window is automatically extended and roll adjustments apply.
- > The current bullish sentiment has seen increasing numbers of growers scaling their pricing orders between \$500 and \$600 for the remainder of this season and for 2022. By placing multiple small-volume orders at escalating levels, these growers seek to improve their average season return by participating in the market as it rises, rather than taking on the price risk associated with placing a single large order beyond current market levels.

* at time of writing.

QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2021, 2022 & 2023 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 25.08.21 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

The AUD/mt equation

For Australian sugarcane growers to achieve a high Australian dollar per metric tonne result, two key ingredients are required - high raw sugar prices and a low Australian dollar. Together these two factors play a significant role in the pricing that growers achieve through grower-managed pricing options like QSL's Target Price Contract or Individual Futures Contract.



High Sugar Price

The current rallying raw sugar prices in the 2021 and 2022 Seasons have largely been attributed to the reduction in estimate from the current Brazilian crop.

This has caused the October 2021 ICE contract to climb as high as 20.37 USc/lb in August.

Low Currency

With high inflation, central banks are considering increasing interest rates. The COVID-19 Delta strain is also being held responsible for causing delays in economic recoveries globally.

This has caused the Aussie dollar to hit a new recent low of 71 US cents.

High Australian dollar per metric tonne

As a result of the current high raw sugar prices and lower Aussie dollar, growers are achieving favourable returns for both the 2021 and 2022 Seasons.

Since 1 July 2021, the following AUD/mt prices have been seen:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2021 Season: | 2022 Season: |
| > High: \$614.93 | > High: \$546.85 |
| > Low: \$500.15 | > Low: \$463.94 |



Habitual hitchhikers

The yellow crazy ant (YCA) is listed as one of the top 100 worst invasive species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Global Invasive Species Database.

It's also a category three restricted pest under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. As such, all citizens have a general biosecurity obligation to minimise the risk of further infestation.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority is managing a 10-year program aimed at eradicating YCA infestations, working alongside the local community.

They have engaged locals like **David Veronese**, a fourth-generation cane grower and harvesting contractor from the Cairns region, and **Matt Hession**, from MSF Sugar's Mulgrave Mill, to be frontline soldiers in the war against these trespassers.

In the Cairns region, there are infestations in Gordonvale, Edmonton, Bentley Park, Bayview Heights, and Russett Park (Kuranda) in a variety of habitats including residential areas, sugarcane fields and rainforest.

The ants are a serious problem in sugarcane because of their strong symbiosis with honeydew and nectar producing insects such as aphids and scales. They actively protect these insects from predatory beetles in return for the sweet sugary substances they produce (of which any residue transforms into mould that smothers foliage).

YCA primarily rely on human activities to spread rapidly. They are habitual hitchhikers.

It's believed they originally made their way to Australia on container ships. These insects assume their dominance by creating supercolonies with interconnected nests and several queens, significantly outnumbering other species and controlling food and nesting resources.

Their omnivorous diet ranges from seeds and fruit to invertebrates (worms, grubs, insects, spiders) and even small vertebrates including frogs, nesting birds, lizards and juvenile mammals when they attack in unison.

YCA are formicine ants, which means that they don't sting, but instead spray formic acid from a small pore at the tip of their abdomen as a defense and attack mechanism. Animals that are sprayed with formic acid may be killed outright or may die later as a result of blinding, injury or reduced movement.

"They completely destroy everything, there's nothing left, not a goanna, not a frog in the bushlands, nothing" said David Veronese, who has seen firsthand the destruction that these pests inflict.

"Even the feral pigs didn't hang around when the ants were here. When they stuck their snouts in the ground, scratching around, they'd pull it out covered in ants."

"If you suspect YCA then get it checked out and get onto it early, don't wait until you start noticing cane being impacted..."

Pictured above: Yellow Crazy Ants have a symbiotic relationship with aphids. Photo credit - Alan Henderson; (below) Cairns grower and contract harvester David Veronese knows how important it is to reduce the opportunities for these hitchhikers; (opposite) Matt Hession believes in a vigilant hands-on approach in the fight to eradicate YCA.



"They're everywhere, you can't even sit on the grass with the kids in case they get on you."

Movement of soil, machinery, equipment and materials from farm to farm are all regular agricultural activities and all contribute to the insects' ability to move from place to place.

The team at the Wet Tropics Management Authority manages the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program (YCAEP), providing valuable data tracing for the local community as well as suppressing active YCA colonies.

Maps are used to highlight the whereabouts of ants on properties, using a simple traffic light system - red is where known nests are located, amber is the danger zone of potential ants or close to other known locations, and green represents the clean areas. This method has been developed to assist with mitigating the risks of transporting the ants from farm to farm.

Through approval from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, the YCAEP is permitted to use Antoff to treat YCA colonies within the infestation area.

Forested and agricultural areas are treated by helicopter, with residential and riparian areas treated by hand by field staff to reduce the risk of the treatment entering waterways or environmentally sensitive areas.

"The Mulgrave Mill has been working closely with the YCA program from the very start," Matt Hession, Cane Supply Field Officer at MSF Sugar said.

"Thanks to early efforts of Frank Teodo and Lucy Karger to highlight the significant threat that the ants posed



and seeing firsthand the real damage that they could cause to cane and to the arthropod diversity of the soil, it was very clear to the company and growers that these ants posed a productivity impact.

"The resources of people on the ground, surveying, baiting, resurveying and grower engagement in the affected areas has been a real credit to the success of continually suppressing the area with active ants. The program has a terrific Geographical Information System team that allows their field team to follow harvesters throughout the season out of infested areas into uninfested areas to catch any inadvertent spread.

"It continues to be unfinished work though, and with the amount of effort already dedicated to the eradication, the mill and growers in the area look forward to working and supporting the tireless efforts of the program to achieve their shared goal of ant eradication."

Meanwhile, contractors and growers like David continue to diligently clean machinery especially when moving from farm to farm.

"You need to go to the next level and take the time, sometimes that means an extra hour or so you have to add to your day.

"But even when you're under the pump, it's important, so you make it part of the daily routine, we make a conscious effort to prevent the spread.

"I want to beat them, everyone has a part to play up here, to do the right thing."

Lessons that Matt would pass on to other areas where the ants are already in close proximity to cane land is to be vigilant.

"If you suspect YCA then get it checked out and get onto it early," he said.

"Don't wait until you start noticing cane being impacted by large numbers of ants because by then, machinery has probably spread them to a number of new areas making control harder."

The YCAEP and the other frontline warriors in the community continue to monitor these invasive insects, working towards achieving the end goal in this war, total eradication of YCA. ■

REPORT YELLOW CRAZY ANTS

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Essential pricing lessons

THE REAL DEAL

From February to May this year more than 140 growers, across 10 locations, completed the CANEGROWERS-TAFE Pricing Essentials course. With the sugar price now moving in a positive direction, these growers are putting what they've learned into practice. It's a wise move, with sugar marketers reporting that growers who actively participate in pricing their sugar earning, on average, \$30 more per tonne over those that did not.

In 2015 the Queensland Parliament passed legislation guaranteeing choice for growers and triggering competition between sugar marketing services.

"Since 2015, the pool managers have become more competitive and there are a lot more options now so I have to monitor them more closely," CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman **Mark Mammino** says. "What might be good this year might not be next year, so it's forced me to read and understand the market a lot more.

"While it's added work, the rewards are worth it. If I can pick \$20 - \$30 a tonne in sugar price with that effort, it pays for itself and anything above that is an extra bonus."

CANEGROWERS recognised that for all growers to make the most of this new environment, many needed to develop skills around understanding costs of production and forward pricing, price risk management, and financial planning tailored to their particular circumstances.

"While it's added work, the rewards are worth it. If I can pick \$20 - \$30 a tonne in sugar price with that effort, it pays for itself and anything above that is an extra bonus."

Without a background in business management or finance, this could seem daunting, so CANEGROWERS created the Pricing Essentials for Cane Growers workshop.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River Chairman, **Michael Pisano**, attended the workshop in Ingham and said it hit the mark.

"Not only did it give growers the knowledge and the skills to do certain things, it gave them the confidence to know that 'I can do this'," he said.

Mark Mammino was among the dozen people who attended in his region and he agrees.

"It helped me validate my assumptions around my cost of production, and I wasn't too far off the mark, while others found theirs wasn't as high as they were thinking it was and they left feeling more confident about forward pricing."

“As technology evolves, growers will be able to see sugar prices on their phone and make a decision in 10 seconds to lock that price in”

Pictured: (page 24) CANEGROWERS members from Innisfail listen to the CANEGROWERS- TAFE Pricing Essentials presenters, Dougall Lodge and Warren Males; (below) presenter Burn Ashburner, works with participants in Mackay.

Pricing Essentials was a two-day program developed in collaboration with TAFE Queensland and supported by the Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance which covered Small Business Management and Risk Management.

Led by CANEGROWERS and sugar market consultant, **Dougall Lodge**, attendees learned how to calculate their cost of production using their existing finances and a CANEGROWERS-developed tool.

The facilitators also spent time examining the different forward pricing options between different marketers and how to go about it.

With more than 30 years experience representing growers in his district, **Michael Pisano** found the cost production tool particularly helpful and valued how the workshop encouraged growers to re-evaluate their finances and constantly seek out marketing information.

“It triggered an urge to talk to a pricing manager about their new forward pricing packages,” he said.

Louise Bowman owns a family farm of around 240 hectares in the Mackay region. She enjoyed the hands-on learning experience.

“You get to network with people, the guys were really good and made it really interesting. It wasn't just sitting in a classroom, everyone had a discussion,” she said.

In the Cairns region, **Neil Maitland** found that the facilitators did a great job at promoting how forward pricing should be used to reduce risk.

“If you understand your cost of production and the market cycle, you can get a lot of leverage and make sure you don't go broke,” he said.

Attendees have praised the usefulness and time-effectiveness of the Pricing Essentials workshop, saying it improved their ability to understand financial reports and their costs of production as well as factors that influence sugar prices.

A significant takeaway that **Michael** noted was how they learned new forward pricing strategies to manage the risk of price fluctuations.

“I was actually surprised with the level of detail they went into,” he said. “It helped the younger growers understand a lot of the strategies I'd been using and it was quite enjoyable to see.”

Even experienced growers, such as **Neil**, gained new learnings from the workshop.

“As technology evolves, growers will be able to see sugar prices on their phone and make a decision in 10 seconds to lock that price in,” he said. “A thorough cost of production [calculation] is the first thing you have to know about your business.”

Feedback reveals that growers would attend a follow-up session to consolidate their learning. Those with more experience in forward pricing expressed that they intended to further develop their skills and learn more about price speculation.

The course ended with growers being more aware of how interpreting financial and commodity information can impact their profit margins.

By learning these skills and implementing them in their business strategies, growers who attended felt they could seize the opportunities of forward pricing and improve their financial stability. ■



STAPLING AND SUPER: SORTING FACT FROM FICTION

You may have heard the term 'stapling' over recent months and during the last Federal Budget, but what exactly does it mean?

We took a closer look with **Anna Geddes**, Sunsuper's Regional Manager based in Toowoomba.



Q: So what exactly is stapling?

A: "Stapling is another way of referring to a super account that's a 'single default account' which is 'stapled' to the individual employee whenever they change jobs.

"In a nutshell, employers will be required to search for an employee's existing stapled fund by contacting the ATO and directing contributions to that fund, unless the employee has made an active choice about their super fund. That being said, employees can still choose their own super fund or the employer's company default fund by completing the standard choice form."

Q: When does stapling come into effect?

A: "From 1 November, employers can no longer automatically create a new super account in their default fund for new employees who haven't chosen a super fund."

Q: What happens if there is no stapled fund?

A: "Where there is no stapled fund and no other super fund has been nominated, super contributions can still be made into the default fund."

Q: Does this impact existing employees in any way?

A: "No. Existing employees won't be affected by these changes and if you're an employer, you will simply continue to make compulsory superannuation guarantee payments into the same super fund account you do today."

Q: What happens if the employee has multiple existing funds?

A: "Where a member has multiple existing funds, the ATO will apply tiebreaker rules to identify the stapled fund. The rules consider the most recent fund identified by the ATO, the fund that received the most recent contribution, the fund that held the largest account balance and other factors, such as when the employee became a member, or holder, of each eligible fund."

Q: How do you find details of a new employee's stapled fund?

A: "The ATO is currently designing a solution for the employer superannuation account stapling service and has confirmed the service will be a two-phased approach. You will be able to find the details of a new employee's stapled fund by contacting the ATO."

Q: Where's the best place to find out more information?

A: "If you're an employer, you can reach out to your team of Sunsuper Regional Managers and if you're not sure who that is, call our Contact Centre on **13 11 84** and they'll be able to assist.

"We have plenty of helpful information available at sunsuper.com.au/stapling and it's also good to check regularly for updates at ato.gov.au as more information on stapling becomes available closer to 1 November."

Not currently with Sunsuper?

If you're not already with Sunsuper and you want to start making a real difference to you and your employee's retirement today – it's easy to join.

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Prefer to speak to a member of our team? Call our Contact Centre on **13 11 84** between 8.00am to 6.30pm (AEST) Monday to Friday.

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WEATHERING THE UPS AND DOWNS OF QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURE

By Daniel Elder, QRIDA Farm Debt Restructure Office Manager

As the famous Australian poet **Dorothea Mackellar** penned, we are a country 'of droughts and flooding rains'. But how can Queensland primary producers work to better identify and prepare for the next major event to impact their business? There are options available right now.

In recent times, low interest rates, high commodity prices and strong foreign and domestic investment have provided the perfect conditions for compound growth in land values, and some commodities. While Queensland's agriculture industry is experiencing sunny conditions now, I can't help but wonder what the next storm or change will bring?

Managing the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority's (QRIDA) Farm Debt Restructure Office (FDRO), I have seen the difference between rural enterprises that react, adapt or retract to change.

I see three key themes among those rural businesses that can more readily adapt to change including having an agile cost structure, robust assumptions, and diverse marketing options. However, if an enterprise becomes accustomed to high fixed costs, best case scenarios and single market options, these greatly reduce their prospects of long-term viability.

No one knows when the next storm is coming or if there's a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. What we do know is that Queensland producers concerned about their viability in the current environment have an option to review their business assumptions at a time when conditions are more favourable to change.

Since January 2018, the FDRO has been delivering the unique Farm Business Analysis Assistance (FBAA) program, focusing on primary producers in or at risk of financial difficulty. As of 31 July 2021, FBAA has assessed over \$188 million in rural liabilities, giving them the opportunity to reassess their position and have more productive conversations with their current or prospective lenders.

Of these liabilities, we have seen \$33 million restructure or refinance, \$39 million maintain current lender support and \$20 million rationalise or exit the industry.

From the process, producers can expect an independent, objective, and unbiased report with options to repair, reduce or rationalise debt while working with existing professionals to improve communication, collaboration, and action. Above all, the program is free and there is no obligation.

I'm proud of the producers who have stepped up and been open to a different perspective and alternate direction. I'm proud of those who have had challenging conversations about the future of their business. I'm especially proud of the clients who have chosen to share their stories and encouraged other producers to consider this program.

We have seen applicants from all sectors across the state, from broadacre to hydroponic, intensive to extensive both on land and at sea.

From our experience, financial difficulty is not always subject to specific industries or areas, but more related to operational scale and management capacity. To see it from our clients' perspective and view their stories, visit the QRIDA website.

For more information on the Farm Business Analysis Assistance program visit qrda.qld.gov.au, speak to one of our Regional Area Managers across the State or Freecall 1800 623 946 ■.



ARE YOU THE FULL BOTTLE ON CHEMICAL REGULATIONS?

By Kate Gowdie
Smartcane BMP Manager

Following the harmonisation of chemical regulations across the country in 2020, key changes to record keeping, training, and chemical use have been rolled out over a twelve-month period, some of which are relevant to sugarcane growers.

While many of these changes have been communicated already, a summary of the relevant changes and your current requirements are detailed in this article.

The information below points to key changes and does not cover all the regulatory requirements. Please contact your local Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) office or Smartcane BMP facilitator for further information.

Chemicals of interest

Schedule 7 (S7) poisons (sugarcane relevant products)

- Paraquat
- Diquat
- MSMA products

Prescribed agricultural ERA products

- a) Ametryn*;
- b) Atrazine;
- c) Diuron;
- d) Hexazinone;
- e) Tebuthiuron

Changes to record keeping

There have been some minor record keeping requirement changes.

These changes apply to all chemical use, not just S7 poisons or prescribed chemicals.

The required weather conditions that must be recorded are:

- a) Ambient temperature; and
- b) Relative humidity; and
- c) Wind speed and direction; and
- d) The extent of cloud cover, if any; and
- e) If there is rain, the amount of rain

Records must be made within three days of the chemical use.

The Smartcane BMP chemical record keeping book allows you to record all required information. It's available from the facilitators.

*Please note that ametryn use has more specific preparation, use and recording requirements, including restrictions

around use near water bodies, requirements for additional in-field weather observations, and restrictions on quantities applied per year.

Your local DAF office or productivity services organisation has further information.

Key changes to record keeping, training, and chemical use have been rolled out over a twelve-month period, some of which are relevant to sugarcane growers.

Changes to training requirements

Chemical handling training now requires the completion of competency *AHCCHM307 - Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases*.

This supersedes and is equivalent to *AHCCHM303 - Prepare and apply chemicals*.

As the new competency is considered an equivalent to the previous competency, no additional training is required for growers who already hold the former competency.

Any grower undertaking chemical handling accreditation for the first time is required to complete the following; *AHCCHM304 Transport and Store Chemicals and AHCCHM307 Prepare and Apply Chemicals to Control Pest, Weeds and Diseases*.

To obtain an ACDC licence, growers must also complete *AHCPMG301 - Control Weeds*.

For Smartcane BMP accreditation, growers must have all three competencies (or their equivalent). This requirement has not changed.

Additional Reef Regulation requirements:

Sugarcane - Ground application of ametryn, atrazine, hexazinone or diuron

Since 1 July 2010, anyone in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay-Whitsunday catchments intending to apply or supervise the application of these herbicides to sugarcane crops using ground equipment must hold a statement of attainment issued by a registered training organisation stating that the person has successfully completed each of the following competencies:

- (A) *AHCPMG301—control weeds*
- (B) *AHCCHM303—prepare and apply chemicals*
- (C) *AHCCHM304—transport and store chemicals*.

For Smartcane BMP accreditation, growers must have all three competencies (or their equivalent). This requirement has not changed. The changes to the regulations will not require you to undertake further training.

Changes to the minimum training requirements for users of S7 poisons came into effect on 19 June 2021.

Anyone **using** agricultural chemical products containing S7 poisons must now have a statement of attainment for two units of competency:

AHCCHM304—Transport and store chemicals and

AHCCHM307—Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases (or their equivalents).

There are strict guidelines around the supervision of someone who uses an S7 product and does not hold the relevant qualifications.

A person must not use the agricultural chemical product unless the person (the user):

- uses the product under the direct supervision of a qualified person; and
- has used the product on no more than—
 - o 4 days in the last month; and
 - o 12 days in the last year.

For further information, there is a link to the *Chemical Usage (agricultural and Veterinary) Control Regulation 2017* on the resources page of the Smartcane BMP website. ■





CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 12.11

 Tonnes to date - 249,937
36.63% crushed to date

Mossman Mill experienced four good weeks leading into mid-August with availability averaging over 90% for part of the time. However, the warmer and wetter winter brought another week of damp and rainy conditions which added more days of delay to the growing total for the crushing so far.

At end of Week 9, the mill had processed 216,483 tonnes of cane for an average of 12.06 CCS. This is about 30% of the original crop estimate. Of this, coastal growers supplied 164,525 tonnes of cane for an average of 11.59 CCS. After a good start, the CCS has remained fairly ordinary 9 weeks into the crushing, but managed to improve just enough so a planned August increase in the deemed CCS could go ahead.

On 22 July, the CANEGROWERS Mossman manager attended a Douglas Shire Bio-Security meeting to provide input into the development of the next DSC Bio-Security Plan, which will come into force next year.

There were a number of interesting speakers highlighting things that had taken place within the Douglas Shire over the life of the existing Plan and the group gave consideration to what the continued threats were, what possible new threats there may be, and how to prioritise them under new risk scoring parameters.

Two directors attended an evening meet and greet in Cairns on 28 July with representatives from Sugar Terminals Limited. A brief update on STL activities was provided to those in attendance.

The manager has been accepted onto the Douglas Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC) for another three-year term. Unfortunately, the first scheduled meeting coincided with the COVID lockdown in Cairns, so had to be postponed.

The Wet Tropics Healthy Waterways launched their 2021 Report Card for the Wet Tropics based on data from 2019-2020.

This report card, unlike the P2R Report Card, looks at the condition of waterways - fresh and estuarine and offshore. Where data is available, they look at the condition of sea grass, fish, mangrove, and riparian vegetation coverage in the various catchments within the Wet Tropics.

For a good summary of the latest findings go to <https://fb.watch/737ZibWrEU/>




Douglas Shire Council Bio-security presentation

TABLELAND

 Harvest week - 12

 CCS to date - 14.08

 Tonnes to date - 332,443
50.37% crushed to date

August was a month of highs and lows for the Tableland District. The Tableland Mill ran smoothly, with the harvest now more than 40% complete.

A high percentage of KQ228 was harvested during August, producing a CCS of over 15 units. Unfortunately, Mossman Mill encountered both mechanical issues and wet weather, which has slowed down the crushing and harvesting operations.

CANEGROWERS Tableland agronomist **Drewe Burgess** has applied to SRA to release a new variety, which has the potential to meet the industry standards set by KQ228. Once approval is given it can be propagated in the Approved Clean Seed plot and made available to members for future seasons.

Ergon has been offering 'Energy Analysis Training - Portal familiarisation' and CANEGROWERS Tableland admin officer **Angela Sturgess** attended. She can now assist members in accessing the portal to ascertain which tariff will suit their needs.

CANEGROWERS Tableland Chairman **Claude Santucci** attended a meeting of the Mareeba and Dimbulah Irrigation Area Council on 6 August. One of the issues discussed was the rebate that horticultural growers were promised during the last State Election. Those that have applied say the process is somewhat convoluted. However, this rebate is available for the next three years, making the process worthwhile.


More information about the rebate scheme, customer eligibility and how to apply is available here: <https://bit.ly/QGOVrebateschemeopen>

There are several growers on the Tablelands using the Feralscan app. This app helps track feral animals, such as pigs, wild dogs, rabbits, etc. Using the app allows for valuable information to be gathered on the population, damage and areas impacted. The more data gathered, the more chance we have of getting government assistance to control feral pests. The app can be downloaded for free from the app store and is easy to use. Access can also be gained via the website www.feralscan.org.au/

CAIRNS

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 11.29

 Tonnes to date - 512,311
39.11% crushed to date

Wet weather across the area has impacted on harvesting at times, particularly for those growers supplying South Johnstone who had to stop harvesting operations for the best part of a week. Planting is well underway, but again, certain areas have been impacted by the weather, creating a considerable backlog still needing to be completed over the coming month.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region participated in the Cairns Youth and Careers Expo on the 26 August at the Cairns Showgrounds. The CANEGROWERS stall showcased the variety of career pathways within the sugar industry, ranging

from farming operations and trade qualifications through to agronomy, laboratory science and business professions.


SRA also joined the stall and operated a small mill demonstration of the process of making sugar. It was a successful day attended by approximately 4,000 students and young adults.


The initiative was undertaken to increase awareness of the sugar industry as a fulfilling and successful career option for young people and to assist in ensuring successful succession within the industry as the maintenance of a skilled workforce is important for the future.



INNISFAIL

 Harvest week - 9

 CCS to date - 11.35

 Tonnes to date - 477,427
28% crushed to date

Growers in the Innisfail District welcomed news of a collaborative initiative to improve productivity at a local level.

SRA, Innisfail Babinda Cane Productivity Services, MSF Sugar Ltd and CANEGROWERS Innisfail have held discussions to tackle declining productivity in the region, starting with the


identification of productivity constraints, knowledge gaps, and opportunities for productivity improvement.

Unfortunately, wet weather continues to cause delays to harvesting and planting operations across the district and yields continue to track below initial estimates.

TULLY

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 12.7

 Tonnes to date - 895,966
35.14% crushed to date

The excellent run of weather was disrupted in mid-August with several days of rain delivering over 100mm across the district and disrupting the harvest and planting.

Despite this, 900,000 tonnes of the 2.4 million tonne crop have been harvested and crushed, with a seasonal CCS of 12.7, which is good for the Tully District.

Tonnage estimates in the northern parts of the Mill Area (Feluga and EL Arish) are disappointing and are up to 18 tonnes per hectare below the district average of 86 tonnes per ha.

Low tonnages are disappointing to growers, particularly when the sugar price is favourable, and the low yields have a significant impact on the economics of harvest groups.

The Tully Show, in late-July, was one of the few shows where it did not rain.


The Show Cane exhibit was excellent and a credit to exhibitors, and industry staff who facilitated the exhibit. It is important that agricultural industries showcase themselves to the public as sugarcane and bananas are very important to the economy of the Cassowary Coast.


Continues next page ➤

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

HERBERT RIVER

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 12.50

 Tonnes to date - 1,420,362
32.43% crushed to date

Week 6

More harvesters came online in the northern parts of Herbert River during Week 6. Macknade crushed 65,600 tonnes for the week and Victoria Mill crushed 124,7000 tonnes, with a mill average for the Herbert of 12.27 CCS. The mill reported that both sites had several cane supply stops during the week, with difficulties transferring cane to Macknade Mill, which stretched the loco schedule.

Week 7

Herbert River mills crushed 201,000 tonnes during Week 7, with Victoria Mill crushing 138,000 tonnes and Macknade crushing 63,000 tonnes, with a mill average CCS of 12.61. Macknade and Victoria mills had a 12-hour maintenance day to chemical clean evaporators and carry out normal routine maintenance. The mill reported that Macknade Mill was still relying on the transfer of cane to the mill area, although this was reducing as the field conditions improve

throughout the district. At the start of the week, Victoria mill had a failed bearing on a cane carrying conveyor which took longer to address than expected and caused around 10 hours lost time on A side.

Week 8

Victoria Mill crushed 131,000 tonnes and Macknade Mill crushed 70,000 tonnes in Week 8. In general, cane quality was improving and the mill average for the week was 12.95 CCS. During this week the crop was reforecast down from 4.38 million tonnes to an adjusted estimate of 3.997 million tonnes, which would have the district finishing crush around 16 November. The budget has also allowed for 11 hours of wet weather built in each week until the end of the season.

Week 9

During Week 9, Victoria Mill crushed 109,000 tonnes and Macknade Mill crushed 60,000 tonnes, with a mill average of 12.9 CCS. Wet weather again interrupted crushing and both sites

undertook maintenance and chemical cleans of evaporators. Victoria Mill used the down time to make some repairs to the coupling on the mill roller and repair some steam leaks.


Week 10

Victoria Mill crushed 78,000 tonnes in Week 10, while Macknade Mill crushed 64,000 tonnes, with a district average of 12.9 CCS. The mill reported that wet weather reduced loading during the first few days of the week and gave Victoria Mill the opportunity to bring forward maintenance day. The mill also reported that it is struggling to get more than 30,500 loaded each day as a function of the number of bins in the fleet. They advised that they are working on projects to have some bins turned around and used twice per day with an aim to increase loading. This is putting pressure on bin delivery to harvesting sector. Wilmar also advised that work has started on the new bin fleet which will be ready for next season.

BURDEKIN

 Harvest week - 11

 CCS to date - 14.22

 Tonnes to date - 3,934,175
14.22% crushed to date

The Burdekin has been blessed with a run of cool and dry weather, which at the end of Week 11 has seen CCS levels of 15.0 and 3,952,603 tonnes cane crushed, both of which are above budget.

Inkerman Mill is still playing catchup due to a wet start and a series of breakdowns and remains 8% - 10% behind the other mills. It has been crushing well since its ironed out its boiler issues. The transfer of cane by truck over the Burdekin Bridge is now a daily fact of life for the community, which enables Wilmar to crush some of the South Bank cane at its North Bank milling assets. The cane transfer is an exercise in logistical planning to ensure it works as efficiently as possible and we are thankful to Wilmar and the contractors involved with this undertaking.

Wilmar has reaffirmed its target finish date for the week ending 20 November 2021 and we need to see both good

mill performance and the cane transfer continue to achieve this. The only other variable we cannot control is the weather and we need to build in as much margin as possible by crushing as much cane as we can while the going is good.

High sugar prices are the source of spirited conversation and the daily SMS revealing overnight sugar prices is an instant conversation stopper. The key to prosperity and supporting growth in the Burdekin is a vibrant sugarcane industry and confidence levels in growing cane have been lifted with rising global sugar prices. Farm sales have been reflective of this confidence with prices being achieved in the range of \$10,000 - \$14,000 per acre, which is a show of faith in investing in irrigated agricultural land with an abundance of sunshine.

Shed meetings are an important source of information and represent a great networking opportunity for growers and service providers. BPS organised 12 shed meetings throughout the district

and provided growers with updates on new variety information, mill mud trial results, chemical advise, irrigation management and technology, soil health, and Ratoon Stunting Disease. New growers to the district found these very beneficial.

SRA activity levels have ramped up since the appointment of a new district manager, Terry Granshaw. Additional appointments are being made to provide the resourcing required to delivers SRA's objectives for the region. ►



Cane Transfer Turianos Siding

BURDEKIN (CONTINUED)

One of the key projects SRA is coordinating is the Burdekin Irrigation Project (BIP). This is a \$6.9M collaborative project with a goal over its 4-year term of improving irrigation efficiency, water and energy costs, and DIN loss.

BIP will recruit 165 growers throughout the district on different soil types and


will showcase new technology to build confidence in smart farming practices via access to better tools, technologies and technical support.


Technology, along with the associated change and modernisation of farming practices, has seen Burdekin farmers become some of the most efficient in the world.

Technology should be adopted where it can improve productivity, profitability, land stewardship, and generally make work easier. With technology it is often the accumulation of incremental changes over time that makes all the difference.

PROSERPINE

 Harvest week - 8

 CCS to date - 14.17

 Tonnes to date - 576,566
35.16% crushed to date

The Proserpine crop has been cutting at 97% of the original estimate. As a result, the official estimate has been reduced to 1.59 million tonnes.

Throughput over the past few weeks has been disrupted by rain and scheduled maintenance stops.

The rain provided welcome relief to the crop and was most beneficial for new plantings.

All parts of the district reported reasonable falls, however the southern parts received upwards of 70mm.

While the rain impacted CCS for a few days, the situation has stabilised and the season-to-date CCS now stands at 14.17 – which is still high relative to the time of year.

Highest CCS for the year-to-date is 16.61 from a rake of second


ratoon Q183 from the Kelsey Creek productivity district.


In total, just over 576,000 tonnes have been crushed, which is over 36% of the revised estimate

Despite the mill being behind budget, the crush is still expected to be wrapped-up by mid-November.

MACKAY

 Harvest week - 12

 CCS to date - 13.37

 Tonnes to date - 2,030,506
38.31% crushed to date

Mackay and Plane Creek are chipping away at the harvest with about 35% complete for Mackay Sugar and 40% for Plane Creek.

Crop estimates are picking up, with Mackay Sugar on about 103% of the original estimate of 5.3 million tonnes and Plane Creek around 106% of the original estimate of \$1.3 million tonnes.

Recent rain has been helpful for next year's crop, although it may cause a small drop in the sugar content, currently on about 14.3 for Mackay Sugar and 14.5 for Plane Creek.

Fledgling young growers group

CANEGROWERS Mackay has formed a young (and young-at-heart) growers group (18 – 40-ish) to build social networks and explore common topics of interest.

To date, there have been three events held at different locations and at different times to enable as many growers as possible to attend despite busy schedules.

These included a tour of Racecourse Projects on Friday 30 April, a tour of Renewable Biocommodities Pilot Plant on Tuesday 25 May and a large drone spray demonstration on a farm on Friday 13 August.

Growers who would like to know about upcoming events for the group are invited to get in touch with [Chris Walker](mailto:Chris.Walker@canegrowers.com.au) [Christine Walker](mailto:Christine.Walker@canegrowers.com.au) to be added to the mailing list. Please send in suggestions for interesting tours and activities in the months ahead, as events will increase during the quieter months.

Plane Creek cane grower Brian Stevens collected a swag of gongs at the 2020 Season Productivity Awards held by Plane Creek Productivity Services (PCPSL).

His farming business, Marion Farming, picked up the Illbilbie Zone Best Productivity Award (CCS 15.46) while Brian also won the Arthur Gardner Shield for Best Producer of the Season, and the Canegrowing Excellence Award for the grower who has made the largest difference between their tonnes sugar/hectare and the zone average TS/H (150 per cent of the zone average).


Brian with Margaret and Brendon Stevens



PLANE CREEK

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 13.64

 Tonnes to date - 567,593
43.66% crushed to date


Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

BUNDABERG

 Harvest week - 9

 CCS to date - 13.38

 Tonnes to date - 322,506
33.84% crushed to date

The top five issues Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has been dealing with over the last month are:

1. Ensuring that the Cane Analysis Program is being implemented and that issues are being resolved promptly and as per the program.
2. Working with QSL and Bundaberg Sugar to potentially allow Bundaberg growers to access the QSL Direct pricing platform.
3. The next rates bill is hitting our mailboxes now. **Mayor Jack Dempsey** and his councilors still have a choice around these rates rises on farmland. They didn't have to apply them and they can choose to reverse them. We will be continuing the fight against unfair rate increases on your behalf with the alliance of AgForce, BFGV and CANEGROWERS Isis.
4. Helping growers with electricity tariff selection to optimise affordability.

5. Negotiating and administering the contract between growers and ORECO for the supply of cane trash.

Our friends in the commercial fishing industry have requested that we bring to your attention a petition that has been put forward by **Shane Snow**, Vice President, Queensland Seafood Industry Association.


The situation that they are in is like the battle we are having with reef regulations in that decisions are being made by people who do not live in the region, without adequate consultation and based on dubious science. If we are to get sensible outcomes for sustainable regional primary production industries, then we need to support each other.

If you wish to lend your support, then please access their petition via <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3588>.

ISIS

 Harvest week - 8

 CCS to date - 12.79

 Tonnes to date - 258,182
35.86% crushed to date

The 2021 Isis District crush has continued to have its ups and downs, with a series of derailments, fine tuning of the new transloader facility, and building a B Site at the mill to ensure Maryborough cane is crushed this year.

CANEGROWERS Isis is working well with the mill to assist communication with growers across the two districts.

Isis Central Sugar Mill has a new CEO. The appointment of **Peter Hawe** heralds a new era of active communication with shareholders/growers, industry organisations and their staff, and a bigger growing district welcoming the cane from Maryborough/Sunshine Coast. Peter and his board have inherited the perfect storm and are working hard to streamline operations, deliver on their toll crush agreement with MSF, and ensure new infrastructure is working efficiently.

Recently, CANEGROWERS supported an independent review by **Sarah Standen** of the joint Isis/Maryborough Cane Analysis Program. Sarah advised that overall, the Isis CAP was comprehensive in nature and exceeded standards. We have now been working towards implementing the recommendations of this report and encouraging members to be vigilant with their cane data and payments from the mill and report any anomalies to us for clarification and rectification by the mill.

Growers are excited about current sugar price, and we are actively encouraging them to install the QSL Direct App even though they do not have the QSL Direct option yet. CANEGROWERS Isis directors were recently given a demo of the app by QSL's **Cath Kelly** and were very impressed with its features. The App is easy to download and use to bring the world sugar market directly to you - helping you track global raw sugar and currency markets, monitor pool results and make common sugar and cane conversions while on the go.




Cane Harvester Parts

Neil's Parts Australia
1800 463 457
AH 0417 662 137
neils.com.au

MARYBOROUGH

 Harvest week - 8

 CCS to date - 13.36

 Tonnes to date - 100,065
19.24% crushed to date

It has been a slow road to get the first 100,000 tonnes supplied to Isis Mill from the Maryborough District, but this was achieved over the weekend of 21 and 22 August. CCS has been building well.

The transloader has steadied its operations with a likely throughput of 3,000 tonnes per day the aim going forward.

Further meetings have confirmed the second, B Site, transfer facility now has slab and walls poured with a truck pad still to be completed. The site should be able to take deliveries before the end of August, starting at two B-Double loads per hour.

With the first 100,000 tonne milestone now reached, the increased capacity offered by Site B means we could see the crop off by the end of November, dependant on weather and mill interruptions.

Recent meetings have focussed on achieving steady supply and rostering, with changes needed to keep everyone on track. The increased volume will require better use of trailers and the ability to keep them in service as much as possible.

Smaller harvester groups may be able to make tweaks that spread their cutting rates through the week while maintaining supply. The larger harvest groups will need to maintain supply through the night.

The other area of adjustment is moving away from the practice of too many harvesters starting early in the morning and creating a wave of trucks at the transloader. The transloader will only process 4 to 5 trucks per hour. Sending 10 trucks in one hour means setting in place a two-hour delay for the rest of the day, which compounds with stops for cleaning and rail movements.

Site B will remove some of the traffic, however, the ability to supply both sites will be key to the season's success.


Meetings have involved all sections of the supply chain to seek solutions for a smoother run for the rest of the season.

Maryborough Cane Hauliers have forwarded a notice for expressions of interest from owner/operator truck drivers to help for the rest of the season.

ROCKY POINT

 Harvest week - 4

 CCS to date - 13.42

 Tonnes to date - 70,062
20.02% crushed to date

The Rocky Point harvest commenced on 26 July 2021 and is going reasonably well, with minimal downtime during the first three weeks. The total tonnes crushed to date are 54,290 tonnes at an average CCS of 13.33. KQ228 has been one of the top performers for CCS.

Harvesting and planting conditions have been perfect. The estimate is currently 335,600, with growers cutting close to estimate at present.

The mill is crushing a 12-day fortnight and the Cogen has managed to source a good buffer of wood material for start-up and boil outs.

Fire ants continue to show no signs of being controlled by the second round of bait that was supplied by Biosecurity Queensland.

We have a scheduled meeting with Biosecurity on 23 August to hopefully get some answers on the effectiveness of the bait.

We are still awaiting the results of our Valuation Objections, however after various meetings with the Valuer General's office, we remain hopeful of a decision to reduce the Unimproved Values of the District.



Fire ants around Rocky Point





WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS

CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE



Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager
CANEGROWERS

Is there a market for the way you farm?

The idea of paying farmers for environmental benefits created on their farm has been around for some time. The argument goes like this:

- Farmers manage most of the land
- Their main focus is producing agricultural products for sale
- The way they manage their farms can influence aspects of the wider environment, such as biodiversity, water quality, greenhouse gasses
- Governments, corporations, conservation entities, or individuals may see value in paying farmers that choose to manage their land in a way that enhances a particular environmental 'service'.

Payments for environmental services are typically linked to a measurable outcome, such as improved natural habitat area, reduced nutrient run-off, or reduced emissions of greenhouse gasses.

In practice, most schemes that pay for environmental services are not driven by an open market, but are supported by governments. This reflects the public value of such services.

One of the longest running examples of this is the Conservation Reserve Program in the USA, by which the US Government pays farmers to take marginal cropland out of production and convert these areas to some form of perennial cover to reduce erosion. This program has been in operation since 1985.

In Australia, the Federal Government's Emissions Reduction Fund provides payments to farmers and other entities that reduce their emissions via proven practices and technologies.

Payments are in the form of carbon credit units, which are currently priced around \$15 per tonne of abatement.

These schemes have a detailed set of rules. For example, to be eligible for payments, the changes in farm practice need to be more than 'business as usual'.

This is to avoid paying for changes in farm management that would occur even without the additional payment.

However, a common problem with these programs is that they only reward farmers that are initiating changes in management.

This means that farmers who have already made changes that enhance their farms' environmental services cannot reap a financial reward.

What environmental services are available to Australian farmers, and to cane growers in particular?

There are limited opportunities for cropping enterprises in the regulated carbon market. Enhanced storage of soil carbon is the primary option available, but the transaction costs are high.

Also, soil carbon in cane soils is typically very slow to shift, even with fallow and trash retention.

A scheme like the Queensland Government's Land Restoration Fund will pay a premium for carbon projects that also have additional benefits for soil health or biodiversity.

The Reef Credits Scheme is designed to reward growers who improve water quality in catchments that flow into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

While a good concept, industry remains concerned about the potential impacts on cane supply as well as the lack of a valid method for estimating the change in Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen that results from a grower making a change in management. ■

" The Reef Credits Scheme is designed to reward farmers who improve water quality ... while a good concept, industry remains concerned about the potential impacts on cane supply, as well as the lack of a valid method for estimating the change in Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen. "



Burn Ashburner
Senior Manager - Industry
CANEGROWERS

Farm business resilience planning

The business of farming has become increasingly challenging. As a result, resilience is a growing focus for agricultural industries.

A quick Google search will tell you that agricultural resilience is about “equipping farmers to absorb and recover from shocks and stresses to their agricultural production and livelihoods”.

When it comes to shocks and stresses, cane growers have more than their fair share. They are no strangers to managing for resilience and, in fact, are some of the best in the world at managing risk.

Whether it's the volatile Queensland climate, with its droughts, floods and cyclones, or it's the volatile world sugar market, with its wildly fluctuating prices – Queensland cane growers are fully exposed and must successfully navigate the highs and lows to thrive.

With a crop that ratoons for 5 or more years, the impact of severe weather events on yield and returns can compound to erode profitability and resilience over time.

However, growers accredited in the three core Smartcane BMP modules have demonstrated significant resilience to extreme weather by adopting best practice nutrient, chemical and water management.

In the area of marketing, growers fought long and hard to secure choice of marketer. The competition created through grower choice legislation has provided greater opportunities for growers to forward price, thus reducing their exposure to the volatility of the world sugar market and improving resilience.

However, government legislation can also present a challenge to grower resilience. The State Government's reef regulations are a case in point.

There is the very real possibility that these regulations, aimed at environmental outcomes, come at the expense of industry resilience.

Addressing resilience

There are plans by the federal and state governments to address resilience. Part of this is the Future Drought Fund Farm Business Resilience Program, which aims to develop opportunities for farmers and farm managers to:

- upskill their strategic farm business management and planning approaches to best-practice industry standards
- use data to understand their farm business' strategic risks and improve decision-making
- learn about innovation and diversification options, new farming practices, systems and markets
- think about succession planning and learn new ways to manage people and time.

CANEGROWERS is also well placed to help growers through additional modules in the Smartcane BMP program that offer the opportunity to enhance grower business resilience. These include Farm Business Management, Workplace Health and Safety, Natural Systems Management, and Planting and Harvesting Management.

By completing these modules and attending the CANEGROWERS Pricing Essentials workshops, growers will be better placed to understand their financial situation, costs of production, and the risks faced by their businesses. They can then confidently plan to address these risks.

Growers will also be better prepared to increase their own safety, and plan for expansion or succession.

I know many growers do not like paperwork, but there is an old saying that if it doesn't work on paper, it is unlikely to work in the field. Planning and looking ahead is important for resilience. ■



I know many growers do not like paperwork, but there is an old saying that if it doesn't work on paper, it is unlikely to work in the field.



Warren Males

Head - Economics
CANEGROWERS



Demystifying GEI sugar and cane payments

The three foundation stones of Queensland's cane payment arrangements, established 101 years ago, have withstood the test of time. They are:

- cane prices are linked to sugar prices
- growers and mills share the proceeds from the sale of sugar
- incentives for both growers and millers to improve their performance.

The key element of the arrangements is the simple concept that growers and millers share in the risks and rewards from marketing raw sugar. Both benefit from high prices and both bear the consequences of low prices.

Like farmers in other cropping industries, cane growers have an underlying incentive to optimise their yield in terms of tonnes of cane per hectare.

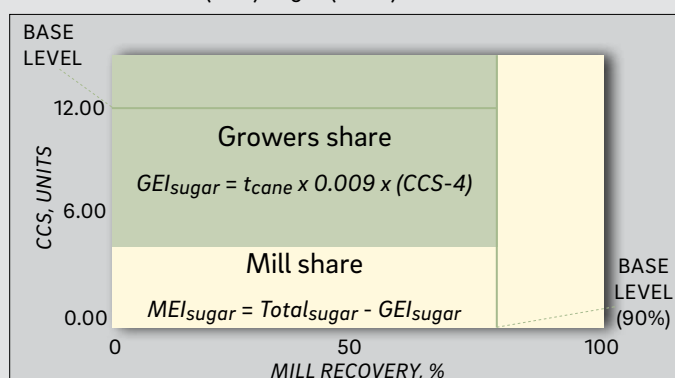
Most growers understand that getting the basics right – farm layout, variety selection, core hygiene (for example, clean seed, no volunteers and sterile equipment to manage disease), timely operations (planting, fertilising, pest and weed management) and determining the order in which blocks are harvested – are the keys to getting the best cane yield.

The cane payment arrangements are an incentive for growers to grow sweeter cane (with a high CCS), and for mills to optimise the extraction of sugar from that cane.

The incentives are based on growers producing cane with 12 units of CCS and mills recovering a base level 90% of that CCS to make raw sugar. At these base levels of performance, mills receive four units of CCS.

These concepts are embedded in the cane payment formula which is: $P_c = P_s \times 0.009 \times (CCS - 4) + \text{constant}$

With the introduction of grower choice, this formula has been used to calculate Grower Economic Interest (GEI) sugar and Mill Economic Interest (MEI) sugar (chart).



This calculation determines the amount of physical sugar both growers and mill have to market and price. They can manage the price risk in light of their individual circumstances and cost structures, independently of each other.

The full details of the calculation of GEI sugar are contained in cane supply agreements. A separate agreement between the mill and the GEI marketers covers the on-supply of GEI sugar to that marketer. A third agreement, between the grower and their chosen marketer, contains all the terms and conditions relating to the pricing of the sugar and the way in which the net proceeds from sale flow back to the grower.

The innovation in product development and risk management that has followed has seen growers increasingly active in the management of their own price risk.

With the tools currently available, confidence is building across the industry. Growers are taking advantage of opportunities to lock in strong profits for this year's production and prices for 2022 season at A\$540/t or better. ■



The cane payment arrangements are an incentive for growers to grow sweeter cane, and for mills to optimise the extraction of sugar from that cane.





FARM MANAGEMENT DEPOSITS

A VALUABLE TAX MANAGEMENT TOOL



*By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS
Legal Advisor*

Although not really a legal topic, it is pleasing that the world sugar price suggests it worthwhile that I make some comments about Farm Management Deposits (FMD).

WHAT ARE FMDS

FMDs are special financial deposit accounts that can be established by individual growers with certain financial institutions. Growers can claim a tax deduction for deposits made into a FMD account in the year in which the deposits are made. When the grower subsequently withdraws on those accounts, those withdrawals are included in the grower's assessable income in the year in which the withdrawal was made.



ELIGIBILITY

Only individual growers (including a partner in a partnership and a beneficiary of a trust) are eligible. Companies and similar incorporated entities that are growers are not eligible. The grower must have no more than \$100,000 in off-farm income and there is a cap of \$800,000 for FMDs.

CONDITIONS

There are a range of conditions that attach to this tax management scheme. The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture manages the policy arrangements and the Australian Taxation Office is responsible for the administration of the tax arrangements. If a grower who holds a FMD retires or otherwise ceases to be a primary producer, then the funds in the FMD must be withdrawn within 120 days and will be assessable income within the year it is withdrawn. That time frame may be a consideration when taking the step to no longer be a primary producer.

WARNINGS AND REMINDERS FOR ESTATE PLANNING

A FMD is for individuals only and an FMD will form part of the estate of a deceased grower who holds an FMD at the time of their death. Depending on how the Will of the deceased is drafted, the benefit of the FMD might not necessarily be

dealt with as intended. The funds held within a FMD must be withdrawn on the death of the holder. The amounts withdrawn will become assessable income for the estate. Such a scenario could give rise to some unintended consequences if the terms of the Will don't make provision as intended.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The use of FMDs can be a valuable tool for some growers to minimise tax, but care needs to be taken with their use. The Department of Agriculture and the ATO have useful resources on their web sites. Financial and accounting advice together with legal advice should be considered when entering into or exiting FMD arrangements.

(This article contains general advice only. The particular facts and circumstances of each case always need to be taken into account).

Any CANEGROWERS member wishing to discuss any aspect of legal matters should contact their local CANEGROWERS district office or call me, on Free Call 1800 177 159, for free initial legal advice. ■

Another link in the chain

The CANEGROWERS Blockchain Project has entered Phase 3.

In this phase, the project will explore how to monetise the sustainability credentials created from Smartcane BMP accreditation.

Overall, the project aims to establish a system that can trace sustainably produced Queensland sugar through the supply chain, with a view to increasing market access and value for growers.

It's an important area of research and CANEGROWERS is not the only organisation examining the opportunities blockchain offers.

In fact, US retail giant Walmart is already using blockchain technology to guarantee consumer confidence in the origin of the fruit and vegetables it sells.

Walmart originally tested the concept by using a blockchain system to trace the origins of the mangos it sold in stores. The results were impressive. A tracing task that previously took seven days to complete was cut to an astonishing 2.2 seconds.

This efficiency encouraged Walmart to change the way it traces other fresh produce, such as salad leaves and spinach, with the company now requiring suppliers of fresh leafy greens to trace their products using the system.

Of course, mangoes and leafy greens are not sugar, the bulk storage of which creates a unique challenge when it comes to tracing provenance.

It's a challenge that Sunrice is also working on.

Sunrice, one of the largest rice food companies in the world, is exploring the benefits of blockchain to promote sustainability and trust across its global supply chain.

Like CANEGROWERS, Sunrice is using KPMG's Origins blockchain platform to test how it can enhance communication across its global network, share its sustainability story, and allow

customers to connect with its products, from farm to plate.

CANEGROWERS is working with KPMG Australia to prototype the application of the Origins platform to trace the amount (on mass balance) of sustainable sugar entering the supply chain from Australia.

To date the project has delivered:

- Options for creating value other than sustainable sugar – for example, value to industry can be created through leveraging market access, supply chain efficiencies, carbon trading, natural capital, ecosystem services, and improved risk management.
- A data taxonomy which selects specific data fields and suitable data from across the value chain to create the blockchain platform.
- A blockchain prototype to trace the mass balance of Smartcane BMP sugar through the supply chain. The platform also supports credit trading.

Phase 3 will focus on two objectives:

Sustainable finance – a pilot validation

To test and validate new finance products such as sustainability loans with banks. These types of products could benefit growers because they can use Smartcane BMP data to demonstrate how they are managing risk.

Monetising Smartcane BMP

Explore how to develop and monetise the natural capital and sustainability credentials created from Smartcane BMP accreditation, to deliver ongoing benefits to growers.

The Blockchain Project commenced in 2019 and runs until April 2022. It is funded by the Australian Government through Landcare Australia's Smart Farming Partnership. ■



By Matt Kealley,
CANEGROWERS Senior
Manager - Membership
Engagement & Innovation



CANEGROWERS community news

This charming photo shows Jack Thatcher, son of Calen cane growers Judy and John Thatcher, escorting Jessie Borg, daughter of Pleystowe growers Amanda and Joseph Borg (Joseph is the Mackay Area Committee Chairman), to the popular Mackay and District Catholic Debutante Ball.

The longest running Debutante Ball in Mackay, the first Ball was held in 1930. *Photo credit - Keeara and Reece Photography, Mackay*

CANEGROWERS remember

The Babinda farming community is saddened by the passing of **Concetto (Con) Zappala**. At 93 years old, Con was actively engaged in the family business until the end.

His passion for the industry, his positivity about the industry and his willingness to impart his knowledge will be remembered, and also missed by everyone who knew him. ■



Got some news you want to share with the CANEGROWERS community send us an email editor@canegrowers.com.au



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THE SWEETEST PLACE TO PLAY

A fun new playground, showcasing Ingham's deep connection to sugarcane growing, is getting a big thumbs up from local kids.

"The inspiration for the new playground at Rotary Park drew on Ingham's rich sugarcane history," said Hinchinbrook Mayor **Ramon Jayo**, who is also a grower.

"The playground features pieces that were custom-designed for the Rotary Park Playground, these include a cane train, sugar refinery and green tractor. Other elements include a wheelchair carousel, three bay swing, cocowave swing and a climbing net.

"From sketch, right through to reality, the designers tried to capture the shape, form, size and colours of the cane train and sugar mills to elevate the theme.

"A bright, visually aesthetic rubber floor design features train tracks, cane and a river, which was inspired by the surrounds of the Hinchinbrook Shire."

The Council consulted with the local community to achieve its goal of an inclusive, modern and eye-catching agricultural themed playground, conceived in collaboration with award winning playground designers, Urban Play.

The open design with ground level activities makes it suitable for a range of ages and abilities.

The Bird's Nest Swings often becomes the most used piece of equipment in a playground as people of any age and ability can

play on it. A child who is not able to sit up on their own, can lie down on the swing and be pushed by family or friends. A child that feels insecure in an open space, can be held by a parent on the swing with them and for a child with autism who craves a vestibular experience, the Bird's Nest Swing provides that within a social setting. It is also positioned to facilitate the transfer of a person who uses a wheelchair.

As well as the park's inclusive play structures, the local agricultural heritage is featured with the multi-level, brightly painted cane train, which is more than 11m long and takes children on an exciting play journey.

The sugar refinery tower is artistically covered with sugarcane artwork and has different slide heights and graded climbing challenges. The harvest season is reflected by the a bespoke green tractor filled with play elements that encourage social, cognitive and creative play.

There's plenty to keep children entertained for hours, whether they are locals or families passing through seeking an idyllic stopping point on a long road trip.

The playground is proving to be a highlight for the young, and young at heart, and a permanent celebration of the extensive sugarcane history of the region. ■



Pictured left the Bird's Nest Swing provides an interactive experience and pictured below on the yellow cane train (L to R) Cr Donna Marbelli, Cr Andrew Lancini, Cr Mary Brown and in front (L to R) Acting Director Community & Development Services Paul Cohen, CEO Kelvin Tytherleigh, Cr Andrew Cripps and Cr Kate Milton of the Hinchinbrook Shire Council get in on the fun.



New cane herbicide proving to be valuable tool for growers

Supplied by ADAMA

A new herbicide introduced to cane growers last year is providing another rotational option for season-long control of a wide range of grass and broadleaf weeds in sugarcane crops.

Palmero® TX from ADAMA Australia contains the trusted active ingredient isoxaflutole, in a co-formulation with terbuthylazine. This provides control of many hard to kill weeds, and the co-formulation has reduced the need to tank-mix different products to achieve similar results.

Brett Hansen, Commercial Manager with ADAMA Australia for Central Queensland and the Northern Territory, said Palmero TX is proving popular as a rotational partner with industry benchmarks Bobcat® i-MAXX SG and Bobcat® Combi WG for grass and broadleaf weed control.

Broad spectrum weed control over an extended period of time were key requirements in the development of Palmero TX use in sugarcane.

"It has suited a lot of growers because it has a similar use pattern to both Bobcat Combi and Bobcat i-MAXX," Brett said.

"In plant cane it can be used from final hill-up through to out-of-hand stage and, in ratoon cane, it can be used from directly after harvest or as a directed spray from stooling to out-of-hand stage.

"Bobcat Combi cannot be applied at residual rates in the Wet Tropics and has time of year use restrictions in other areas.

Palmero TX and Bobcat i-MAXX do not have any time of year restrictions on their use."

Brett said Palmero TX provided long-term control of barnyard grass, guinea grass, blue top and ipomea vine, as well as other key grass and broadleaf weeds.

Isoxaflutole (Group H) and terbuthylazine (Group C) provide different modes of action on grass weeds, reducing the chances of building weed resistance.

"It has been very well received by growers around Mackay and Proserpine, as well as in the Burdekin region, Brett said.

"The Burdekin region offers different challenges in weed control to most other cane growing regions due to the cane being burnt prior to harvest. Palmero TX has proven to be very robust here as well."

Palmero TX offers a convenient use rate of 1-2 kilograms per hectare, is effective on trash blanket or bare soil, and its two active ingredients reduce the need for tank mixes.

Stephen Newbery, of Crop Wise rural retail stores at Mackay and Proserpine, conducted a farm scale trial investigating Palmero TX alongside Bobcat i-MAXX and was highly impressed.

"It was an 'out-of-hand' trial in December-January and we compared mixability and usability of the product, as well as its efficacy," Stephen said.

"Visual assessment of efficacy put it right up there with Bobcat i-MAXX, which is frequently used at that time of the year.

"We looked at the days of length of control and the Palmero TX-treated area was weed free as long as the Bobcat i-MAXX area was."

With the full rate application of Bobcat Combi restricted from November 1, growers who had previously used imazapic, one of the active ingredients in Bobcat i-MAXX, were now seeking alternative options. Palmero TX provided a great fit, Stephen said.

"Growers are looking for broadleaf and vine weed residual control from November onwards and they are also looking at something different to the traditional triazine herbicides – and there are not many options in that space."

"They can hold back until the end of the year and if they have a history with these actives, Palmero TX can now be a good rotation of (herbicide) groups, which is important for resistance management."

Stephen also confirmed Palmero TX had been strongly adopted by growers throughout the region supported by the Crop Wise stores.

For further information on Palmero TX herbicide from ADAMA Australia, growers, advisers and agronomists can contact their local ADAMA representative, sales agent or visit adama.com.



ADAMA FIELD TRIAL AT MARIAN, QLD (2020)



Bobcat i-MAXX SG applied at 565 g/ha with Spraytop 250 herbicide as a directed spray prior to canopy closure providing residual control of key grass and broadleaf weeds 11 weeks after application.



Palmero TX an ideal rotational option with Bobcat i-MAXX for residual weed control. Palmero TX applied at 1.5 kg/ha with Spraytop 250 as a directed spray prior to canopy closure providing robust control of key grass and broadleaf weeds, 11 weeks after application.



Untreated control.

COMPETITIVE CRUSADER HOSE

AUSTRALIAN MADE

Supplied by Crusader Hose

Crusader Hose has been supporting the sugarcane industry for many years with flexible layflat hose for irrigation, industry and firefighting, and is proud to be associated with such a vibrant and important sector of the Australian economy. Supplying hose to independent and group resellers, Crusader Hose has equipped sugar mills, pump and irrigation shops, as well as equipment manufacturers. As an Australian-owned company, becoming an even bigger ally to sugarcane growers in Queensland is a strategy close to our hearts.



Crusader Hose has been manufacturing layflat hose in Australia for over 35 years. In the highly competitive market filled with imports, earning a profit during its first 15 years proved challenging. However, this Aussie battler stood by its unwavering commitment to local manufacturing and invested heavily in its machinery and system upgrades.

Not only is Crusader Hose leading the world in hose-manufacturing innovation, but it has kept jobs in Australia and continues to boost the Australian economy.

One of the most recent factory upgrades has seen the emergence of a new force in irrigation - Flexidrag®. This world-standard drag irrigation hose can compete with any imported hose and best of all, it's Australian made!

The polyurethane encased linear move and travelling irrigator hose can withstand high pressures on water guns, but also remain flexible at low pressures. It has a tight bend radius and can withstand extremely high UV conditions.

Farmers keen to reduce overall irrigation costs should note that the popular sizes of Crusader Hose layflat are up to 20% lighter to drag around compared to rubber hose for extra energy-consumption savings.

Crusader Hose manufactures Flexidrag® in a large range of diameters, from 40mm to 152mm, and in continuous lengths of up to 350m. This Australian-made hose is suitable for lateral or winch irrigation, effluent pumping, as well as feed hose to pivot, and general farm use. It is ultra-flexible, UV-stabilised and quality tested. The warehouse is well stocked with 3" and 4" hose ready for despatch to assist farmers in getting the stock they need on time, every time.

"For sugarcane growers seeking a reliable drag hose for their irrigation needs, you can't go past Flexidrag®," says Francois Steverlynck, Managing Director of Crusader Hose. "Australian made, here in Victoria, Flexidrag® is of world standard and designed for Australian conditions."



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* 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, such as farm machinery, etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only prepaid ads will be accepted.

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1 JAM 3 Row S/Steel Stool Splitter. 1.5T ON 30" Coulters \$25 + GST. Ph: 40676212. Babinda area.

Ford 6600 Tractor, GC; 3 x Newton 4T Tipper Bins, VGC; 800L Spray Tank. Ring 07 40645153 after 7pm.

Fiat F115 4WD with Cab '94 model; extra H/D Ratooning Disc Harrow - 28" Disc with Ripper Legs; Hyd Drag Scoop with Dolly Wheels 3-4m. Ph: 0439654815 or 0427163519.

Expressions of Interest - 2014 Miller Nitro 5240, 3,270 hours. 4,400L tank, 400L rinse tank. Hyd shift from 3m to 4m centres. 4 wheel steer. 26m boom with 250mm nozzle spacing. Set up to take Irvin Legs. Ph: 0427238320.

2 x Ian Ritchie 6t side tippers. VGC. Ph: 0740562063.

Herbert River-Burdekin

HBM billet planter, fertiliser boxes, Lorsban tank in top condition. Ph: 0419786386.

Mackay-Proserpine

Toft 6000 Series 4. Many spares, modifications inc 4' primary 6 blade chop & 7000 elevator. Excellent plant cutter. No further use. Ph: 0428880482.

6 tonne Farview side tipper, excellent condition, new tyres, \$15000 +GST. Ph: 0407761364.

Hooded Sprayer GC-1050, good condition, not used as using contractors. \$15,000 plus GST Ph: 0427188079.

New 4.3 metre wide arched steel farm roller with extendable drawbar. Legal transport width, can deliver. Blasted and 2 pack painted. \$8800 inc GST. Can also build A-framed steel and tyre rollers to order to suit your needs. Ph: 0407176828.

1995 Toft 7700 fitted with L10 Cummins, 10800 Original hours, tracks approx 80%, fitted with Galea differential drums, variable speed chopper valve for plant cutting, tiled primary hood liner. Make a reasonable offer if interested. Ph: 0418189033.

4 x Don Mizzi Extended Axles - complete with bearings. Ph: 0407638381 or 49598453.


Howard 80" AH rotary hoe fully reconditioned. Howard 80" AR rotary hoe reconditioned x 2. Parts available for Howard AR, AH & HR models. Taking orders for reconditioning of hoes on AR, AH & HR models with most sizes available. Ph: 0407643441 or 49595883.

Cane planting equipment: 1x Populin billet planter wide elevator \$3,500, 1x Populin 2T tipper bin \$2,500 ono, 1x Refalo 2.5T tipper bin \$2,500 ono. Ph: 0419774579 (Proserpine District).

Massey Ferguson 8110 4-wheel drive with cab, 135hp, only 2,636 hours in good condition. \$55,000 incl. GST. Ph: 0438606578.


12t self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. Very good condition, Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

6t side tipper on Leyland tandem. Good condition, Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.



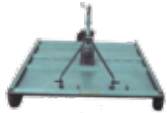
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Classifieds

Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit, Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. Very good condition, Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

Harvesting contract at end of 20/21 season. Includes JD570 Fulltrack Harvester, 3 x MAN TGA390 trucks w/ Griffcam 10T tippers, 4 x CASE Powerhauls & misc harvesting equip. To be sold w/ 50,000 tonnes + cut. Harvesting 90,000 tonnes this season. Ph: 0410664890.

6t side tipper Ian Ritchie, excellent condition \$15,000 + GST. Ph: 0478719294.

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

1 pair multipliers with all hydraulics for a JD fulltrack harvester VGC, made by Yannie Creek Engineering. 1 x 2 row 1T minimum till Hodge fertiliser applicator with SS box and worm with 2 sets of coulters VGC. 1 Grassland 800Lt spray tank flat fan boom and ervine legs VGC. Maryborough area. Ph: 0428879341.

TM165 with IOT Toft highlift tipper bin GC. JD 6930 with IOT Maclean highlift tipper bin VGC. Maclean IOT highlift tipper bin VGC. All the above are serviced, clean and ready to work. Maryborough area. Ph: 0428879341.

1 x Massey Ferguson 102 cane harvester VGC shedded - \$5,000 + GST, 1 x 4 tyne Paraplow ripper - \$4,000 + GST, 1 x Croplands ute boom sprayer 1200L approx-16M BOOM - \$5,000 + GST, 1 x 4 Row Janke eliminator mulcher - \$4,000 + GST, 1 x 1,200lt fuel tank - \$300 + GST, 1 x grain bin trailer - \$1,000 + GST, 1 x side dresser fertiliser box - \$800 + GST, 1 X ½ tonne linkage spreader - \$500 + GST. Ph: 0488662313.

3 inch 2 in 1 Avoca double reel water winch, 4 inch Avoca 2 in 1 heavy duty water winch, 2,200litre diesel fuel tanker is a complete trailer Massey Ferguson 65 high clearance. Ph: 0427598333.

New South Wales

Rotary hoe Berti Luna 4 metre. Near new blades. Crumbler roller. \$25,000 or nearest offer. Ph: 0402105244.

Hilling Cultivating Bar. Price \$1,000 ex GST. Ph: 0423531398.

Chisel plough. Price \$3,000 ex GST. Ph: 0423531398.

Coil Tyne Fertiliser Box Bin 1 tonne load. Price \$5,000 ex GST. Ph: 0423531398.

Case IH 585 Tractor 60 HP with 5000 Hours. Price \$12,000 ex GST. Ph: 0423531398.

Case IH Magnum 7201 4WD Tractor 160 HP with 3037 Hours. Price \$47,500 ex GST. Ph: 0423531398.

Case IH 4210 4WD Tractor 72 HP with 1488 Hours. Price \$24,500 EX GST. Ph: 0423531398.

Wanted

Wanted hardhose irrigator 140-350 min size, with hydraulic for setup computer controlled and turntable. Ph: 0417753798.

High Rise Spray Rig in good condition, must have approx. 2mts clearance and have a 5 or

7 row boom, 1.6mt centres or can be adjusted to 1.6mt centres. Ph: 0419705530

Dual row billet planter. Ph: 0419771504.

Heavy duty 5m trash rake. Ph: 41576198.

Toyota Hilux dual cab 4WD Diesel 2010 onwards. Herbert River region. Ph: 0428394004.

Front-end loader with bucket to fit either Fiat 650 Special, Fiat 750 Special or Ford 5000. Ph: 49598453 or 0407638381.

Rack and turn table gear or complete turn table for Toft6000 Elevator. Ph: 0408665955.

Parts for Kubota B6100 with a d650 engine in particular, turf tyres/wheels, grille. Ph: 0447002293.

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Jul 2021)	Month to date (1 Aug-25 Aug)	Year to date	Jan-Aug
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	95	57.2	2374.4	2332
Mareeba Airport	3.8	0.6	791.2	675.2
Cairns Aero	54.4	20.4	2250.4	1655.5
Mt Sophia	112.6	88	3292.6	2739
Babinda Post Office	138.5	0	3402.6	3516.6
Innisfail	183.8	149	3178.4	2953.5
Tully Sugar Mill	197.4	151.2	4365.9	3419.8
Cardwell Marine Pde	28.4	30.4	2120.4	1715.2
Lucinda Township	84.4	52	1833.4	1765.6
Ingham Composite	86.3	48.2	3012.3	1700.7
Abergowrie Alert	34	17	1537	1161
Townsville Aero	5.4	2.8	875	914
Ayr DPI Research Stn	3.4	1.4	879.2	754.3
Proserpine Airport	8.4	41.6	905	1129.5
Mirani Mary Street	3	13.1	702.4	1126.6
Mackay MO	5	41	959.6	1250.3
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	5.8	11.8	455.6	1358.6
Bundaberg Aero	67	3.2	346.8	677.3
Childers South	84.6	13	445	582.2
Maryborough	50.4	19.8	550.6	812.8
Tewantin RSL Park	50.6	18.6	1050.8	1150.3
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	74.8	15.8	966.5	1233.5
Nambour DPI - Hillside	71.4	2.6	931.8	1272
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	52.3	28.7	930	755.3
Murwillumbah Bray Park	103.5	12.5	1268.1	1152.1
Ballina Airport	100.2	25.4	1354.4	1316.8
New Italy (Woodburn)	75.2	23.6	1160.3	980.2



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dream with
your eyes open

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 sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology Recent Rainfall Tables.

Property

DEERAL Cane Farm for Sale. Up to 140 acres on 2 titles. 186 Ross Road, Deeral. Ph: 0412968434.

For sale by tender: Mahony's farm, 2815 Abergowrie Road, Abergowrie. Freehold cane farm land 132.95 ha (CPA 129.78 ha). Two dwellings & three sheds on the property. Tenders close: 5:00pm Monday 27 September 2021. Tender packs available at Firth Lawyers – 0747766600 admin@firthlawyers.com.au.

Want to buy farm in the Mackay or Proserpine area. Must have two good condition houses and irrigation. Contact Paul on 0447545550. WTB: Grazing & Irrigation Property. Grazing to run 300-500 head. 100-200 acres irrigation. Located Sarina-Proserpine Regions. Contact James on 0429621145.

Cane Farm, 47 acres. 23 acres Cane Production for 2021, remainder fallow. 40MG Kinchant Dam allocation. Supplied

to Racecourse Mill. 20 mins from Mackay. Ph: 0466241656.

Wanting to lease - cane farm in the Walkerston/Eton/Pleystowe areas and surrounds. Ph: 0421520331.

2 Mackay cane farms on 4 lots; one farm 113.62ha with total area 74.67ha CPA and second farm 126.57ha with total area 82.17ha CPA. Farms have common boundary. Ph: 0415 881 092.

Young grower wanting to expand. Looking for farms to lease. Mulgrave Area Ph: 0431036229.

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres all up. Teemburra water, 2 pumps & licences, plus 32,000 gallons an hour underground bore. Machinery/irrigation shed. 2x 4" soft hose irrigators, farm lasered, underground main throughout. 2 sidings adjoin farms. Access to farm from Pleystowe School Rd & Formosa's Rd. Does not include 2021 crop. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.



BUYERS BEWARE

Buyers please be aware of scam emails when buying online. Scammers may try to intercept emails between genuine buyers and sellers by sending the buyer a fake invoice with different account details for the payment.

Buyers should check with the seller by phone for accurate account details before making payment.

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Spotted anything unusual?

NOTHING WILL PROTECT YOUR CROP BETTER THAN A GOOD HARD LOOK

Growers have an important role in keeping watch for exotic pests, diseases and weeds that could devastate the Australian sugarcane industry.

Early detection and reporting is the key to protecting farms, industries and the communities that rely on them. Every moment lost harms our chance of successful eradication.

If you spot anything unusual in your crop please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. The call is free (except from mobiles).

Visit planthealthaustralia.com.au/sugarcane for further information and a list of the top priority cane pests.



**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL,
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

☎ 1800 084 881