

AUGUST 2019

Welcome to the July/August edition of the newsletter. In this edition:-

Productivity Services updates, Have you seen the TV Ad? Big announcements and more....

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE



Hi All,

We found this picture of Stewart Norton processing his last stick of cane through the rollers. We do wish Stewart the best in what ever he moves to & we will be organising for him to attend the end of season meeting later this year.

Interesting times ahead. On Friday 5th July MSF Sugar announced significant changes to it's Management group which effects it's whole operations.

Locally, Stewart Norton, District Mill Manager & Trevor Crook, Farming Operations Manager, finished with the company on 2nd August 2019. There are no impacts to local operations with the harvest proceeding as planned & Hitesh Prasad is the new Mill Manager with farming operations to now report directly to Mike Barry, CEO.

3 other positions were also removed being the Operational Excellence Manager, Jason Hajinakitas, as well as Marketing Manager Paul Heagney & the MSF Sugar Company Secretary.

The Marketing Manager role has caused concern to the Board and our marketing representatives are travelling to Cairns for a meeting on the 16th August to understand arrangements going forward.

We may need to keep in mind our marketing preferences into the future given Market Choice allows growers to select from either of two options here.

QSL are the alternate providers.

I recently snuck away for a short holiday to China and the sheer size of the population in China & their farming preferences means the global farming output can & will be needed and our high standard product will be sought after.

Seasonal conditions are good for harvesting with CCS strengthening with quite a good level to this point.

Hopefully this continues to rise & if we can maintain a good CCS level to the end of the season it will help make up for stagnant prices on the world scene.

Jeff Atkinson, Chairman



MANAGER'S UPDATE

Plenty happening that impacts our industry at present.

Reef regulations remain a very real threat to regional Queensland and you may have noticed the television ad running on the three commercial channels by CANEGROWERS.

We also have an online petition which needs more signatures! Jump on the CANEGROWERS website and go to the Reef Regs Update or click on the link below:

<https://farmers.org.au/campaign/rejecttheregs/>

Several members attended Dr Peter Ridd's presentation held in Bundaberg on Monday Night and it was informative and good to see the interest in his point of view as well as hearing that he isn't so much disbelieving of the science but rather saying that things have become too lax for anyone to firmly say they are correct. The Science needs to be checked before the damage to Queensland industry is done.

Sugar Industry Award Changes

As at July 1 2019 the sugar industry field workers award has been updated and the current rates are enclosed in the 3 page guide from Fairwork Australia.

Transport access to Sunshine Coast

Update from MSF Sugar so far:

1. After a period of consultation with DTMR about operating conditions and approvals, we met with senior staff and road engineers in Brisbane on Monday 5th August. Here we were provided with further details of their assessment criteria.
2. Following this meeting we believe there is no immediate prospect of negotiating any material changes to operating conditions for the 2019 season:
 - a. No operations outside daylight hours
 - b. No operations 7:00 – 9:00am and 2:00 – 4:00pm
 - c. No operations into the Bli Bli district
3. DTMR has committed to preparing a site for de-hitching trailers approximately 10km from the Bli Bli farms.
4. Limited access to two farms outside daylight hours comes with a condition which is unworkable for us. We have asked DTMR to remove this permission as it is of no value and sets an unrealistic precedent.
5. Sunshine Coast Council may have slightly different conditions on their roads, and we are in the process of clarifying this.

We will continue discussions with various levels of Government, aimed at finding workable solutions. In the meantime we are providing a level of service to the Sunshine Coast farms commensurate with the conditions of the Permit.

Activities from the Office

Meetings continue to happen with impacts on the industry.

1. State Policy council meeting attended 30 & 31/07/19
2. District Board Meeting held 12/08/19
3. Meeting with State Member Bruce Saunders seeking support for exemption of Reef Regulations. This has been ineffective for any change to date.
4. Southern Districts SRA meeting and committee meeting held in Childers 02/08/19
5. Sunwater & Lower Mary Irrigation Advisory Committee meeting held in Maryborough 9th August.



Events

- 22nd July 2019 Official Harvest Season start.
- 30th to 31st July Queensland Policy Council Meeting in Brisbane.
- 11 August Wide Bay Rowing Club Regatta in Maryborough on the Mary River.
- 12 August Dr Peter Ridd presentation, Moncreif Theatre, Bundaberg.
- 21st August SRA Irrigation workshop in Apple Tree Creek.



Update July 2019

At the time of writing, we have just passed the 125,000 tonne mark or 20% of the forecast crop. Over the past week we have seen a drop in cut to estimate along with a rising CCS which is typical of crops drying out. I expect the actual area harvested will have more bearing on our total crop forecast than cut to estimate will.

With a cold snap (and possibly frosts) predicted, some growers may be re-assessing which blocks will be harvested and which will be stood over. It is very important that we have early advice of any planned changes for a number of reasons:

- 1. Planning and marketing.** Our marketing team is working to provide the best sugar price, even if you have not participated in your own marketing (Remember the Mill and the Grower both share in the pricing outcomes). As we progress through the season it becomes increasingly important that we have a better handle on the remaining volume of cane for the season to achieve the best outcome.
- 2. Harvest scheduling.** Standover areas tend to fall within certain harvest groups, and

changes can have a major effect on harvest equity. While small changes will only affect daily harvest tonnages for each group, a reworking of the total harvest schedule could be required as numerous small areas accumulate.

- 3. Cane Pays – if a farm with no estimate supplies cane:** The cane price used in your delivery pays is calculated from the farm estimate and the estimated sugar price for the various pricing pools. If there is no estimate against a farm, the cane price cannot be calculated which can delay the payment process. This is this case even if you are only supplying the late season pool. So please let us know if you intend to harvest cane on a farm which has no estimate.

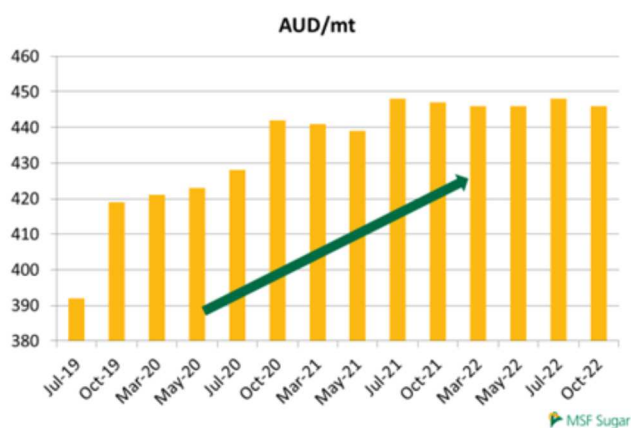
Cane Supply Contacts (estimates, mapping etc):

Chris Coutts-Smith..... 0409 269 189

Dannielle Nitschinsk..... 0417 247 020

Don't forget that "moogle" will give you access to your specific farm data and results.

Forward Prices Improving – The Trend is Your Friend



Barry Callow's retirement comments:

"After nearly 50 years of toil in various jobs, the last being with MCPS which has been by far the most interesting and also challenging, it is time to hang up the boots, as they say in the classics.

From a 15 year old "lad" porter and then fireman in the Qld Railways, to powerline rigger in sth WA (around Esperance) to good 'ol Gatton Ag college, where I started as an uneducated degenerate and came out as an inexperienced somewhat educated Agronomist (except for learning how to drink- did well at that).

There is always a learning curve in sugarcane production/agronomy, and with ever changing seasons, there were always new things, i.e diseases, pests, alternate crops etc to keep the brain ticking over.

I have really enjoyed the time I have spent with MCPS working closely with MSF Sugar staff, SRA, DAF and other industry colleagues. I also thoroughly enjoyed working in an advisory capacity with all of the growers, it is what gets you out of bed on those cold, frosty mornings to go RSD testing.

What's next? There are toys to play with, friends etc to spend time with-& "Smell the roses" time.

I wish everyone the best of luck in the future, and thanks for the memories! - Barry

Barry has been seen on his new motor bike numerous times and is definitely enjoying retirement.



Maryborough Cane Productivity Services

Productivity Services: A reminder about how MCPS functions. Yolande is funded by growers and the mill, both contribute 11 cents per tonne. Yolande's workplan is determined in consultation with the MCPS Committee. If you have any suggestions or requests for work you would like done by MCPS please talk to Yolande or any of the Committee Members. Committee Members are: Allen Birt, Craig Mellor, Leyton Petersen, Jon Dixon, Chris Coutts-Smith and Cameron Waterson.



Committee meetings are held quarterly with the next being in September. I produce a fortnightly report that I email to the committee members. If you would also like to receive this fortnightly report please let me know. Your feedback, both negative and positive, is always appreciated as this is how I can improve the service I provide to you.

Tissue Culture (Pot Plants) Spring 2019 collection:

Friday 23rd August, 7am to 12 noon, Little Tinana

Please park on left hand side of driveway prior to house, Yolande will bring your pot plant order to you. This is for safety to reduce vehicle movements in the workshop area.

There are some extras available for purchase of the following varieties: SRA19, SRA4, SRA2, KQ228, Q252, Q245, Q242, Q240, Q238, Q183, Q138. Please let me know ASAP as I need to

Feral Pigs: Feral Pigs continue to be an issue. This is the most feral pig damage I have ever seen and the most feral pigs I have seen in daylight. SRA1 seems to be most impacted being a softer cane with sugar. I know you are trying to control them.

I am discussing our feral pig issue with numerous stakeholders: Fraser Coast and Gympie Councils, Biosecurity, Burnett Mary Regional Group to name a few. We need to work together to reduce the feral pig population. I am currently organising a meeting, it will be mid to late September of an evening.

Darren Marshall from Southern Qld Landscapes, who works in feral pig research control and monitoring, is coming to share his experience with us. Darren's work featured on landline and the link below is to the 13 minute landline story (if the link does not work for you search ABC News Pig Wars)

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-04/pig-wars:-gps-technology-keeps-track-of-feral-pigs/9394970>

Will send out information once date confirmed. All will be welcome, not just cane growers.

Plant Source Inspections: If you require plant source inspections and RSD testing please contact me ASAP. RSD Testing Results—339 Samples, 28 Positive (**8.3% Positive**)

Remember this is only potential plant sources that have been tested. Reduce RSD by:

- Farm Hygiene - clean & sterilise harvesters, planters, plant tipper bins, fertiliser coulters
Sterimax \$187 including GST for 10L—1% Sterimax Solution (1L/100L water) \$18.70 for 100L
- Use clean plant material sources and plant into clean fallows (all cane dead at least 2 mths)
- Know where RSD infected blocks are on your farm for harvest & hygiene management

What varieties are people

planting: Table beside shows the varieties inspected for plant material and RSD testing results. Q240 and Q208 continue to dominate.

Variety	Negative	Positive	Total	% Positive
Q240	83	12	95	13%
Q208	64	5	69	7%
SRA11	28	2	30	7%
Q252	26	4	30	13%
SRA4	24	-	24	
Q232	22	-	22	
Q138	20	2	22	9%
Q242	9	-	9	
KQ228	5	1	6	17%
Q155	5	-	5	
SRA2	5	-	5	

Other varieties tested not in the table (less than 5 samples) - Q136, Q141, Q183, Q188, Q238, Q245, Q248, Q249, Q253, SRA19.

What am I seeing:

Large moth borer (*Bathytricha truncata*) damage - mainly on edges and in blocks where grass and weeds present. Seeing a lot in Q240 and Q208, but these are also the majority of varieties inspected.



SRA Field Guide Pests of Australian Sugarcane 2015 page 58

Cold chlorosis, white bands running across the leaf blade. Occurs as a result of unusually cold conditions or rain, immediately followed by hot sunny period, this happened in May. Damage to portions of unrolled leaves within the spindle.



SRA Field Guide Diseases of Australian Sugarcane 2019 pages 65-66.

Varieties: I have not been back out in the field for long but this is what I am seeing in the field, productivity data and hearing from growers. Your opinions appreciated.

Early sugar: Q240, Q242 and Q252 have been the highest CCS in first 3 weeks of crush.

SRA11 an alternative to reduce reliance on Q240 and one to consider: SRA11 has the same parents as SRA1 but better fibre. High tonnage and good CCS. Good disease resistance. Option to reduce reliance on Q240 & SRA1 option. Stick similar thickness to Q240. SRA11 outperformed Q240 in the SRA Variety trials (data pg 4 2019/20 Variety Guide Southern Region). Still need more data to understand early, mid late sugar. Harvests well, softer cane. Slower to ratoon than Q240 but gets going and catches up quickly, good ratoonability and gap fills.

Q252 early sugar: performing well on heavier country, likes water. Once stressed hard to get growing again. Some places I have seen no or minimal smut and other places lots of smut. Smut rating 4 (but ranges 2.75 to 5.5) (data pg 7 2019/20 Variety Guide Sth Region). Consider planting with Sinker for one year smut protection. Slower to germinate but gets going.

KQ228 being reconsidered: some are reconsidering KQ228. It is slow to germinate. Smut rating 5 so does get smut, not badly though is the comments I am hearing. Prone to flowering. 2018 tonnes—24.6% Bundaberg and 16.2% Isis Mill Areas—2nd largest variety in these areas (data pages 12 & 13 of the 2019/20 Variety Guide Southern Region) only 1% in MBH.

Q208 not back into Q208 country: We know it is good practice to rotate varieties. I have seen some Q208 not performing very well where it was Q208, fallow and back into Q208. Still dominates production in Maryborough (40% in 2018) and still performing well.

SRA19 (QNO2-1707) : Higher tonnage, moderate CCS (data pg 5 2019/20 Variety Guide Southern Region). Thinner sticked but numbers of sticks in the stool, and tall cane. Early indication is it harvests well, not too hard of a cane. Large crop on good country has sprawled. Intermediate resistance to smut, consider Sinker at planting.

SRA20 (QS07-8815) : High tonnes, moderate CCS. Thicker sticked compared to SRA19. Good disease resistance. Slower germinator. Early indication harder cane when harvesting. Tissue Culture available 2020. SRA19 and SRA20 performed similar in variety trials (pg 5 & 6 V Guide)

Q245: MSF Sugar have planted some. Sensitive to herbicides. Upright & hairy. But said to handle dry conditions & light soils. No scientific evidence but some say soldier fly has less impact on Q245. Lower CCS but ratoonability.

SRA4: Comparable with Q208 in variety trials (pg 6 2018/19 Variety Guide Sth Region). Q138 in parentage. Thinner sticked cane but stools out. Said to have good ratoonability. Smut rating—Intermed



SRA 4 Second Ratoon

Useful Information

Maryborough Cane Productivity Services

- Yolande Kliese– Mobile 0487 017 811

<u>Maryborough Office</u> 106 Bazaar Street, Maryborough Qld 4650 <u>2019 Office Hours:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday: 8:30am – 4pm• Tuesday: 8:30am – 4pm• Wednesday: 8:30am - 1pm• After 1pm Urgent matters call Cam's mobile• Thursday: 8:30am -- 4pm• Friday: 8:30am – 4pm		<u>Postal</u> PO box 172 Maryborough Qld 4650
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Ashley Petersen	Deputy Chair	Mobile 0418 787 032
Roger Bambling	Director	Mobile 0419 788 376
Adam Doyle	Director	Mobile 0407 627 424
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WORKING WISELY WITH WATER

IRRIGATION TIPS FOR SUGARCANE IN DRY CONDITIONS

Cane growers and service providers are invited to a short session to discuss water management options and opportunities for the current crop and the 2020 season. Topics include improving pump efficiency, crop management options under limited water conditions, irrigation system capacity and electricity tariffs.

Speakers include:

Pat Daley – Irrigation Agronomist
Daley's Water Service

Andrew Jakins – Extension Officer,
Isis Productivity Limited

Maurie Haines – Special Project Officer,
Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd

WHEN: Wednesday 21 August 2019

TIME: 1:00pm to 2:30pm with
discussion afterwards

WHERE: Apple Tree Creek Memorial Hall
Bruce Highway, Apple Tree Creek

Cold drinks, tea and coffee, snacks provided

Please RSVP to Veronica Chapman

E: vchapman@sugarresearch.com.au **M:** 0436 695 925



Rates of pay

Adult

Full-time & part-time - Field work

Table 1 of 2

Classification	Weekly pay rate	Hourly pay rate	Saturday or Sunday - day workers	Overtime - Monday to Sunday - shiftworkers	Afternoon shift	Night shift	Overtime - Monday to Friday - first 3 hours - day workers
Cultivation/cane production inductee/trainee	\$747.90	\$19.68	\$29.52	\$39.36	\$22.14	\$22.63	\$29.52
Cultivation/cane production level 1	\$803.90	\$21.16	\$31.74	\$42.32	\$23.81	\$24.33	\$31.74
Cultivation/cane production level 2	\$831.70	\$21.89	\$32.84	\$43.78	\$24.63	\$25.17	\$32.84
Cane haulage inductee/trainee	\$785.00	\$20.66	\$30.99	\$41.32	\$23.24	\$23.76	\$30.99
Cane haulage 1	\$803.90	\$21.16	\$31.74	\$42.32	\$23.81	\$24.33	\$31.74
Cane haulage 2	\$831.70	\$21.89	\$32.84	\$43.78	\$24.63	\$25.17	\$32.84
Cane harvesting inductee/trainee	\$803.90	\$21.16	\$31.74	\$42.32	\$23.81	\$24.33	\$31.74
Cane harvesting 1	\$831.70	\$21.89	\$32.84	\$43.78	\$24.63	\$25.17	\$32.84
Cane harvesting 2	\$862.50	\$22.70	\$34.05	\$45.40	\$25.54	\$26.11	\$34.05
Cane testing 1	\$742.70	\$19.54	\$29.31	\$39.08	\$21.98	\$22.47	\$29.31
Cane testing 2	\$788.40	\$20.75	\$31.13	\$41.50	\$23.34	\$23.86	\$31.13
Cane testing 3	\$831.70	\$21.89	\$32.84	\$43.78	\$24.63	\$25.17	\$32.84
Cane testing 4	\$883.20	\$23.24	\$34.86	\$46.48	\$26.15	\$26.73	\$34.86

Full-time & part-time - Field work - Single contract hourly rate

Classification	Weekly pay rate	Hourly pay rate	Overtime - Monday to Sunday - shiftworkers	Afternoon shift	Night shift	Delayed meal break - day workers	Public holiday
Cultivation/cane production inductee/trainee	\$859.94	\$22.63	\$42.31	\$25.09	\$25.58	\$42.31	\$52.15
Cultivation/cane production level 1	\$924.54	\$24.33	\$45.49	\$26.98	\$27.51	\$45.49	\$56.07
Cultivation/cane production level 2	\$956.46	\$25.17	\$47.06	\$27.91	\$28.46	\$47.06	\$58.01
Cane haulage inductee/trainee	\$902.88	\$23.76	\$44.42	\$26.34	\$26.86	\$44.42	\$54.75
Cane haulage 1	\$924.54	\$24.33	\$45.49	\$26.98	\$27.51	\$45.49	\$56.07
Cane haulage 2	\$956.46	\$25.17	\$47.06	\$27.91	\$28.46	\$47.06	\$58.01
Cane harvesting inductee/trainee	\$924.54	\$24.33	\$45.49	\$26.98	\$27.51	\$45.49	\$56.07
Cane harvesting 1	\$956.46	\$25.17	\$47.06	\$27.91	\$28.46	\$47.06	\$58.01
Cane harvesting 2	\$992.18	\$26.11	\$48.81	\$28.94	\$29.51	\$48.81	\$60.16
Cane testing 1	\$853.86	\$22.47	\$42.01	\$24.91	\$25.40	\$42.01	\$51.78
Cane testing 2	\$906.68	\$23.86	\$44.61	\$26.46	\$26.98	\$44.61	\$54.99
Cane testing 3	\$956.46	\$25.17	\$47.06	\$27.91	\$28.46	\$47.06	\$58.01
Cane testing 4	\$1,015.74	\$26.73	\$49.97	\$29.63	\$30.21	\$49.97	\$61.59

Junior - Full-time & part-time - Field work

Table 1 of 2

Classification	Weekly pay rate	Hourly pay rate	Saturday or Sunday - day workers	Overtime - Monday to Sunday - shiftworkers	Afternoon shift	Night shift	Overtime - Monday to Friday - first 3 hours - day workers
17 years and under	\$465.75	\$12.26	\$18.39	\$24.52	\$15.00	\$15.54	\$18.39
18-19 years	\$582.19	\$15.32	\$22.98	\$30.64	\$18.06	\$18.60	\$22.98

Table 2 of 2

Classification	Overtime - Monday to Friday - after 3 hours - day workers	Overtime - Saturday or RDO - first 3 hours - day workers	Overtime - Saturday or RDO - after 3 hours - day workers	Overtime - Sunday - day workers	Afternoon shift	Delayed meal break - day workers	Public holiday
17 years and under	\$24.52	\$18.39	\$24.52	\$24.52	\$16.84	\$24.52	\$30.65
18-19 years	\$30.64	\$22.98	\$30.64	\$30.64	\$20.36	\$30.64	\$38.30

Junior - Full-time & part-time - Field work - Single contract hourly rate

Classification	Weekly pay rate	Hourly pay rate	Overtime - Monday to Sunday - shiftworkers	Afternoon shift	Night shift	Delayed meal break - day workers	Public holiday
17 years and under	\$535.80	\$14.10	\$26.36	\$16.84	\$17.38	\$26.36	\$32.49
18-19 years	\$669.56	\$17.62	\$32.94	\$20.36	\$20.90	\$32.94	\$40.60