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A close-up photograph of several sugar cane stalks. The stalks are primarily green and yellowish, with some showing signs of being cut or broken. One prominent stalk in the center-right has a dark, charred, and jagged section at its top, suggesting it has been cut or broken. The background is a soft-focus green, likely from other cane leaves. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

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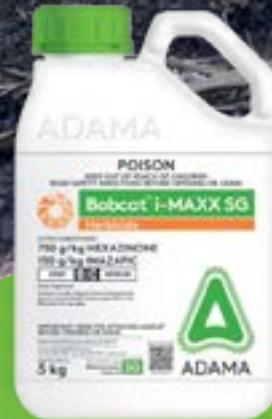
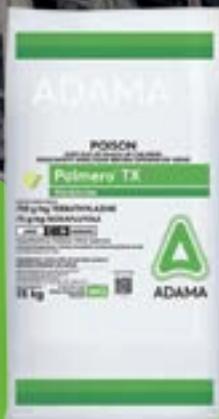
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COVER IMAGE: CANEGROWERS Innisfail Grower Services Manager Deb Telford says growers must follow through with all six steps of the SIX EASY STEPS process to get the most from their crop. Read more on page 24...

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Editor: Wayne Griffin

Design and classifieds: Angela Linhart

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

Published monthly by

CANEGROWERS
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Website: www.CANEGROWERS.com.au

AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039

Volume 44 Number 9

Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 12 issues (postage included)

Within Australia \$176 inc GST

Overseas (AUD) \$265



Premier hears positive policy settings needed to realise potential

CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens and CEO Dan Galligan sat down with Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and Minister for Transport and Main Roads Mark Bailey in August, to discuss the significant potential of Queensland's sustainable sugarcane industry.

The meetings covered the current status of the industry, pressures being faced by growers in relation to input costs and regulations, as well as the significant potential within the industry to grow and diversify on the back of its very strong sustainability credentials.

"We had positive and constructive meetings with both the

Premier and the Minister," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan.

"We spoke about the industry's recently released Sugar Plus roadmap and the great potential that could be unlocked with the right policy settings and support.

"We also spoke about the challenges currently facing the industry, such as high input costs, workforce shortages, and the negative impact and burden of unnecessary regulations."

The Premier spoke positively of the meeting in Parliament the following day. ■

Industry debt drops in 2021

Sugar was one of only a handful of Queensland industries to reduce its debt burden in 2021, according to the 2021 Queensland Rural Debt Survey tabled in State parliament in August.

The survey found that "sugar debt decreased by 2.70 per cent to \$1,077 million, making it one of only a few industries to record a reduction in debt."

The sugar industry was the sixth largest holder of rural debt in Queensland and accounted for 4.48 per cent of total rural debt.

While total sugar debt decreased slightly, the average debt per borrower increased by 9.13 per cent to \$609,000, the report said.

"The number of borrowers over the period fell by 10.84 per cent to 1,769.

"This may have been contributed to in part by the closure of two mills, located in Maryborough and Bundaberg, and the repurposing of sugarcane farmland in areas of the state." ■

Mackay mourns popular grower

Mackay's cane growing community is in mourning following the tragic on-farm death of popular local grower Tony Galea late last month.

Mr Galea died on 27 August when a tractor he was working on with his son Mark, rolled, crushing both men.

Police arrived at the property at Alligator creek, south of Mackay, to find the men trapped under the tractor, local media reported. 87-year-old Tony died at the scene, while Mark (57) was rushed to Mackay Hospital with pelvic injuries.

"It's a terrible, sad situation ... whenever anything like this happens, it always is. And the growing community will band together and hopefully try and support the family as much as possible," CANEGROWERS Mackay Deputy Chair Joseph Borg told Seven News.

Mr Galea's death is the latest in a string of fatal workplace accidents to strike the sugar industry this year. With the season less than halfway through, CANEGROWERS is urging all growers, harvester crews and mill workers to make their safety a top priority. ■



Gathering rain clouds make growers anxious

Cane growers are keeping a wary eye on the horizon, following yet another warning from the Bureau of Meteorology that a wetter than normal spring is almost guaranteed.

In its Spring 2022 Climate and Water Outlook, released late last month, the Bureau said the chance of a La Niña returning this spring had increased to around 70%, with flooding along Australia's eastern coastline highly likely.

"Where soils and catchments are wet, and streamflows are high, further rainfall this spring will increase the risk of flooding for eastern Australia," Senior BOM climatologist Dr Lynette Bettio said.

"In northern Australia, the first rains of the wet season are likely to be earlier than normal for much of Queensland and the Northern Territory."

Heavy rain at the start of this year's harvest has already seriously impacted the season, with many districts pushing their expected finish date out to mid-December.

Mill performance is also causing serious problems with Mackay's crush now expected to continue into early January, while Rocky Point growers are yet to begin harvesting due to problems with the mill.

"We're less than halfway through the harvest as it is, so more widespread heavy rain would have a significant impact on our ability to get the entire crop off," CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens said.

"It's already going to be a struggle for some districts that, through a combination of wet weather and poor mill performance, have fallen far behind where they would normally be at this stage of the season.

"Unfortunately, we can't control the weather. We just have to go as hard as we can for as long as we can and hope that the rain holds off as long as possible, or when it does arrive it's not as heavy or widespread as predicted." ■

"The first rains of the wet season are likely to be earlier than normal for much of Queensland."

*Pictured: The prospect of a wetter than usual spring has growers worried about getting their crop off.
Photo by Chris Walker.*

Sharing a taste of sugar

With The Ekka back in full swing the city finally had the chance to learn what really happens on a sugarcane farm.

With the collaboration of key industry stakeholders, CANEGROWERS, Sugar Research Australia (SRA), Sunshine Sugar (NSW) and Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) thousands flocked to get a taste of the sugar industry at the Australian sugar and sugarcane stand.

The real hit of the show was the Virtual Reality paddock to packet experience provided by Sunshine Sugar, this six-minute immersive tour provided a bird's eye view of cane country, before bringing visitors into the tractor cab during planting and harvesting.

Viewers were taken through the production process on farm, in the mill, and got to experience the sugar terminal and refinery, learning about sugarcane from the billet to the bag.

SRA provided samples of common pests affecting sugarcane that intrigued visitors while CANEGROWERS Rocky Point grower **Richard Skopp** provided cane and billets allowing visitors the chance to get up close to sugarcane.

Many visitors shared a connection to the sugarcane crop, reminiscing with fond memories whether it be visiting a farm or passing fields of green cane up and down the Queensland coastline, and overall their experiences were very positive.

Jamie Grant, Councillor for the Agricultural Hall at The Ekka, a dry land

cotton farmer from Dalby said after a few years of being 'all dressed up with nowhere to go' the Ekka was finally back in the arena this year and the Ag Hall was buzzing with activity when *Australian Canegrower* caught up with him on day five of the exhibition.

"It's been a good result so far, I mean we always knew it could be a shaky start, we're coming out of two years of no Ekka due to COVID restrictions, but overall it's been very positive," Mr Grant said.

Mr Grant said the Ekka's Ag Hall exhibitions provided agricultural industries the chance to reach out to the city, especially the younger generations, to experience firsthand what life on a farm is all about, giving an opportunity to explore the world through a farmer's eyes and allowing the chance to ask questions and begin to think about how food is grown and produced.

"The agricultural industry needs to have a presence with city people, it's up to us and our industries to show them what we do and share our stories.

"You have had a lot of traffic through your stand, it's been great to see, you're doing a great job helping people to understand what is involved in your industry.

"Now we need to promote the different career opportunities within agriculture,

and I'll be pushing that focus for next year's Ekka."

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Owen Menkens** said it was rewarding to witness firsthand the joy and amazement expressed by men, women and children of all ages as they were immersed in the life of a cane farmer, harvest operator and mill worker.

"Regardless of their understanding, all visitors left with new insights and new understandings of the contemporary industry," Mr Menkens said.

It wasn't only the general public who gained a valuable insight into the importance of the sugar industry to Queensland's economy and the pivotal role it could one day play in the success of the bioeconomy.

Federal Agriculture Minister **Murray Watt**, Queensland Agriculture Minister **Mark Furner** and Federal Opposition leader **Peter Dutton**, all attended the stand and engaged directly with industry representatives.

"Advocating on behalf of Queensland's sugarcane farming families and the communities they support is at the very heart of what CANEGROWERS does as an organisation," Mr Menkens said.

"But rarely do we get an opportunity to engage one-on-one with government



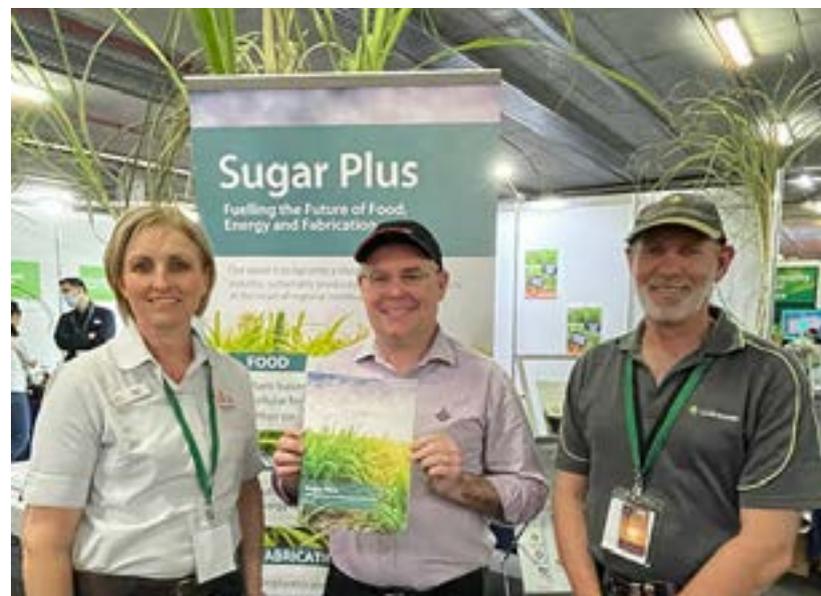
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decision-makers and the general public simultaneously.

“Like all industries in today’s world, the sugar industry requires a social licence if we are to continue to operate successfully.

“CANEGROWERS is proud to talk directly with the community and the decision-makers and educate them on the steps we have taken over many decades to become one of the world’s most efficient, sustainable and forward-thinking producers of sugar.” ■

Pictured: (top right) SRA Executive Duncan Ferguson, CANEGROWERS Communications Officer Robyn Devine and The Ekka's Jamie Grant. (below top left) Owen Menkens and his family visited the stand, (below top middle) CANEGROWERS Senior Manager Membership Engagement & Innovation Matt Kealley and Queensland Agriculture Minister Mark Furner, (below top right) CANEGROWERS members Samuel, Samara and Aubrielle Mischke came to say hello, (bottom left) Federal Opposition leader Peter Dutton, (bottom right) SRA Head of Strategy, Insights and Engagement Cathy Weis, Federal Agriculture Minister Murray Watt and Matt Kealley.



Starring Queensland sugar industry's sustainability credentials

CANEGROWERS will feature on *Planet Shapers*, a television series highlighting sustainability stories that innovate and adapt the way we live and work.

The segment starring CANEGROWERS showcases Smartcane BMP and the sustainability story of Queensland sugar, it will air on Sunday 17 September.

Matt Kealley CANEGROWERS Senior Manager - Membership Engagement and Innovation said the video production company filming the *Planet Shapers* segment worked with growers, CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens and CANEGROWERS Tully Director Jamie Dore, to produce a segment for the informative television show.

"The story is positive and takes viewers on the journey of how Queensland sugar is produced, from the farm to the mill and finally to the terminal," Matt said.

"The sustainability credentials of our industry are at the heart of the segment while exploring how blockchain

technology assists with provenance and traceability."

The camera work and technology used to capture the visuals included Full HD digital cameras, gimbal cameras, Go-pros and drones producing impressive footage.

Stunning imagery of the Tully district showcasing the amenity of the region complements footage of sub-surface fertilising, planting, harvesting, control traffic, mill sidings, trains with bins heading to the mill, crushing of the cane, sugar production, sugar being unloaded at the terminal and sugar storage at the terminals.

"The farming footage was collected at Jamie Dore's farm and the surrounding areas in Tully. Mill footage was captured at the Tully Sugar mill and the terminal was filmed in Townsville," Matt said after

spending time behind the scenes with the growers and the film crew.

"Provenance and traceability of ingredients including sugar remain important to food and beverage manufacturers, customers and consumers alike. This is just another way CANEGROWERS is showcasing our sustainable industry to the community."

The show will go to air on September 17 on Channel 10 but can viewed after that on <https://10play.com.au/planet-shapers> ■

Pictured: (right) Planet Shapers filming in progress. (Top left) CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens. (Top right) CANEGROWERS Tully Director Jamie Dore.

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CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

TAKING THE INDUSTRY TO THE HEART OF THE CITY

One of the most common questions I hear from growers is “how do we tell those people in the city the truth about what we do?”

There has always been a view, justifiably held in many instances, that policy decisions impacting agriculture are swayed by the dominance of the urban vote. So, it makes sense that the more we can inform the urban voter, the better informed their voting choice will be.

Of course, that can be easier said than done. Political parties spend millions of dollars to understand the policy wishes of the electorate, and they don't necessarily get it right.

In agriculture we should welcome and treat with respect the fact that recent research of community attitudes towards agriculture shows real evidence that urban and rural communities are very supportive of farmers.

In fact, data from research done by CANEGROWERS and backed up by work we have supported with the National Farmers' Federation shows that the community trusts farmers, but they are unsure or have concerns about farming practices.

It's the responsibility of all agricultural bodies to talk to the community and ensure they understand our industry. Given the size of the challenge, we need to be targeted and spend precious membership dollars in such a way as to ensure we get the best “bang for our buck”.

The Royal Queensland Show, aka the Ekka, is known in South East Queensland as the week when the bush comes to the city. With 75% of Queensland's population residing in the southeast, clearly doing all we can to share the wonderful stories of our industry at this event is a good idea.

It was with this in mind that CANEGROWERS led an industry presence at this year's Ekka. It was the first time in decades that sugar has had a place at this event.

It really was a joint effort, as we worked with Sugar Research Australia, the Australian Sugar Milling Council and Sunshine Sugar to provide a unique and exceptionally popular experience for visitors.

Our display featured actual cane supplied by Rocky Point grower Richard Skopp, samples of sugar and sugar products, and a virtual reality experience which allowed visitors to virtually visit a farm, mill and refinery.

The event was an outstanding success when you look at the positive feedback and visitor numbers. More importantly, the support from the general public was obvious, with many visitors speaking fondly about their experiences interacting with our industry as they travel the state.

This is real opportunity for CANEGROWERS as we look to not only build on what the public sees, tastes and feels about our product, but also tap into their natural desire to understand more about the industry.

Perhaps our greatest challenge is a need to meet expectations around transparency and confidence. People in cities in South East Queensland are not much different to people in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay or Bundaberg.

We have learnt over the years that proximity does not guarantee knowledge, but poor government policy also does not necessarily reflect community attitudes either. Instead, it may be based on the biased views of policymakers and “anti-agriculture” lobbyists.

Community support for agriculture and agricultural practices will be the secret to ensuring we can continue to operate our farms and industry, but also and perhaps most importantly, it will be the secret to rectifying the many ill-conceived ideas that may come from our political leaders. ■





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Wet Tropics waterways get top marks

Recently released Waterway Health Report Card shows Wet Tropics catchments are in good health.

From the Daintree to Ingham, Queensland's Wet Tropics catchments are in good shape, according to the recently released Wet Tropics Waterway Health Report Card 2022.

The report, which uses data gathered during 2020-2021, rates the water quality; habitat and hydrology; and fish stocks across nine river catchments in the Wet Tropics.

Of those nine catchments, seven received a B grade in the new report card, while one catchment, the Daintree, got top marks with an A.

CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens said growers should be proud of the role they play in protecting waterways.

"The reality is farmers have been doing their bit to protect the health of their local catchments," Mr Menkens said.

"The long-term health of the reef may well be at risk from the effects of increasing sea surface temperatures, but it is the efforts of farmers and land managers to look after water quality that are shielding the reef."

Mr Menkens said it was essential that the public were informed about the positive

efforts being made by growers to care for local waterways.

"Ensuring the public recognises these efforts is certainly a challenge," he said.

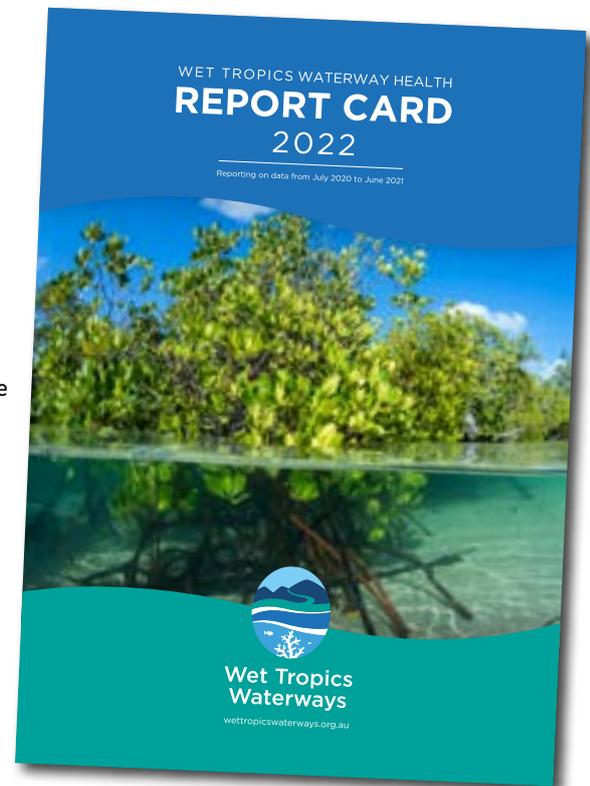
"If I hadn't been Chairman of CANEGROWERS I might never have heard this great news.

"While I've seen plenty of negative media on reef health, it is hard to find any media reports highlighting these positive results - proving the old adage that bad news sells.

"The industry-led best management practice program Smartcane BMP has been instrumental in helping to change the public perception around cane growing and reef health, he said.

"While it is frustrating for us to often have to prove what most of us have been doing all along, Smartcane BMP ensures that growers are being recognised and appreciated for their efforts.

"The program continues to grow, with 40% of Queensland cane land now accredited and recognised as being sustainably farmed. This is central to ensuring the industry maintains community support.



"With the community on our side, we get ever closer to getting government to sit up and take notice and back policies that recognise and support growers.

"The ultimate goal is to have government work with us to grow the potential of our industry. But this will only come when policy moves from handbrake to accelerator."

The full Wet Tropics Waterway Health Report Card 2022 can be downloaded from: wettropicswaterways.org.au/wet-tropics-report-card/ ■

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40% of Queensland's cane land is now accredited in the industry-led Smartcane BMP program

Sweet success continues for Smartcane BMP

Smartcane BMP has passed another major milestone, with over 700 cane farming enterprises now accredited in the industry-led program.

This means that more than 155,000 hectares, or almost 40% of Queensland's cane land is now recognised as being farmed at or above industry best practice.

"In what is traditionally a quiet time for new accreditations, during the crush, facilitators have continued to work with and support growers seeking accreditation," Smartcane BMP manager Kate Gowdie said.

"The strength of the program is our growers and their ongoing commitment to best practice and continuous improvement.

"We would like to acknowledge each and everyone of our 700 accredited enterprises for showcasing our sustainability credentials to the world.

"Interest in sustainable Australian sugar is ever increasing and Smartcane BMP is ready to meet the demand."

CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said Smartcane BMP was integral to maintaining the industry's social licence to operate.

"The continued growth and success of Smartcane BMP provides a massive boost to the industry," Mr Galligan said.

"It also helps CANEGROWERS make the case against further regulation that could stifle growth."

The Queensland Government has said Smartcane BMP growers will not be a focus of reef compliance activities. ■



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FROM THE CHAIR

By Owen Menkens, Chairman CANEGROWERS

DISTRICTS BOARDS – THE ENGINE ROOM OF CANEGROWERS

The skies were relatively clear over most cane-growing regions in August, and we also saw some improvements in mill performance. But with a wetter than usual Spring predicted and less than half the crop currently cut and crushed, growers are keeping a wary eye on the horizon.

We can only hope that the expected rain holds off or is not as widespread as forecast, and that we get some good conditions to get our crop off for this year.

I especially feel for the growers in Rocky Point who have yet to start harvesting and are looking at a very difficult situation for this year.

With these issues in mind, it was great to catch up with the District Boards of Bundaberg, Maryborough and Isis in August.

As part of our director induction process, we like to get our CEO Dan Galligan, CFO Jodie Mittelheuser, Legal Counsel Chris Cooper and myself in front of all the new directors at the start of a new term.

We have 85 directors across 13 districts. They are the engine room of our organisation and have the closest relationship with our members, so their input is so important in guiding the direction of the organisation.

The most important role of a district director is negotiating cane supply agreements with mills, but their role encompasses so much more.

Dealing with equity issues, mill performance issues, cane supply and

transport issues, as well as council and planning issues, are just some of the important and challenging matters directors must tackle.

Therefore, it is our role to make sure that all directors are provided with training in governance and financials to help them carry out their role.

We are fortunate as an organisation to have the experience of Chris Cooper and Jodie Mittelheuser to give support to directors and district managers regarding their obligations.

Some of the most difficult decisions you ever have to make as a director are at a local level.

Hopefully over this term we can come up with a way to integrate these directors more closely.

There is so much to learn from directors in other areas regarding farming and other issues. I have always found that the most rewarding part of being in CANEGROWERS is learning from growers in other districts.

We are unique as an agricultural organisation to have strong local boards as well as the State organisation.

This federated model gives us the ability to be fully integrated in our approach

to policy. There should be a connection between each member and the top of the organisation.

Hopefully we can continue to improve this going forward. ■

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Get in touch with your district facilitator to see how easy it can be. We're here to help.



Bill, Proserpine



Contact your district facilitator to find out more.

Is modern agriculture under threat?

By Dr Michael Quirk, CANEGROWERS Environment Policy Manager

The invention of nitrogen fertilisers was one of the most important discoveries of the 20th century, allowing the world's population to boom from 1.6 billion people in 1900 to nearly 7.8 billion today. But while fertiliser nitrogen is essential for global food security, intensification of agriculture has created risks to both the environment and human health.

How to feed the world while reducing the risk of negative impacts is a major global challenge.

We have seen signs of this in recent news coverage from the Netherlands, Canada and New Zealand, where governments are imposing controls on nitrogen management and farmers have protested in response.

But recognition of unintended impacts from use of nitrogen fertiliser are not new and are not restricted to one or two countries.

For the past 15 years, CANEGROWERS and its members have been proactively responding to concerns about cane farming's impact on concentrations of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) in groundwater and run-off, and the possible consequences for the health of estuaries and inshore waters.

HOW DO THE UNINTENDED RISKS OF N FERTILISER USE ARISE?

Urea fertiliser applied to the soil is first converted to ammonium (NH₄), a form available for plant uptake.

Some ammonium can be lost to the atmosphere as ammonia (NH₃), especially if fertiliser is surface applied, but most ammonia is converted to nitrate by soil bacteria.

Nitrate (NO₃) is the form of soil nitrogen most commonly taken up by the crop. But N uptake by the crop is not an efficient process and losses can occur. In most cropping systems, only 30 to 50% of fertiliser N is used by the crop.

Much of the nitrate not taken up by the crop will be lost to the environment – some will be lost as dissolved nitrate (the main component of DIN), while some will be lost as a gas, nitrous oxide (N₂O), via a soil process called denitrification.

The unintended impacts of fertiliser N use, therefore, relate to one or more of the following:

- Impacts of nitrate losses on water quality – surface water and/or groundwater
- Impacts of nitrous oxide losses on global warming
- Impacts of ammonia losses on air quality

The first two concerns are widespread, while the third is currently restricted to Europe and the UK.

How have these issues influenced the recent protests by overseas farmers?

THE DUTCH SITUATION

If any country demonstrates the challenges of sustainable nitrogen management it is the Netherlands.

Nitrogen uptake by the crop is not an efficient process and losses can occur. In most cropping systems, only 30 to 50% of fertiliser N is used by the crop.

In a sense, Dutch farmers are a victim of their own success, having improved and intensified their practices to become the world's second biggest exporter of food.

Part of this success has relied on efficient animal production systems, with the country having the highest density of livestock in Europe – more than four times that of the UK or France.

As with other EU countries, Dutch concerns around nitrates and water quality started decades ago.

The EU Nitrates Directive has been in place since 1991, requiring each country to put measures in place to reduce on-farm nutrient surpluses (i.e. the amount of applied N not taken up by crops) and thereby reduce nitrate levels in both groundwater and surface water.

Similarly, the EU has had a series of policies on cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions since the early 1990s, and actually over-shot its 2020 target of a 20% reduction relative to 1990 emissions.

The EU 2030 target is to reduce emissions by at least 55% below 1990 levels.

The Netherlands has adopted a 50% reduction target by 2030 and, due to concerns about progress, has recently introduced new subsidies for sustainable energy projects and other measures.

The recent fuss in the Netherlands was not about water quality or GHG emissions, but about air quality.

Agriculture in Europe is a major emitter of ammonia into the atmosphere, one of several compounds that reduce air quality.

The ammonia is emitted from the huge amounts of manure applied to paddocks every year.



The recent farmer protests in response to government proposals targeting nitrogen management are no cause for alarm.

In the EU, animal farming generates more than 1.2 billion tonnes of manure each year and 90% is directly re-applied to soils as organic fertiliser.

Regulations require farmers to not apply more than 170 kg/ha of N in the form of manure (mineral N can also be applied), but compliance levels are unclear.

Some of this ammonia emitted from manure finds its way back to the ground via wet or dry deposition, gradually increasing the N status of soils while decreasing their pH. This is manageable on farmland but is damaging for conservation areas as the native plants are adapted to low fertility.

Studies of the network of Dutch nature reserves show that 118 of the 160 reserves now have soil nitrogen levels unfavourable for native plant species and soil pH is also dropping.

These reserves are part of Natura 2000, the largest network of protected areas in the world, offering a haven to Europe's threatened species and habitats. So, the impacts are both environmentally and politically significant.

Consequently, the Netherlands Government wants to cut emissions of ammonia and other pollutants by 50% before 2030, calling the measure an

“unavoidable transition” to improve soil, air and water quality.

Measures will include the voluntary buy-out of farms to reduce livestock numbers by up to one-third.

The huge backlash from farmers was over the prospect of tough regulation and farmer buyouts, and fears of damage to food production in the country if too many farmers are forced to quit.

THE NEW ZEALAND SITUATION

The recent farmer protests in NZ were not about nitrates in waterways, which is their most pressing environmental issue, but in response to a proposed levy system on farm emissions.

Although supported by Dairy NZ and other farm organisations, many farmers are unhappy with having any additional regulation and are concerned about loss of production.

New Zealand farmers are under this pressure because agriculture is responsible for more than half of New Zealand's total GHG emissions.

In fact, between 1990 and 2018, NZ total carbon emissions rose 57%, the second greatest increase of all industrialised countries. This period coincided with a doubling of the dairy herd.

continues next page ►



The risk of Australian agriculture having emission reduction targets imposed by government is extremely low.

The NZ government will not reach its GHG emission targets without agriculture making significant contributions, given its new target of reducing net emissions by 50%, relative to 2005, by 2030.

In reality, the most pressing issue with nitrogen in NZ agriculture is the large increase in concentrations of nitrate in local groundwater and, subsequently, in waterways and lakes.

This has serious risks for the environment and for human health, with nearly 60% of the country's rivers carrying pollution above acceptable levels and considered unsafe for swimming.

A major cause has been the intensification and expansion of the dairy industry, NZ's biggest export earner.

Cow numbers have doubled since 1990, while over the same time period the amount of nitrogen applied to North Island farms increased from 62,000 to 452,000 tonnes.

This has caused greatly increased nitrate levels in groundwater and, where this groundwater ends up in streams or lakes that serve as a source of drinking water, major health concerns have emerged.

Regulations have been in place since 2020, including a general cap on fertiliser

nitrogen applications for dairy farms of 190kg/ha/year. The government has reduced the maximum limit for nitrates in freshwater systems of 2.4 mg/L, meaning councils must regulate practices to avoid nitrate exceedances.

For example, the Canterbury Council has strict regulations on farming practices and limits on how much dissolved N can be lost from farms.

But conservation groups are pushing hard for the limit to be reduced even further to 1 mg/L.

THE CANADIAN SITUATION

The Canadian protests were in response to government proposals to set a national 2030 target for a 30% reduction in GHG emissions arising from fertiliser use (relative to 2020 emissions).

It was not about water quality issues, which are less of a concern than in Europe and New Zealand.

In any case, there is already a mix of voluntary and regulatory approaches to managing water quality impacts in Canada.

But a 30% reduction in emissions from fertiliser is a big ask. Further, it is an absolute emissions reduction of 30%,

rather than an emissions intensity reduction of 30%.

The latter is about improved efficiency while the former puts a cap on total emissions and, effectively, a cap on crop production for each year.

Fertilizer Canada commissioned an independent report that concludes the required fertiliser reductions would lead to a \$48 billion loss in farm incomes over the eight years leading to 2030.

The government has stated that, while the reduction target is ambitious, it does not represent mandatory reductions in fertiliser use and actions will focus on improving nitrogen management.

The government has launched a \$3 billion, five-year, Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support on-farm environmental stewardship programs.

Canada has ambitious targets for emissions reductions, 40% below 2005 levels by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050.

But progress is slow and the government is under pressure to do more.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SUGARCANE INDUSTRY

The recent farmer protests in response to government proposals targeting nitrogen management are no cause for alarm.

The risk of Australian agriculture, especially the cropping and horticulture sectors, having emission reduction targets imposed by government is considered to be extremely low.

Some form of regulation on farm practices is even less likely.

These sectors make a small contribution to our national GHG footprint, and food security is a priority issue for the Australian community, especially post COVID-19 and following the impacts of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

This does not mean that Australian agriculture, including sugarcane, should not take every practical opportunity to reduce its emissions.

This will make economic sense and it will further build our reputation for sustainability.

The latter will be increasingly important to maintain our preferred markets and to ensure the industry remains attractive to investors and the finance sector.

Reef water quality will remain the key environmental issue we must manage and, if we do this well, the risk of further regulation will be minimised.

But there is a lot we can learn from how agriculture and government in other countries have tried to manage the balance between productive agriculture and water quality. ■

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QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

Current as of 28 August 2022.

Sugar Market & Currency



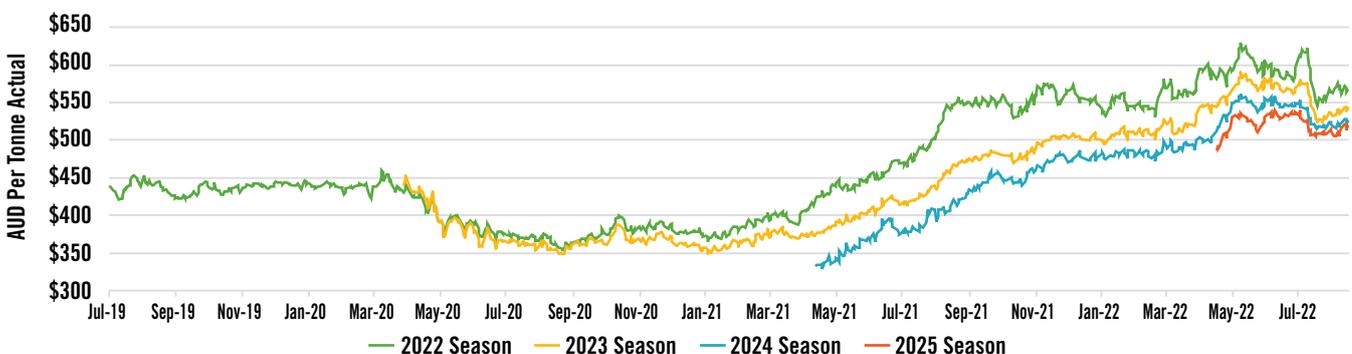
Influence	Commentary	Outlook
Brazil	The 2022 Season continues to lag 2021, with 18.6 million tonnes of sugar produced and 322 million tonnes of cane harvested. Ethanol parity is well below current sugar levels and is incentivising max sugar mix, currently sitting at 44.71%.	
India	Additional exports from India have kept a ceiling on a raw sugar prices. The monsoon is progressing well in the south and is below average in the north. See our Indian Monsoon Update for details.	
Thailand	176mm of rain had been recorded in Thailand by 21 August – on par with the long-term average of 182mm for the month of August.	Neutral
Speculators	Speculators have increased their net short position in sugar out to 25,000 lots as the weak macroeconomic picture has disincentivised commodity investments.	
Currency	US inflation eased in July but recession risk is still very real, causing the US Dollar to strengthen and the Aussie Dollar to depreciate to as low as 68.56 US cents in August.	

The outlook ratings above are in relation to AUD/tonne sugar prices.  A bullish outlook is considered positive.  A bearish outlook is considered negative.

KEY INDICATORS

	26/08/2022	Monthly change		26/08/2022	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (Jul22)	17.90 USc/lb	-0.45 USc/lb	\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.6910	+\$US0.0000
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.11 BRL	-0.39 BRL	\$US Index	108.47	+1.56
Brent Crude Oil	\$US99.34/barrel	-\$US4.52	Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.85 CNY	+0.08 CNY
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	16.50 USc/lb	+0.00 USc/lb	S+P 500 Index	4,199.12	+200.17
Net Spec Position	-25,000 (net long)	-35,000	RBA Overnight Cash Rate	1.85%	+0.50%

RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 26.08.22, based on a current 3:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2022 Season, and 1:2:2:1 ratio for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 Seasons.

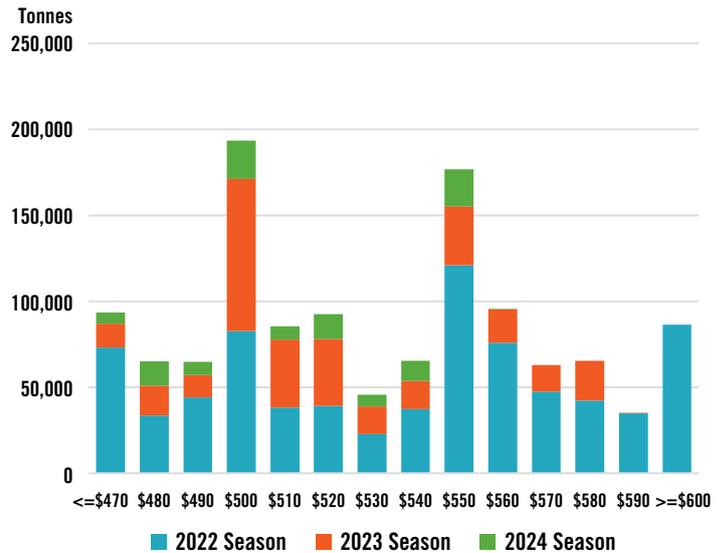
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Grower Pricing



- > The highest grower-managed pricing levels achieved as of 26.8.22 (all gross price actual/tonne) are:
 - 2022 Target Price = \$630 / IFC \$635 (Mar23)
 - 2023 Target Price = \$585 / IFC \$595 (Jul23)
 - 2024 Target Price = \$555 / IFC \$560 (Jul24)
 - 2025 Target Price = \$540 / IFC \$545 (Jul25)
- > **Advances adjustment:** QSL updated its Advance payment values from 17 August to reflect revised pool values as of 29 July 2022. The next Advance rate increase – from 65% to 70% – remains provisionally scheduled for 19 October.
- > **Key Dates:**
 - 20 September: Any unpriced tonnage in the 2022 Target Price Contract will roll after this date and an adjustment will be applied
 - 20 September: Last day to roll unpriced Oct22 Contract tonnage in the Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest Contract. Any unpriced tonnage remaining after this date will be priced by QSL at the next market opportunity.

QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2022, 2023 & 2024 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 26.08.22 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

Indian Monsoon Update

Due to the tilt of the Earth's axis, the Tropic of Cancer receives higher levels of radiation from the sun during certain periods of the year, causing a low-pressure zone to be formed over India and Central Asia. The lower atmosphere pressure over land and the higher atmospheric pressure over the sea causes sea breezes to blow towards India and bring in moist air. The moist air rises over the land and cools, causing mass precipitation known as a monsoon. The South-West monsoon in India generally runs from June through to September and commonly produces 70-90% of India's annual rainfall.

In 2022, the India Meteorological Department documented the monsoon first reached mainland India on 28 May and progressively covered the entirety of the country by 2 July. From 1 June through to 23 August, the country received on average almost 700mm of rain, compared to the long-term average of 643mm, representing an increase of 9%.

However, the largest Indian sugar cane region of Uttar Pradesh in the North has experienced less than average rainfall this year, accumulating only 299mm of rain in the monsoon period compared to the long-term average of 540mm. In contrast, the second-largest and third-largest cane growing regions in the South-West, Maharashtra and Karnataka, are both exceeding their long-term averages, recording 941mm and 795mm respectively against 749mm and 624mm.



(Source: State wise Rainfall (imd.gov.in))



THE TIME'S RIGHT FOR SRA26

Chris Bosworth owns and manages a cane farm of 140 hectares in the Herbert, 'about 6 kilometres from Victoria Mill towards Forrest Beach'.

A fourth-generation cane grower Chris has been a farmer all his life and believes farming is all about timing.

"I find in farming you keep an eye on what's going on and take the appropriate action; and it's the same with varieties.

We target 100 tonnes of cane a hectare as an average. It's not always possible but it's my long-term average.

I think like most growers I am always on the lookout for a new super variety but some of the older varieties are still performing quite well in the Herbert

"I've got a couple of hectares planted this year. I've got it on quite good soil at the moment, I follow the Six Easy Steps™, I'll start planting it out into different heavier clays and see how it goes there."

Chris Bosworth

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Maurice Shephard, 0457 924 762
Jordan Villaruz 0404 787 144

Q124 was a standout variety for the whole of the sugar industry. It was one of those super varieties that come along probably once in-a-while. At the time you don't know it's going to be a super variety – it just happens to become one.

Other standout varieties for me have been Q174 and Q115, Q117 was good too – but then smut came along, and it was heavily impacted.

But we're coming out the other side of that and I believe we're on the cusp of getting some really good new varieties; SRA26 looks very promising in that regard although my first-hand knowledge of the variety is only first ratoon.

I assess my varieties on how it looks in the paddock and this looks good.

It strikes well, it's a nice sound stick; large in diameter compared to some and it forms a very dense crop. It's fairly erect, until it gets very large; and then like most cane in the north this year, it's fallen over, but we won't hold that against it.

I've got a couple of hectares planted this year. I've got it on quite good soil at the moment, I follow the Six Easy Steps™, I'll start planting it out into different heavier clays and see how it goes there.

We were a bit late getting on board with SRA26 here. It had been released further north and we aware of its potential. But we've got it now and it looks very promising." ■



Pictured: Cutting SRA26A at Meringa to include in Northern FATs to trial as a new potential commercial standard in the Northern selection program.

Article supplied by Sugar Research Australia.



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Sugarcane nutrition – finding that sweet spot

Understanding your soil is key to making the best decisions. Smartcane BMP reaccredited grower Ray Rinaudo from Cowley Beach has been using the SIX EASY STEPS program from the time it was first developed. He's convinced it has helped him to farm smarter.

BY ROBYN DEVINE

"I follow the SIX EASY STEPS program on my farm. I have for years, I start with testing my soil every time I plant, on each individual block," Ray a third-generation grower from the Innisfail district said.

"It's a good way of ensuring that nutrient inputs are appropriate for my farm and circumstances. The SIX EASY STEPS process gives me confidence that I am applying what my crop actually needs."

Ray farms 77 hectares of sugarcane-producing land in the South Johnstone Mill area. Large tracts of tropical rainforest are surrounded by an

"The SIX EASY STEPS process gives me confidence that I am applying what my crop actually needs."

estimated crop of about 1,500,000 tonnes of sugarcane. Ray said that the weather pattern in the Wet tropics during the 2022 winter was more favourable than that experienced in many other parts of Queensland. He was happy that his CCS was better than last season.

Having spent his life on the farm, Ray has a wealth of knowledge about his farm but admits he's still happy to learn and understand farming techniques that assist him to manage his inputs better. Importantly, he indicates that he has confidence in the science behind the SIX EASY STEPS program.

“It helps my hip pocket as well because I am putting on the amount of nutrient that the crop needs and not just making assumptions.”

“There’s no point in doing things just because that was the way our forefathers farmed. Using the SIX EASY STEPS program allows me to know what the nutrient status of the soil is in the different parts of my farm, especially during my annual nutrient management planning activities,” Ray said.

“It helps my hip pocket as well because I am putting on the amount of nutrient that the crop needs and not just making assumptions.”

Farm specific nutrient management plans based on the SIX EASY STEPS support growers to adopt best practice nutrient management. Ray is supported by Peter Becke, an Extension Officer from the CANEGROWERS Innisfail district office. Peter partners with Ray to develop a practical and meaningful whole-of-farm nutrient management plan that provides the nutritional requirements of the crop and addresses any soil chemical constraints.

The overall objective of the SIX EASY STEPS program is to achieve balanced nutrition on farm and aim at optimising productivity and profitability, without adversely influencing soil fertility or causing off-farm effects.

The program recognises the range of districts, soil types and soil properties within the sugar industry and is underpinned by years of reputable scientific research.

Growers are encouraged to use their individualised knowledge and personal experiences of the soils on their farms throughout the program to ensure the

best possible outcomes in terms of their nutrient management plans.

According to Principal Agronomist Dr Danielle Skocaj at Sugar Research Australia (SRA), growers that understand their soils are able to make more informed nutrient management decisions and are more likely to achieve balanced nutrition that ultimately results in a more profitable outcome.

“If you have used the full SIX EASY STEPS program you will know that STEPS 1 and 2 focus on knowing and understanding the soils on your farm, identifying and managing nutrient process and losses,” Dr Skocaj said.

“STEP 3 is about soil testing. I can’t stress enough how important soil testing is. The more you can afford to do, the better, as this provides essential information for developing and fine-tuning your nutrient management program.

“STEP 4 uses the SIX EASY STEPS guidelines to determine crop nutrient requirements and alleviate soil chemical constraints,” Dr Skocaj said.

But it is STEPS 5 and 6 that both Dr Skocaj and Deb Telford, Grower Services Manager at CANEGROWERS Innisfail

Continues next page ►

Pictured: (main) Ray Rinaudo on his farm, (below) Tully series soil, (below right) Herbert River series soil.



and a Smartcane BMP facilitator, want to emphasise. Growers should aim to use all six STEPS in the program to ensure ongoing improvement of on-farm nutrient management.

By checking on the adequacy of nutrient inputs (STEP 5) and using on farm experiences and reviewing records to further refine and adjust nutrient inputs (STEP 6), growers may identify circumstances to save money without loss of yield.

"It is more important than ever to follow the whole process and ensure each crop is given exactly what it needs, rather than unnecessarily over- or under-applying any of the nutrients," Deb Telford said.

"Taking shortcuts or leaving something out means you are not giving your crop the best chance to realise its potential.

"By stepping away from the SIX EASY STEPS program, a grower is at risk of not making informed decisions on how to best manage nutrient inputs based on industry science."

When growers chose not to follow the full SIX EASY STEPS program, there is also a chance that they may miss fully understanding and/or identifying opportunities for specific on-farm refinement.

"We don't want to see growers compromise productivity or profitability because they don't follow the SIX EASY STEPS program as intended," Dr Skocaj said.

Growers should have confidence the SIX EASY STEPS program remains relevant and current. The SIX EASY STEPS Advisory Committee (SESAC) was formed to assess and review new information and tools including those which may form part of the SIX EASY STEPS Toolbox. This ensures any changes made to SIX EASY STEPS nutrient management guidelines are based on robust science and bring value to the program.

Smartcane BMP facilitators, like Deb Telford, often assist growers to assess their practices, collect records and data to develop their farm nutrient plans. Deb continues to strongly encourage the full implementation of the SIX EASY STEPS program within her district and recommends all growers work with the established process and guidelines.

Best practice nutrient management means having the best chance of success in minimising the risk of losses in productivity (loss of yield), profitability (loss of income), nutrients (leaching, run-off and/or gaseous losses) and soil resources (erosion and fertility losses).

Helping growers to understand soils and their nutrient processes allows growers to implement informed management decisions based on compelling scientific evidence to achieve optimum profit and sustainability.

Ultimately that should mean more money going into the pockets of growers like Ray Rinaudo, making for a stronger sugar industry.

For further information on the SIX EASY STEPS program, including useful resources and tools refer to the nutrient management section on the SRA website sugarresearch.com.au/growers-and-millers/nutrient-management/ or contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator smartcane.com.au ■

"Taking shortcuts or leaving something out means you are not giving your crop the best chance to realise its potential."

Pictured: (right top) CANEGROWERS Innisfail Grower Services Manager Deb Telford, (right bottom) Biomass sampling.

SIX EASY STEPS

The SIX EASY STEPS nutrient management program is the foundation of the Australian sugar industry's nutrient and fertiliser guidelines.

The SIX EASY STEPS nutrient management program is a comprehensive, integrated and science-based nutrient management program that is recognised by industry and government as nutrient best practice. The SIX EASY STEPS nutrient management program recognises the range of districts, soil types and soil properties within the sugar industry, while promoting balanced nutrition and sustainability.

STEP 1: Knowing and understanding your soils

STEP 2: Understanding and managing nutrient processes and losses

STEP 3: Soil testing regularly

STEP 4: Adopting soil-specific nutrient management guidelines

STEP 5: Checking on the adequacy of nutrient inputs

STEP 6: Keeping good records to interpret trends and modify nutrient inputs

To maintain the integrity of the SIX EASY STEPS nutrient management program, a committee (SESAC) has been established to assess and review any future developments that may form part of, add to or modify the SIX EASY STEPS program. This group ensures any changes are based on good science and bring value to the program.

Source: Sugar Research Australia.





MODULE 2 – Irrigation and Drainage Management

What is this about?

Water drives productivity. In some situations too much is as bad as too little. Outside of the Wet Tropics, all but a few sugarcane crops receive some amount of irrigation water.

Growers in the Burdekin have access to enough water to meet the full requirement of each crop. But growers in other districts typically have limited amounts of irrigation water.

In all of these cases, efficient use of irrigation water improves productivity.

Growers with limited water have to decide when and where irrigate to have the greatest benefit.

In these districts with limited water allocations, crop productivity is strongly related to the amount of water applied. It's important then to use your allocation as efficiently as possible. Also, not using available water when the crop is water-stressed is often false economy.

Sometimes, too much water is an issue on farms. Most farms have areas where there's poor internal drainage which is made worse by heavy rainfall or over-irrigation. You can also modify surface drainage to ensure excess water moves off your paddocks within a few days.

Why is it important?

There are many examples of benefits from either changing irrigation systems or improving the efficiency of existing systems. As water drives most chemical and physical processes in soil, plants and the atmosphere, efficient water use is a win-win situation for both the crop and the environment.

Increasing efficiency means power savings, water savings, and reduced risk of chemicals and nutrients leaving the paddock. Automating irrigation systems reduces labor costs and saves time, especially with furrow systems.

In poorly drained situations, sub-surface drainage that lowers the water table below the root zone is critical for productivity and using nutrients efficiently.

What's next?

REVIEW AND DISCUSS

If you'd like to document or review your irrigation and drainage practices, you can access Module 2 at smartcane.com.au. The module records your current practices, and the checklist format helps to identify options for further improvement.

Your district facilitator or productivity officer can help you follow-up on additional information, training or expert advice.

If you'd like more information, the following resources are available for free on the SRA website, sugarresearch.com.au:

- Irrigation of sugarcane manual
- Surface drainage and maintenance

GET INVOLVED IN SMARTCANE BMP

Smartcane BMP has modules that cover all aspects of the cane farming business. It includes the option to become accredited in the farming practice modules (Modules 1, 2 and 3). Participation is entirely voluntary, and your facilitator can talk with you about what's involved and put you in touch with local growers who are also part of the program.

Contact your district facilitator to get involved.

What's in the module?

INDUSTRY STANDARD	ABOVE INDUSTRY STANDARD
CALCULATING THE AMOUNT OF WATER TO APPLY	
Using district-specific data to calculate water requirements and irrigating in line with soil water holding capacity	Calculating crop requirements and soil water holding capacity using farm-specific tools
CALCULATING HOW OFTEN TO APPLY WATER	
Using simple monitoring tools and district-based soil data to inform irrigation frequency	Applying water based on monitoring infield soil moisture and using weather forecasting tools to inform irrigation decisions
SEASONAL WATER ALLOCATION MANAGEMENT	
Developing a water use strategy based on seasonal forecasts and historical data, and monitoring water use throughout the season	Predicting water supply based on seasonal climate forecasts and data from farm-specific tools and calculators
RUN-OFF AND DEEP DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT	
Managing irrigation to minimise run-off and deep drainage by matching application volumes to soil water deficit	Capturing run-off in tail water systems and recycled on farm
RECYCLE PITS	
Designing pits to capture all irrigation run-off and some rainfall run-off and ensuring pumping capacity is sufficient to reuse water quickly	Designing pits to capture all irrigation run-off and significant rainfall run-off, and managing storage to capture water from most storm events
IRRIGATION WATER QUALITY TESTING	
Testing irrigation water quality at a frequency dependent on water quality and seasonal context, and considering limitations when planning seasonal allocation	
USING EFFLUENT WATER FOR IRRIGATION	
Implementing a recycled water management plan that accounts for the nutrients supplied by water and minimises salinity	Implementing an ongoing water monitoring program and tail water recycling
SYSTEM MANAGEMENT	
Maintaining and managing systems to minimise run-off and deep drainage	Assessing system performance and distribution annually, and implementing automated or precision irrigation technologies
SURFACE DRAINAGE SYSTEM DESIGN	
Developing a whole-of-farm drainage plan where water is removed within 72 hours while minimising erosion and downstream flooding	Using a sediment retention basin to filter sediment and chemicals
SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE SYSTEM DESIGN	
Implementing a drainage system to remove excess water from the root zone, and following legislative requirements that relate to sulfate soils and saline drainage	
SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE SYSTEM DESIGN	
Maintaining headlands, drains and fallow ground covers	Constructing and using sediment traps

We will showcase Module 3 in the next edition of the magazine.

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

 Harvest week - 9

 CCS to date - 11.93

 Tonnes to date - 230,369 (30.31%)

At the end of Week 9, Mossman Mill had processed 30% of the crop. A number of factors are limiting the availability of the mill to just over 80% for the season to-date. So far, the estimates on the Coast and Tableland are holding, however the 10 days allowed for wet weather for the whole crushing have already been expended and difficulty finding drivers for road transport operations are all causing delays and reducing availability.

Mossman mill processed 230,368 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 11.93. The coastal growers have supplied 157,516 tonnes for an average of 11.42 CCS and Tableland growers have supplied a total of 72,852 tonnes for an average of 13.03 CCS.

There are concerns about the length of the season and a late finishing date given the cane supply issues. A meeting between the mill and grower representatives was held on 18 August, this was followed up with a grower meeting on 23 August to talk through scenarios and possible resolutions to maximise cane supply and reduce the season's length.

The Douglas Local Marine Advisory Group met on 15 August, providing an update on water quality. James Donaldson from the Wet Tropics Waterways (WTW) gave the group a short presentation on the latest WTW report card containing 2020-21 data and Elisa Westmore from CANEGROWERS spoke about Reef water quality targets and review, the Reef report card and modelling data, land management practices, and Smartcane BMP.



Pictured: Mill stack emissions testing.

TABLELAND

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 13.47

 Tonnes to date - 210,564 (37.60%)

Tableland district has dried out nicely after the rain early in the season.

Suppliers for the Tableland mill would be happy with the stats for the season so far, CCS of 13.47 (second highest in the state) and 115.5 tonnes per hectare, with a higher cut to estimate for the district.

Shed meetings were held with Far Northern Milling (Mossman mill) advising growers in the Tableland District that they face the very real possibility of standover cane, due to the lack of drivers. The management team of both the mill and Logitrix Management Services have been actively seeking drivers with MC and even HC licences, offering to assist those with HC licences to acquire their MC licenses. If anyone is looking for a position driving, please contact Peter Dibella - General Manager of the Mossman Mill on 07 4030 4101.

CocoNutZ Daintree Bio Precinct facility held an Open Day, which was attended by representatives from the CANEGROWERS Tableland office. CocoNutZ is running a value adding trial plant, working in conjunction with the Mossman mill, to make kecap manis (sweet soya sauce) from sugarcane. The work that has been completed by

CocoNutZ under very trying times was very impressive. The tour of the plant left guests feeling positive about the future of the venture.

Pictured: CocoNutZ Daintree Bio Precinct Open Day 23 August 2022 – Claude Santucci (Chair) and Doug Rankine (Director) attended from Tableland CANEGROWERS.



CAIRNS

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 11.96

 Tonnes to date - 541,230 (44.00%)

The Cairns Region has experienced sunny days and cool nights, with the CCS responding accordingly. Growers are taking every opportunity to plant while the weather is fine. CANEGROWERS Cairns Region hosted a lunch with the CEO of Mitr Pol Group Krisda Monthienvichienchai along with MSF senior staff. This function gave an opportunity for the milling company and the organisation to confirm their commitment to the local sugar industry.

Growers and CANEGROWERS staff had the opportunity to attend a Water Quality and the Great Barrier Reef workshop, organised and facilitated by the Reef & Rainforest Research Centre. The forum was well represented by a cross section

from agriculture and government, with those in attendance able to voice opinions on reef funding to date - what's working, what's not, and what should the future look like. Feral pig management was once again highlighted as an area of major concern.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region assisted a *Ready for Work* program run through the Babinda Taskforce Community group. The program focused on assisting job seekers gain some practical work skills before transitioning back into the workforce. The Babinda office hosted two ladies from the program with one successfully gaining employment.

INNISFAIL

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 11.43

 Tonnes to date - 549,598 (37.14%)

At the time of writing, weather conditions have been favourable for harvesting and farming operations, although rain is forecast in the near future. Mill performance has been good and currently, at the end of Week 10, approximately 551,000 (37%) of the forecast 1.48 million tonnes has been crushed, plus an additional 100,000 tonnes which was transferred to the Mulgrave factory. At this stage, South Johnstone mill area has an estimated finish date 29 November which includes an allowance of 13 days for wet weather. CCS to date is 11.39 with an estimated season average of 12.2.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail board and management had the opportunity to meet with the Chairman and Vice Chairman

of the Executive Committee of Mitr Phol Group which owns MSF Sugar Limited. Overall, the group were pleased to hear that the Thai owned company is committed to supporting productivity initiatives and investment in the region with a strong focus on retaining existing cane land and increasing the area under cane.

A small group of growers, amongst the hardest hit by exploding pig populations, have piloted a Feral Pig Landscape Management Plan. The initiative is in its infancy, but it is hoped that learnings from this process will be upscaled across the Innisfail region in the future.

TULLY

 Harvest week - 12

 CCS to date - 12.39

 Tonnes to date - 1,142,135 (40.07%)

The 2022 harvest is approaching 45% complete, with 1,300,000 tonnes crushed at the end of August and an estimated 1,600,000 tonnes of the crop remaining. The average CCS to date is 12.49, with a current mill area yield of 100.5 tonnes/hectare. The rainfall total for the season so far is 594mm, which is similar to recent years, however the 100mm over the last few days of August has disrupted the harvest and planting. There is a big task ahead to complete the harvest in a timely manner.

A number of growers attended the Activating Your Soil Microbiome Workshop with Dr Christine Jones, hosted by Terrain in August.

Discussions have progressed for the implementation of the Cassowary Coast Reef Smart Farming Project in the Tully area. The local industry members have continued to engage in discussions to progress the management of RSD and members of CANEGROWERS Tully Board participated in a tour of the Tully Sugar Mill.

HERBERT RIVER

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 11.70

 Tonnes to date - 1,608,789 (36.56%)

Season to date the Herbert River district has crushed over 1,800,000 tonnes at a CCS of 11.82. CCS is quite low compared to last few years but is starting to improve slowly. On a positive note, bin weights are up compared to the previous years.

The mill has had some issues throughout the season, which has reduced loading at times, including the sugar train colliding with the loco train which resulted in a five-hour mill stop at Victoria Mill. The mill has cut approximately 38% of

the 2022 crop. This concerns Herbert growers, as the crop could exceed current estimates.

The Herbert River district received between 20mm-100mm over the last weekend of August with a little more rain forecasted for the last few days of August.

The second round of the Major Grants Project opened for applications on 15 August. Growers are able to make appointments with the grants officer to assist with their application.

Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

BURDEKIN

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 13.37

 Tonnes to date - 2,585,901 (31.73%)

At the time of writing, the district had crushed 2,586,192 tonnes of cane with a season to date CCS of 13.38, which are both well behind budget. That said, August overall was a good month of crushing cane in the Burdekin, with Wilmar stringing together successive weeks and crushing approximately 400,000t/week across their four mills, which was helped along by a good spell of dry weather. This was sorely needed after July's multi-week stop for wet weather and some patchy mill performance. Growers were very keen to bank some good crushing time to make headway into the crop.

Whilst the district has been drying off, there's still no shortage of wet paddocks out there which has proven challenging at times with the odd machine getting bogged. There's a price to pay for everything and its difficult for growers seeing their paddocks getting cut up and compacted, but the crop needs to come off and that is the trade-off unfortunately. Thankfully, the paddock in the photo below was plough out and replant.

Invicta Mill has been performing well and at long last Inkerman Mill put some consecutive runs on the board. Unfortunately, Kalamia Mill has given up ground due to several breakdowns and Pioneer Mill has suffered with the combined effects of wet weather and mill performance issues. Crop estimates have been adjusted upwards in most mill areas except Invicta, which has had a small decrease. The increased estimate will put further pressure on season length, and it will most likely be a season of higher yields and lower CCS. Good mill performance and cane transfer will be critical to try and peg back time to achieve a reasonable season end in December. Wilmar have allowed for a further two weeks of wet weather in their season end forecasts.



Cane transfer commenced in the Burdekin with Wilmar transferring cane from Pioneer mill to Invicta mill, but there has been no agreement to commence transfer of South Bank cane to the North Bank due to unresolved challenges around the small amount of cane the mill wanted to transfer and cost sharing. We do not feel that an equal sharing of costs is warranted as the stops suffered by Inkerman mill have not all been wet weather related as the mill struggled with performance from the start.

Burdekin Productivity Services held its AGM on 26 August, which was well attended. They flagged that the variety Q240 represented 50% of the area planted in 2021, which could be problematic in terms of future risk management and the solution is to spread risk through variety diversification. RSD has consumed a lot of their resources and attention over the past two years, and its management remains dependent upon good practices around use of seed cane, cane testing and machinery sterilization. In terms of pest damage, canegrub damage is trending in the wrong direction in the Burdekin again and is now in third place behind pigs and wallabies in terms of tonnes damaged. This can be attributable to less chemical being applied after 2014 in general and not optimising the placement of chemical.

During the month, CANEGROWERS Burdekin had a productive meeting with Sunwater about the rising groundwater issue in the Giru Benefitted Area (GBA). To date, most of the focus on the rising ground water issue has been Clare dominated which is understandable and Sunwater will now also focus their project resources on the rising groundwater issue in the GBA as well. The obvious solution to us is that growers need to be incentivised via concessional water pricing to use their bores to access groundwater.



PROSERPINE

 Harvest week - 8

 CCS to date - 13.60

 Tonnes to date - 400,831 (23.58%)

Proserpine has endured a rather lacklustre start to the 2022 crush with wet weather and poor milling performance significantly impacting throughput, after nine weeks of crushing a mere 470,000 tonnes of cane has been processed.

Despite some ideal harvesting conditions, throughput for the month of August was less than 300,000 tonnes. At this stage, the crop is cutting at 110% of the original 1.64 million tonne estimate, consequently, the estimate has been revised to 1.7 million tonnes with indications a further upward adjustment will be made in the coming weeks.

This will put further pressure on the mill to complete the crush by the revised mid-December finish date. The harvesting sector, whilst frustrated with the current level of mill availability, are working hard to maintain supply.

On the positive side, CCS has been much better than anticipated with the season-to-date average CCS currently at 13.60 – quite surprising given the heavy rain experienced in July. Cooler overnight temperatures have contributed to the better than expected CCS.

MACKAY

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 12.37

 Tonnes to date - 1,494,083 (29.30%)

PLANE CREEK

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 12.40

 Tonnes to date - 438,882 (33.76%)

After the struggle of a wet July, the Mackay and Plane Creek districts have been enjoying fine, cool weather into late August. Harvest is now progressing well for many, although some growers with low-lying and spring country on heavy soil are still reporting delays in being able to get into those paddocks.

With the crush now heading well into December, and forecasting showing a possible early onset to the wet, wherever possible, growers need to take every opportunity to cut.

At week ending 14 August, both Mackay Sugar and Plane Creek were reporting a year-to-date CCS average of 12.26. Both continue to show a rising CCS.

Plane Creek's 2022 crop estimate has been raised to 1.5 million tonnes, a 25% increase on initial estimates for the year. Mackay Sugar is also expecting a substantial increase on the initial crop estimates of 5.1 million tonnes, with official figure not released at time of writing.

The winter COVID wave produced an interesting effect, with Marian Mill taking what was described as a "direct hit" from the pandemic, with a shortage of skilled operators forcing a short shut-down of the mill at the end of July.

CANEGROWERS Mackay Staff were pleased to support Sarina Show with sponsorship of cane section prizes, and a stall adjacent to the cane display in July. In August, we attended Mackay Ag Trade Expo.

We are pleased to say that our intensive and early multi-platform recruitment drive for seasonal labour, alongside increased training of haulout drivers has meant that CANEGROWERS Mackay has to a reasonable extent mitigated the perennial harvest labour shortage. We are running a local mid-season ad campaign to attract new

work-wanted posters to our jobs board. Currently, there are workers listed on our jobs board seeking placement. Any growers requiring assistance to source harvest labour are welcome to call 4944 2600, or respond to work wanted ads or post positions vacant direct to www.mackaycane growers.com.au/farmers-notice-board

Pictured: Sarina Show cane comp (L-R) Matt Pace, Barry Pace, Doug and Tait Pedersen, Blake Pedersen and Frank Jacobs.



Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

BUNDABERG

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 12.67

 Tonnes to date - 324,738 (30.34%)

Bundaberg Sugar mills processed 47,864.87 tonnes for the week ending 21 August 2022, this brings the season to date total to 324,738.47 tonnes. The average CCS for Bundaberg Sugar mill for Week 10 was 13.65 CCS and the season CCS average is 12.67 CCS.

High sub-soil moisture levels are still making it difficult to find ground dry enough to harvest. Mill performance has improved in recent weeks.

With the recent spike of Covid cases in the region it's timely for growers to revisit Covid safe plans to ensure families and workers are kept safe during the pandemic. Whilst many restrictions may no longer be in place, we encourage you to continue to implement Covid safe practices to ensure you

sustain a healthy and reliable workforce. If you need any assistance, please contact the Bundaberg office and we can assist with information and suggestions to protect your workplace.

A reminder for growers to check your next electricity bills and ensure the drought relief subsidy has been applied to both the service fee and meter services charge up to 31 May 2022. Anyone who would like assistance, please contact Courtney with a copy of your bills.

QRIDA Flood Recovery Grant applications remain open, if you require assistance completing an application or lodging an appeal please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555.

ISIS

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 12.48

 Tonnes to date - 233,024 (26.48%)

The last few weeks of August we have finally seen the district start to dry out. There are now only a handful of growers who have not seen their first harvest round, a major improvement from the beginning of the month. We are keeping a close eye on harvest equity and are continuing to work closely with Isis Central Sugar mill to ensure all cane is harvested across our district. Let's hope this dry weather holds out.

We hosted a group of delegates from a Texan Agricultural leadership program from a wide range of agricultural industries (*pictured*). Isis Central Sugar mill kindly supported us by allowing the group to tour the mill and arranging an on farm harvesting demonstration. When asked what has most surprised them about Australia, a common response was the size and diverse range of agriculture we have.

Our core work activities for members this month have included:

RECORD KEEPING – reviewing on farm record keeping. We are in the process of assessing how growers are maintaining nutrient and chemical records to help us identify if growers need assistance or support with new templates. Once the assessment is complete we will work with growers one-on-one tailoring to suit their farm business.

DISASTER RECOVERY – advocating and requesting further time extensions of these programs as well as lodging applications on behalf of growers.

TRASH CONTRACTS – negotiating new contracts and administering the processing of trash bales

TARIFF REVIEWS – assisting growers through the tariff selection process



MARYBOROUGH

 Harvest week - 10

 CCS to date - 12.47

 Tonnes to date - 147,768 (22.51%)

With Week 10 just completed, there has been some improvement in conditions in the field and all harvesters are in operation and back on roster.

Season to date we have now supplied 147,768 tonnes and the CCS has finally shown decent improvement to be 12.51 for year to date. For the week ended 19 August the highest CCS was 15.26 from Q240 cane at Tinana.

Transloader and site B are definitely operating better this year, just the rail bin delivery is under pressure across the network. Spreading of trucks through the day remains a focus to maintain the volumes of daily delivery above 4100tonnes.

On 22 August, a meeting covering all aspects of the transport chain (mill, cane hauliers, harvest committee) reviewed progress for the season and focussed on smoothing out issues being encountered.

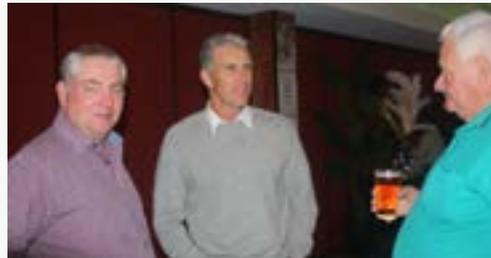
Understanding the whole network helps to see how we are meant to fit in with deliveries. An explanatory document has now been sent to all suppliers to understand the process.

On 24 August, the mill needed to complete maintenance and was down for 16 hours. This resulted in reduced allocations to harvesters until rail bins can be emptied to resume full service.

Communication with cane supply managers from Isis is required before any attempt at extra loads is considered. All we achieve is choking up the transloader for everyone else who is rostered on.

The situation with restart of the Maryborough mill continues to develop positively. Representatives arrived from Japan on 14 August and undertook inspections of the mill and visits around the district to better understand the local conditions and operations. A grower meeting conducted on 17 August saw a bumper crowd in the hall to be given a presentation of the intended milling operation and design that AEG is working on. Luckily the catering had enough steak and snags for all.

Pictured: (L-R) Jeff Atkinson, Tony McDermott and Ray Relton enjoying the night at our dinner.



ROCKY POINT

The 2022 Rocky Point season is shaping up to be very disappointing.

The mill has not commenced crushing yet this season. The Heck Group purchased the Cogen earlier this year and is still repairing the plant, finding far more issues than first anticipated. The last official expected start date we received from the mill was 21 September.

The delayed crush could result in around 50% or less of available cane being processed – with an estimated 350,000 tonne crop and 30% two-year-old cane, it will be a busy and condensed season once it gets going.

We hope 21 September is indeed our start date, and that once the crush starts, it can continue without too many issues for as long as growers are prepared to supply cane to the Mill.

2022 harvest aside, we remain optimistic that the 2023 harvest will be a good year after all the efforts to get the Cogen up to speed.

Directors are meeting with the Valuer General's office this week to try and progress our Valuation Objections.



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Three Rivers, Three Sugar Mills, One Huge Flood Recovery Effort

By Vivien Miller

The flooding that occurred in February and March of 2022 across the Northern Rivers region was of epic proportions, being the most severe in recorded history.

The entire Northern Rivers region suffered extensive damage to infrastructure at all levels, with the Lismore, Coraki, Woodburn and Wardell communities in particular, decimated by unprecedented flooding.

Thousands of homes were destroyed, livestock drowned and displaced and thousands of hectares of farmland severely impacted.

The NSW sugar industry was hit hard with all three sugar mills inundated to varying degrees as the three mighty rivers, the Tweed, Richmond and Clarence all reached major flood levels concurrently. Growers across the three rivers experienced a level of damage and destruction beyond comprehension.

With June being the annual cane crushing season start, the task for growers, mills, harvesters and transport networks to recover and be operational within just a couple of months was a monumental challenge.

HARWOOD

The Harwood sugar mill and refinery on the banks of the Clarence River saw

water flow through parts of the mill and administration buildings that had never experienced inundation before. Whilst the damage was minimal in comparison to the other mills, the clean-up effort commenced within days of the water receding and continued for several months.

Harvesting of sugarcane from the local farms was able to start on 5 June, however the crushing rate at the Harwood mill has been hampered by the amount of mud and debris taking its toll on the milling process. The mill itself has suffered continuing intermittent failures which in some cases is to be expected.

More than 140,000 tonnes of cane has been crushed as at the end of August, with CCS levels performing very well under the circumstances.

CONDONG

The Condong sugar mill on the Tweed River saw flood heights throughout the site above all previous recorded levels. This caused significant impacts to parts of the milling and packing operations, with major damage and loss of electric pumps, motors and switchboards.

Clean up works started soon after the flood waters subsided with tonnes of flood mud and debris needing to be removed before any repairs could begin. The mill suffered over \$14m worth of damage.

Harvesting and crushing of sugarcane was able to start late-June in the Tweed region. This was an outstanding effort by the teams to recover from this catastrophic event. Whilst flood mud and debris has caused blockages, pleasingly, over 140,000 tonnes of cane has been crushed and the CCS has been performing higher than expected.

BROADWATER

The Richmond River that flows through the Richmond Valley turned into a tsunami-like wall of water as huge amounts of rain fell in all of its catchment areas in a short period of time. Flood heights that have never been seen or spoken of swept through the towns and farmland stretching from Casino and Lismore all the way to Ballina on the coast.

The Broadwater sugar mill had a near 3-metre wall of water wash through it,

leaving behind a scene of chaos and devastation.

Many of farmers and mill employees in the area lost homes, crops, livestock and machinery.

The work at Broadwater has been non-stop for almost six full months. As of the end of August only minor issues are left to be resolved and the view to commencement of crushing is in sight. The bill for Broadwater will be in excess of \$28m.

In order to get the crop off, Broadwater cane that has been harvested to date has been transferred to both Condong and Harwood. The intention is to crush all of the available cane which may result in a finish that runs in to the New Year.

Whilst the year so far has been an extraordinary challenge, as an industry, NSW sugar mill employees and growers are showing yet again the resilience that has kept the industry alive and thriving for over 150 years. ■

Pictured: (main) Old Pacific Highway Broadwater, (below top) Harwood Mill, (below bottom) debris at Condong.



Months on from flooding, NSW growers still hurting

A slow roll out of vital assistance schemes for NSW farmers impacted by flooding and predictions of increased wet weather on the horizon are not helping the spirits of the NSW sugarcane communities.

President of the Clarence Canegrowers Association Ross Farlow said the delays in the NSW government recovery funding was having an impact on the industry, but there remained plenty of work to keep growers busy this season.

"I'm taking advantage of the favourable weather and currently am in the middle of ground preparations for planting," Ross said.

"Everyone in the area is trying to plant as much cane as possible, as the weather has been kind for the last month, it's been a welcome change to earlier in the year.

"To date about 30% of cane has been crushed at the Harwood mill and the same at Condong mill but Broadwater mill is yet to start crushing, we are hopeful that it will commence production soon.

"A small amount of cane from the Richmond River district, that would normally supply Broadwater, has been transferred to the other two mills to help out with the harvest."

High mud loading and silt from the major flood events in March has suppressed the cane's CCS levels, and the excessive silt covering the leaves and trash provides

challenges to the cane burns traditionally used in the NSW harvest.

Overall, the general fear for the region this season was for the non-favourable weather forecasts. Predictions of more wet weather events this spring and even into the summer months is not something any grower in the area wants to hear.

"It is a challenging time for our growers, but we do have one good thing, the strong global price of sugar," Ross said.

"It's the bonus at this time as there is also concern with mill performance and continual breakdowns, we remain hopeful that this situation will improve.

"A real issue is whether we can get all the NSW crop off by Christmas and get enough cane planted to get recovery back on track, that is yet to be seen."

Ross said farmers are prepping to plant in the next week to ten days and continue to remain optimistic about the future as only a farmer can.

The growers may be a resilient bunch but there is no denying that it has been a tough year for the growing and the milling sectors of the region. ■

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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

MICK QUIRK

KEY POINTS:

- ▶ Australian and Queensland governments have committed \$870m to improving water quality in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.
- ▶ CANEGROWERS has offered to work with both levels of government to help ensure the investments are planned with industry and tailored to each district.
- ▶ Ongoing focus of government on further practice change by growers is likely due to erroneous expectations of the reductions in nitrogen rates that growers can afford to make.
- ▶ This would require growers to reduce N rates up to 30% below the rates derived from the SIX EASY STEPS program.

BROADER APPROACH NEEDED

The Australian and Queensland governments have committed to spending another \$600M and \$270M, respectively, on improving the quality of inshore waters in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon over the next five to 10 years.

This adds to a sequence of Reef Rescue and Reef Trust programs since 2009, funded by the Australian Government, and previous Queensland Reef Water Quality Programs.

CANEGROWERS has offered to work with both levels of government to help ensure the investments are planned with industry and tailored to each district.

This is the best way to ensure the investment is of significant and enduring value to both industry and the environment.

But we have noticed that discussions continue to focus on the targets for water quality rather than on practical pathways to reach these.

The starting assumption seems to be that additional adoption by growers of nominated practices will achieve the targets. However, all modelling we have seen suggests this will not be the case.

Such a narrow approach neglects consideration of broader landscape health issues, such as feral pests, riparian condition, and river flow issues that are important for the health of both catchments and the adjacent inshore waters.

It also fails to recognise the need for other practical means of improving water quality such as wetlands and retention ponds.

This ongoing focus of government on further practice change by growers is likely due to erroneous expectations of the reductions in nitrogen rates that growers can afford to make.

This is reinforced by the government water quality report cards, which define good practice as a farm nutrient use efficiency (NUE) of 1.4 kg or less of N per tonne of cane grown.

This would require growers to reduce N rates up to 30% below the rates derived from the SIX EASY STEPS program.

CANEGROWERS continues to advocate for removing such flawed criteria, especially in the government's current review of farm management practices and adoption targets for water quality.

However, a legacy of unrealistic expectations for further improvement in nutrient management remains evident during discussions with government, and this inhibits a more evidence-based and critical discussion of the way forward.

The way forward should be based on discussions with industry and other stakeholders at the basin or district scale, not from some centralised planning process.

These discussions can take a whole-of-basin approach that looks at all disturbances (e.g. pests, damaging river flows) and processes (wetlands, modified drainage systems), management of which could help improve water quality.

They can also determine the actual scope for further adoption of improved nutrient management and other farm practices that influence water quality. ■

ADVOCATING FOR BETTER OUTCOMES

Whenever government changes, the lens through which we prosecute our policies must also change to consider their priorities. This is all part of successful advocacy and is essential to opening a conversation that will hopefully achieve favourable outcomes for growers.

The new Federal Government has a significant focus on repairing the budget (through increased taxes and/or reduced expenditure) and addressing climate change.

The National Farmers' Federation Economics and Farm Business committee has been reviewing what this may mean for their advocacy efforts on behalf of members (including CANEGROWERS).

The following are some of the farm business issues on the agenda which need to be addressed, bearing in mind the government's focus areas.

TREATMENT OF OFF-FARM INCOME

Off-farm income is a valuable risk mitigation option for resilience to climate change, but we need to address how it is defined and taxed.

Off-farm income is uncorrelated with the drought cycle or disasters like cyclones or floods and provides farmers with a valuable source of income during these difficult times.

The problem is that there are thresholds to off-farm income that renders farmers ineligible for some tax and disaster measures, such as the farm management deposit scheme or disaster related grants.

These thresholds also act as barriers to farmers participating in carbon markets. This is a perverse outcome.

INSTANT ASSET WRITE OFF

The Federal Government was non-committal on the extension of the instant asset write off for business expenditures in its revised Federal Budget.

One way to address this could be for accelerated depreciation or instant asset write off up to 150% for purchase of farm machinery and capital equipment that has a positive emissions impact.

FUEL TAX CREDITS

The government committed to maintaining the fuel excise tax credit for off-road use, despite increase calls to scrap the credit.

However, given the government's need to fix the budget, scrapping the fuel excise tax credit may start to look appealing.

The NFF and CANEGROWERS are members of the Fuel Tax Credit Coalition and will defend this rigorously.

FARM MANAGEMENT DEPOSITS (FMDs)

FMDs are one of the most utilised risk management tools by farmers, however, the implementation and rules of the scheme compromises effective utilisation by farmers and thus reduce the resilience benefits.

For example, extending eligibility to other business structures, reviewing the off-farm income limits and increasing the cap (\$800,000) with the size of the farming business.

REMOVAL OF STAMP DUTIES ON FARM INSURANCES

Farm insurances are an effective risk mitigation tool for drought and extreme weather events, yet in many jurisdictions they incur stamp duties.

This is a highly distortionary method of collecting revenue and should be abolished (noting this is a State Government duty).■



INDUSTRY AND FARM INPUTS BURN ASHBURNER

KEY POINTS:

- ▶ Whenever government changes, the lens through which we prosecute our policies must also change.
- ▶ Federal Government was non-committal on the extension of the instant asset write off.
- ▶ Given the government's need to fix the budget, scrapping the fuel excise tax credit may start to look appealing.
- ▶ Farm insurance stamp duty is a highly distortionary method of collecting revenue and should be abolished.

DEMONSTRATING OUR SUSTAINABILITY

PLANET SHAPERS TV PROGRAM

CANEGROWERS recently worked with a video production company to film a TV segment for a sustainability program called Planet Shapers. It's a positive story and the segment will tell the story of how sugarcane growers in Queensland are demonstrating their sustainability credentials using Smartcane BMP.

The segment will show the journey of sugar, from farm to mill to terminal. It will also showcase our industry and farming practices and how the blockchain technology being tested by CANEGROWERS can assist with provenance and traceability.

This is just another way we are showcasing our sustainable industry to the community. The show will go to air on September 17 on Channel 10.

SUSTAINABLY SOURCED SUGAR

Since 2015, CANEGROWERS has been working with Smartcane BMP to develop a pathway for sustainable sugar to deliver a verifiable sustainable supply chain in Australia. While this work has been slow, CANEGROWERS is making progress.

In February 2022, Commodities trading company Czarnikow acknowledged Smartcane BMP as equivalent to the VIVE sugar sustainability program. This alignment offers a pathway to demonstrate sustainable sugar to end-buyers using Smartcane BMP accreditation as the on-farm component.

The alignment work between the ProTerra sustainability standard and Smartcane BMP for sustainably sourced sugar was completed in June 2022.

CANEGROWERS is waiting for confirmation of equivalence, offering a new pathway to show traceability for sustainably sourced sugar in addition to Bonsucro and VIVE.

CANEGROWERS continues to engage with Bonsucro on sustainable sugar. Bonsucro has revised its sustainable sugar standard and CANEGROWERS is pursuing options for cross-certification between Smartcane BMP and Bonsucro's platform to reduce costs and improve traceability opportunities for Queensland sugar.

American Sugar Refiners (ASR) are conducting ProTerra social verification audits for Australia as part of their sustainable sugar sourcing requirements.

Australia provides sugar for the US quota and the ASR needs to demonstrate to their US customers that the sugar being sourced is meeting sustainability criteria.

CANEGROWERS has been working with ASR over the past few years to support these needs through Smartcane BMP and supported ASR social verification audits in the Burdekin and Tully a few years ago.

For the 2022 season, ASR have requested that the Proserpine and Plane Creek mills operated by Wilmar work through the ProTerra social verification audit process. This work is scheduled for late-September 2022 and CANEGROWERS has been working with the Smartcane BMP program to find growers willing to be part of the process.

While there is no pass or fail with the ProTerra social verification audits, they do offer assurance that our sugar is sustainably produced, both environmentally and socially.

The broader goal is to use Smartcane BMP as the program to meet these requirements and provide the pathway for sustainable sugar and get value back to growers. ■



MEMBERSHIP
ENGAGEMENT &
INNOVATION
MATT KEALLEY

KEY POINTS:

- ▶ The sugarcane industry's sustainability credentials are set to be highlighted in a Channel 10 TV show this month.
- ▶ Commodities trading company Czarnikow has acknowledged Smartcane BMP as equivalent to the VIVE sustainability program.
- ▶ American Sugar Refiners (ASR) are conducting social verification audits for Australia as part of their sustainable sugar sourcing requirements.
- ▶ CANEGROWERS has been working with ASR over the past few years to support these needs through Smartcane BMP.

Eradicating yellow crazy ants—are we there yet?

The Veronese family have been farming sugarcane in the Sawmill Pocket area south of Cairns through four generations.

When infestations of yellow crazy ants were discovered on nearby properties in July 2012, brothers Victor and Peter Veronese closely followed progress and treatments. Their property, along with others in surrounding areas, was surveyed for yellow crazy ants by the team at the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

When an infestation was discovered within the Veroneses' farm in May 2017, Victor recalls "knowing what the other farmers experienced, we knew what was happening."

The area was delimited and found to be approximately 42 hectares, and treatment began shortly after. "We were prepared for what needed to be done, and we really didn't suffer any great loss of productivity, which we put down to the situation being dealt with quickly," says Peter.

Throughout 2017 and 2018, six treatment rounds were undertaken. Seven intensive surveys have been completed to date, and no yellow crazy ants have been detected within that infestation since 2017. With no further detections, the infestation is next in line to be officially declared eradicated of yellow crazy ants.

The Authority's Project Manager Lucy Karger explains, "It takes time to declare a site eradicated. When an area is in the final stages of eradication, all treatment stops, and four surveys must be completed no less than six months apart.

Those surveys must be done under ideal survey conditions. If no yellow crazy ants are detected in those surveys, eradication can be declared. It can take up to eight years from detection to eradication, and we are nearing the end for the Veronese's property.

"To ensure we don't miss any ants, we don't survey when the cane is high, so the final two surveys at Peter and Victor's property will be completed in 2023 and early 2024", Lucy added, "Which would make it the fifth area declared free of yellow crazy ants, and the largest".

"We will only declare a site eradicated when our survey data provides high-level certainty of yellow crazy ant absence. Survey data is objectively defined and analysed so we can be entirely confident prior to declaring eradication. Many people have invested years of time to support the eradication of yellow crazy ants in the region, including landholders and farmers, business owners and various industry groups. If it takes a bit longer, we do so to make sure we are not declaring a site eradication pre-emptively, or without sound data to support it. That makes everyone's hard work and patience worth the effort".

This progress is welcome news to the Veroneses' and for neighbouring land holders. Their advice to any residents who may have the misfortune to have yellow crazy ant infestations is to let the

Authority's team get on with the job. "Let's face it," says Peter, "No one really wants to have teams of field officers on their property. But let them do their jobs and knock it on the head while they can."

"It was never just only about our crops, but about the entire environment. Like any invasive pest, they can do a lot of harm and they need to be eradicated." Peter stated, "The team running the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program have always been great at keeping us up to date on progress, shown the upmost respect for our farm and been very cooperative to work with. We are very happy to be nearing eradication and appreciate the hard work to get it done."

If you suspect you have seen yellow crazy ants, please contact 4241 0525 or yca@wtma.qld.gov.au ■

Pictured: Victor Veronese (left) and Peter Veronese (right) with their dog Barney on their cane farm.



REPORT

YELLOW CRAZY ANTS

CALL: 1800 CRAZY ANT

P: (07) 4241 0525 | E: yca@wtma.qld.gov.au
W: www.wettropics.gov.au/yellow-crazy-ant | Facebook: @ycawettropics

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Protect yourself and your business

Not having effective policies and procedures in place for dealing with employee complaints or safety could lead to prosecutions and fines or could even risk the future of your farming business.

INJURIES TO FARM WORKER RESULTS IN \$45,000 FINE TO THE CORPORATE FARMER AND ITS DIRECTOR PERSONALLY

In September 2020, a worker on a strawberry farm fractured both legs from a falling tree branch during tree clearing operations.

The farm owner, company and its director were fined a total of \$45,000 for failing to comply with their health and safety duties.

The Court was told the farm owner did not undertake a risk assessment for the work, did not have a safe work method and the worker was not formally trained or qualified.

The company was fined \$37,500 and the director was personally fined \$7,500.

This case is a reminder that WHS QLD does undertake investigations of workplace accidents and will prosecute where breaches of duty arise. The case also shows directors of companies that own farms can be personally liable as well as the company.



*By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS
Legal Advisor*

EMPLOYER LIABLE FOR ALLOWING A WORKER TO REPETITIVELY TURN THEIR HEAD WHEN OPERATING MACHINERY

An employee of the Manning Valley Race Club has successfully sued the club for injuries to his neck. The injuries were sustained as a result of the worker repeatedly turning his head around to check on a leveller on the back of the tractor which smoothes the racetrack surface.

The Court made it clear that not every injury to a worker will result in the employer being liable. All employers owe a duty to their workers but for a worker to be successful in a claim for injury the worker must show that the employer breached that duty.

The Court found that it was plainly foreseeable that a person who operates machinery in this way may aggravate or exacerbate a cervical spine condition.

The Court found that it was not reasonable for the Race Club to take no steps to prevent harm. The Court noted there were simple precautions that could have been taken including installation of a mirror, swivel seat or rear-view camera.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE – ARE EMPLOYERS LIABLE

In a recent Victorian Court case an employer was ordered to pay \$150,000 to a worker who was sexually harassed by a co-worker.

The Court found that the employer's response to complaints was "manifestly inadequate". The employer refused to investigate and refused to take any action for many months.

The Court also found it relevant that the employer:

- never implemented any educational programs;
- never monitored the workplace to ensure compliance with sexual harassment policies;
- never communicated properly to staff any sexual harassment policies;
- continued to roster the co-workers together even after complaints were made.

Even though the employer did not commit any harassment themselves, the employer was ultimately responsible as an employer because they were in control of the workplace and failed to take reasonable steps to protect its employees.

VALID DISMISSAL FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT

In a recent case involving BHP, a worker was dismissed following an investigation about alleged sexual harassment by the worker. The worker challenged the dismissal as being "harsh, unjust or unreasonable".

The Fair Work Commission found BHP's action was reasonable and that sexual harassment was a valid reason for dismissal as it amounts to serious misconduct. BHP followed good workplace processes in investigating the complaint and followed workplace policies and afforded the worker the opportunity to respond.

The worker's claim for reinstatement or compensation was dismissed.

RISK MANAGEMENT FOR EMPLOYERS IN HARASSMENT MATTERS GENERALLY

- Ensure suitable policies and procedures are in place to deal with harassment issues.
- Ensure workers are aware of relevant policies.
- Provide information and education sessions to employees.
- Take allegations seriously and undertake investigations where appropriate.
- Keep a record of complaints and investigations.

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

FURTHER INFORMATION

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. ■

VALE SIR GERARD BRENNAN AC KBE QC 1928 – 2022

Former CANEGROWERS retained Counsel Sir Gerard Brennan passed away recently.

Sir Gerard served with great distinction as CANEGROWERS lead Counsel in many important cases representing growers during the 1960's and 1970's. Sir Gerard went on to higher office including a judge of the Federal Court and later became Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.

CANEGROWERS community news

Book Week

Future Mackay cane farmer six year old **Levi Bartolo** selected *Australian Canegrower* as his favourite publication for this year's Book Week. Being CANEGROWERS members they receive the monthly magazine which is a staple on their coffee table. The 2022 Book Week theme designed to celebrate childrens' love of reading and imagination is 'Dreaming with eyes open...!'

Levi even went the extra mile and dressed up as our June magazine cover model, new CANEGROWERS Chairman **Owen Menkens**.

"Levi chose the *Australian Canegrower* as his favourite book for Book Week. He comes from a long line of farmers and jumps in a tractor whenever possible. He always loves the opportunity to dress up so he borrowed the farmers hat from his grandfather and his boots from his cousin. He was just proud as punch", Levi's mother **Courtney Bartolo** said.

Awesome job Levi you little legend (or should we say, Mr Chairman!). ■



Ask R U OK? No qualifications needed

Thursday 8 September is R U OK? Day, it's a good reminder that a conversation could save a life. You don't need to be an expert to check in with your friends, family and colleagues - just a good friend and a great listener.

There are loads of great reasons to live and work outside Australia's major cities, but it is fair to say it's not without unique challenges.

R U OK? CEO, **Katherine Newton** said everyone experiences life's ups and downs and in recent times there has been a lot to cope with natural disasters, the pandemic, world conflicts and cost of living increases adding additional pressure and emotional strain for many.

"Fewer services, isolation and extreme weather events are just a few of the things that can be harder to deal with outside our bigger towns and cities. In regional and remote areas there can also be a 'toughen up' culture where it's

not always easy to talk about the things that keep us awake at night or give us the confidence to ask a mate if everything is OK," Katherine Newton said.

"That's why the R U OK? Rural and Remote Mateship Manual Kit was developed. To help those in rural and remote areas support their mates and loved ones doing it tough.

"The Mateship Manual has been developed with this in mind and is the perfect tool to keep on-hand in your car or truck's glovebox."

The R U OK? Mateship Manual is FREE to access at ruok.org.au this resource includes guides, tips and ideas to help you know when and how to have an R U OK? conversation.

For support at any time of day or night, call Lifeline on 13 11 14. ■

2023 CANEGROWERS Calendar Photo Callout

Have you got that perfect shot for the CANEGROWERS calendar? Are you a budding photographer or do you know one?

We are seeking great photos that showcase what happens on a sugarcane farm throughout the year for the 2023 CANEGROWERS calendar? It might be an early morning harvest shot, a sunny day in the paddock, finishing work at dusk, you know the shot you want to send in so let your creativity soar. Please send your photos to info@canegrowers.com.au by the end of September. Happy snapping! ■



If you have news to share with the CANEGROWERS community, send us an email editor@canegrowers.com.au

Stronger herbicide suiting late cane cuts

LONGER cane crushing seasons and time of year use restrictions on some cane herbicides is raising the profile of newer, extended residual options with wider application windows, and which offer an alternative to traditionally used chemistry for growers.

Stephen Newbery, of Crop Wise rural retail stores at Mackay and Proserpine, said due to the extended seasons, growers were finding themselves in situations where they were having to apply residual herbicides later than normal.

"It is moving us out of the traditional herbicide application window, beyond use dates for products like Bobcat® Combi, where its full rate application is restricted from November 1 in our region, and where we have to achieve good grass, broadleaf and vine weed control from one application," Stephen said.

He said for growers also wanting to rotate away from using imazapic to reduce the risk of resistance to the herbicide, it was increasing attention on newer options like Palmero® TX from ADAMA Australia.

Containing the trusted active ingredient, isoxaflutole, in a co-formulation with terbuthylazine, Palmero TX provides control of many hard-to-kill weeds.

"Palmero TX has a more open window and is a great fit for situations after late cuts, when a more robust herbicide is required," Stephen said.

"For early harvested cane, growers are generally thinking of two herbicide applications, such as Impose® or Bobcat® i-MAXX followed by Palmero TX, but further into the season from October onwards, there is a shift away from two

applications because it can become too wet to get the second application on.

"One application behind the harvester after later cuts for good grass, broadleaf and vine control for the year needs to be with a robust herbicide and that is where Palmero TX is coming in."

Stephen previously conducted a farm scale trial investigating Palmero TX alongside the popular Bobcat i-MAXX herbicide and he 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," he 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."

Brett Hansen, Commercial Manager with ADAMA Australia for Central Queensland and the Northern Territory, said broad-spectrum weed control over an extended period was a key requirement in the development of Palmero TX for use in sugarcane.

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

"Palmero TX has a very similar use pattern to both Bobcat i-MAXX and Bobcat Combi, so it is not a major change to what growers have done in the past," he 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 the 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 confirmed Palmero TX was proving popular as a rotational partner with Bobcat i-MAXX and Bobcat Combi.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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



Control of the grass and broadleaf weeds provided by the frequently used Bobcat iMAXX herbicide.



Control of the grass and broadleaf weeds provided by the recently released Palmero TX herbicide from ADAMA Australia.



The untreated area in the weed control trial, showing the grass and broadleaf weed pressure.

Classifieds

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Next deadline is **26 September 2022**.

* 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.

Mossman-Tully

1978 MF 168 Hi Clearance, 16.9 x 38 rear tyres, 8 speed gear box, approx 4500 hrs, 1 set of remotes. Good cond. \$10,000 + GST. Ph after 7pm: 0740612360.

Toft 6000, CAT 3306DI, Rotary Chop, Bent elevator, standard topper. Good condition for age. Ph: 0740675327.

Howard 4.2 metre rotary hoe with front rippers and rear hilling tynes with hydraulic ram \$35,000 + GST. Ph: 0429912135.

Toft 6000, CAT 3306DI, Rotary Chop, Bent elevator, standard topper. Good condition for age. Ph: 0740675327.

MF Tractor 165sq mudguards new motor & back tyres \$5,800. Grubber with 10/1" coil tynes \$1,300. Mixed containers of poison, negotiable. 4 Disc cotton king \$800. Heavy duty trash rake \$1,000. Like new heavy duty 5 tyne ripper w/-back tool bar \$2,500. Fullstick plant cutter w/-topper, stop/start remote \$3,500 made by G. Biachin Silkwood. 2 Fan blower \$1,800 made by G. Biachin Howard. Light duty rotary hoe \$1,000. Milling machine drill, hardly used \$1,100. 10/2" & 10/ 1/2" grubber points \$2 each. 3 tyne ripper w/-back tool bar with 4 1/4" tynes & roller \$2,500. Multi weeder, tynes slightly worn \$500. 40 New multiweeder

tynes half price of new. Multiweeder & new tynes \$2,000. All no GST. Ph: 0419637216.

JD4455 coupled to Newton 6T Side-Tipper \$30,000+GST; Fiat M100 coupled to Newton 6T Side-Tipper \$30,000+GST. Will separate Tippers (reasonable offers accepted). Ph: 0429652235.

High rise spray rig with international 434 tractor. Good order with two tanks, sprays six rows. Price \$40,000 neg. Tully Area. Ph: 0407183643.

International tractor 766D rear tyres 18-4-38. A good reliable worker. \$6,000 + GST. Also implements to suit. Ph: 0412797006.

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

Herbert River-Burdekin

Hodge drag 3 row stool splitter 3 tonne fertilizer box, 2 years old done little work. \$40,000 + GST ONO. Ph: 0747765114.

Mackay-Proserpine

Komatsu WA480-5 Loader - has working Loadrite scales; Bucket has been reskinned with bisalloy plate; UHF radio. \$80,000 + GST. Ph: 0419700761.

Toft 5000 wheel harvester, B/C moved forward, Merc Engine, Plastic primary ceiling

fan, swing knife, cuts good billet, good cond \$11,000. Ph: 0438583130.

4080 Chamberlain tractor, air-con cab with John Deere engine, in good cond. 4280 Chamberlain tractor with John Deere engine, good for spare parts only. Ph: 0409264351.

Yeoman ripper, 7 leg, with fixed drum roller \$7,900 + GST. Ph: 0439752381.

Hodge, Single Row, bed renovator, Heavy Duty. As New \$22,000 + GST. Ph: 0400889549.

Newton 10 tonne elevator bin in good condition on a John Deere 4040 tractor. \$30,000 plus GST. Ph 4954 1174

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. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

6t side tipper on Leyland tandem. GC. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

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. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

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

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

6 ton single axle side tipper 23.1-26 tyres \$4500 + GST. HBM billet planter with rear wheel steer \$8000 + GST. Ph: 0419270981.

Hi rise sprayer. Tricycle Moller made in Maryborough. Thousand litre spray tank. Does five rows at 5 foot three. Can be adjusted. \$26,000. Billet planter double disc opener perfect condition Quinco machine made \$37,000 ONO. Ph: 0408770163.

2019 John Deere 6175R, 175 hp, 4WD, IVT Transmission, Starfire 6000 JD GPS, Front/Cab suspension, Premium lights, 4 electric remotes, Front weights. 3600 hrs. UHF. Immac condition. Ph: 0419641518.

Wanted

International 35 Offset 24 Plate. Innisfail area. Ph after 7pm: 0740645153.

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3 or 5 tyne Heavy duty 3 PL ripper to suit 150HP Tractor. Mulgrave area. Ph Terry: 0408774307.

Single row billet planter for medium-sized cane farming operation. Must be well maintained and in reliable working order. Harwood NSW area. Ph: 0412156622.

Single Row Billet Planter. Bundaberg area. Ph: 0428535385.

3 Row Cane Cut Away. Any brand considered. Mackay area. Ph: 0438583130.

24 plate heavy duty off-set disc. NQ area. Ph: 0407364012.

Bobcat or Small Tractor with Forks up to the value of \$7,000 incl. GST. Herbert River area. Ph: 0419677284.

Work Wanted

Havester or Bin hauler job/truck work/ farm work wanted in Mossman/Port Douglas area. Local and can work any hours. Email Ian on 20toughtonka@gmail.com

Motivated worker looking for work on farm as cane carter or learn the ropes for cane farming caretaker. Located Calen but can travel to surrounds. Ph Natalie: 0409195057. Seeking truck work, farm hand or haul-out work in the Innisfail area. Holds HC, forklift & loader licences with 6 years' experience and own transport. Ph: Paul 0423455989.

Property - For Sale

Cane farm 87 hectares - 215 acres at Como Road on Trebonne Creek, 5 minutes from the Ingham CBD. Includes a two-bedroom cottage and farm shed. Contact Felix Reitano Real Estate on (07) 47765007 or felix@reitano.com.au

70ha Cane Farm with 61.5ha under cane. Located 8 km from town centre and 1 km from Victoria Mill. Property is flood free with town water supply running along property front. Paddocks have all been lasered and are well maintained and up to date with new varieties. Ph: 0427912277.

Cane farm to lease Munburra, Sunnyside or Oakenden areas. Have own equipment. Ph: 0408011983.

840 meters opposite Moore Park Beach. Coastal Cane Farm 93 Acres and 146 megalitres of ground water. Large storage Shed. 1 x Diesel Irrigation pump for the underground irrigation. There are 2 fenced off areas, currently used for horses and cattle. No house on this property. Comes with crop. Ph Larry: 0418496864.

DEERAL Cane Farm for Sale. 52.9ha on 2 titles. Only 45mins to CBD. Peaceful location, close to panoramic river, boat ramp & mountain views. 186 Ross Road, Deeral. Ph: 0412968434.

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.

Property - Wanted

Wanting to buy/lease cane farm. Close to Racecourse mill, Tekowai, Alexandra areas. Ph: 0438545251.

Want to buy farm in the Mackay or Proserpine area. Must have two good condition houses and irrigation. Ph Paul: 0447545550.

WTB: Grazing & Irrigation Property. Grazing to run 300-500 head. 100 - 200 acres irrigation. Located Sarina-Proserpine Regions. Ph James: 0429621145.

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

Rainfall Report

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Jul 2022)	Month to date (1 Aug-30 Aug)	Year to date	Jan-Aug
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	216	84.8	2514.2	2334.4
Mareeba Airport	94.4	0.8	730.8	677.7
Cairns Aero	141	12	1573	1654.6
Mt Sophia	208	113	3305	2749.3
Babinda Post Office	307.6	179.3	3575.2	3521.9
Innisfail	238.8	99.2	2870.2	2953.5
Tully Sugar Mill	278	202	3031.3	3415.7
Cardwell Marine Pde	97.5	6.8	1393.8	1713.4
Lucinda Township	115.4	16.2	1696.4	1765.5
Ingham Composite	110.6	25.6	1506.1	1701.1
Abergowrie Alert	0	0	324	1131.2
Townsville Aero	50	0.4	1018.8	915.7
Ayr DPI Research Stn	94	0.2	809.4	756.1
Proserpine Airport	66.2	4.4	1054.2	1130
Mirani Mary Street	142.8	4.2	751.9	1113.4
Mackay MO	172.8	1.6	888.4	1245.9
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	80.8	0	913.6	1355.4
Bundaberg Aero	82.6	10.4	931.6	681
Childers South	98.8	8	1007	592.3
Maryborough	109.2	11.2	963.2	813.2
Tewantin RSL Park	176.8	17.2	2107	1185.7
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	218.6	16.6	2179	1242.5
Nambour DPI - Hillside	238.2	22	2419.4	1349.1
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	109.7	17.5	1269.7	778.6
Murwillumbah Bray Park	171.8	16.2	1559.2	1160.4
Ballina Airport	154.4	34.2	2271.6	1350
New Italy (Woodburn)	70.2	16	2114.2	1009.6

Brought to you by Australian Retirement Trust



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.

Classifieds

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

Are you a **CANEGROWERS** member and want a **FREE** electronic version of *Australian Canegrower* delivered to your email inbox every month?

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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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CANEGROWERS members automatically have access to crop insurance cover as part of their membership. The policy can provide cover for loss of crop due to accidental fire, transit and hail incidents.



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Hail Damage



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



Look, be alert, call an expert