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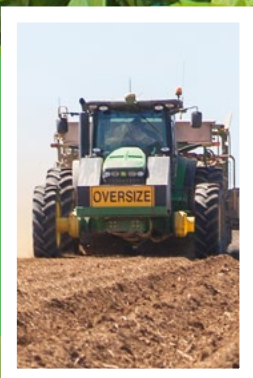


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* EHD-E 210 pictured with standard wheel kit,
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*EHD 240 pictured with Standard wheel kit.
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Cover picture: Mackay growers Sam, Gerry and Joe Deguara are growing legume fallow crops as part of their integrated farming system.

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Vegetation management is a political football

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

After almost 17 years as perhaps the biggest political football in Queensland, and most certainly the biggest regional political wedge issue, vegetation management was again kicked down the road to star in another election battle next year.

Ever since the door was shut on the old practices of broadscale land clearing through the 1999 *Vegetation Management Act*, there have been modifications, structural reforms and endless debates around supposedly the exact same data.

In 2013 the then Minister **Andrew Cripps** in the LNP State Government made significant changes to the original hardline Act in order to make it more workable and adaptable to encourage agricultural development. For our purposes, one of the most important reforms of that time was to include the purpose of High Value Irrigated Agricultural development as a reason to seek approval to clear vegetation.

In 2015 there was a change of government and last week Labor's Deputy Premier **Jackie Trad** fulfilled her election commitment to amend the legislation.

For us, the most critical proposal was to remove High Value Irrigated Agriculture as a legitimate reason to clear vegetation.

So from 1999, to 2013, to 2016, with various tweaks and adjustments along the way, this issue has lurched from one end of the political spectrum to the other.

You have to wonder – is this still about vegetation or is it now about politics?

The 2013 reforms by the LNP were also to satisfy an election commitment and were introduced after extensive consultation with agricultural industries. I was personally involved in that process.

Were all the changes perfect, agreed by all or absolutely well implemented? Possibly not, but I cannot complain about the opportunity afforded to us to be involved as representatives of the farmers who, in the end, must try to work with this mess.

The legislative amendments debated and ultimately defeated in the Queensland Parliament last week were the subject of just one meeting with agricultural stakeholders, held under the leadership of the Natural Resources Minister just before the Deputy Premier took the issue off his hands. No further discussions were held.

No wonder really, because the proposals were not supported by anyone in agriculture. Indeed, they were not supported by anyone in the property industry or legal fraternity either. It was only the conservation sector that supported these changes and therein lies the most important point.

There is a cold, chilling warning to all of us here. The political divide in Australia is actually fairly narrow. On the big issues, the major parties are actually often in alignment. They don't like to admit it, but they are.

However, as politics is a contest, where differences do exist there is a strong motivation to make that difference as stark as possible. Politicians are incentivised to define the battle ground, as the Deputy Premier has done in this case. Incidentally, she has a Green vote in excess of 21% in her electorate.

The ALP Government has already said that the voting down of its proposed amendments last week will define the party's next election campaign.

We will have to work with all parties to remind them that policy should outlive politics and that farmers remain confused, frustrated and downright financially encumbered by the quagmire of vegetation management in Queensland.

At the very least we can look to this example and try ensure we do one thing - make sure that Reef policy does not travel the same torturous road. ■

“You have to wonder – is this still about vegetation or is it now about politics?”





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NEWS IN BRIEF

GROWER REPS URGE MINISTERS TO ACT ON OUT-OF-CONTROL ELECTRICITY PRICES

Australia's state and territory energy ministers ended a meeting in Canberra recently with an agreement that all jurisdictions will work together to address the National Electricity Market (NEM) issues.

Queensland Energy Minister **Mark Bailey** also announced that the Queensland Government will push ahead with its 50% renewable energy target by 2030.

CANEGROWERS and other irrigator groups had been urging Council of Australian Government's (COAG) Energy Council to act to rein in out-of-control electricity prices.

"Cane growers have seen their electricity costs go up 120% since 1 July 2007 and the latest rise of 12.3% in July this year has left many angry and in despair," CEO **Dan Galligan** said.

"The current method for setting prices is broken. It is failing the Australian economy, threatening the viability and international competitiveness of irrigated agriculture and putting jobs in regional communities at risk."

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) CEO **Travis Tobin** said that industry looked forward to the government providing a clearer picture on the wider strategic plan for Queensland's future energy mix and how this fits with broader energy supply and pricing tariffs reforms in regional and rural areas.

"Queensland irrigators and farmers cannot continue to sustain significant yearly electricity price increases," said Mr Tobin

"The government has a lot of moving parts related to energy market reforms at the moment. It is difficult to see a coherent position for agriculture between the various initiatives such as electricity tariffs reforms, biofutures, biofuels, climate change, innovation and science.

"QFF appreciates the scale and speed of energy transformation that is under way in Queensland. It is an understandable challenge for government to manage a system that is being disrupted by new technologies while simultaneously trying to protect its significant revenue and public investment," he said.

"If the initiatives coming out of five different portfolios are not complementary, their benefit to the intensive agricultural industries will be limited.

"QFF welcomes greater communication from government on the big picture and assurance that the initiatives are not being progressed in isolation." ■

RUM WINNER

A survey of Queensland cane growers recently offered a prize draw to participants.

The Project Cane Changer team is now delighted to announce that the winner of the Bundaberg Master Distillers Collection Black Barrel is a grower from the Herbert River district.

Congratulations to the lucky winner! The grower has been contacted and the rum has been claimed.

The Project team would like to extend its genuine gratitude to all of the growers who willingly gave their time and opinions on various topics and industry issues.

The team will be contacting these growers in the coming weeks to notify them of the finalised findings.

While the competition has now closed, growers still have the opportunity to share their stories.

The online survey can be accessed via this link: www.behaviourinnovation.com/pcc.

WORKCOVER SHARPENS COMPLIANCE FOCUS

Ensuring businesses have appropriate workers' compensation insurance, declare superannuation and understand 'who is a worker', are key areas of focus for WorkCover Queensland this year.

WorkCover audits of 650 businesses last year found that 15% of employers didn't declare superannuation as part of their assessable wages, 8% omitted to declare wages paid to contractors deemed workers and 3% were uninsured.

During the same period, uninsured businesses lodged 260 workplace injury claims with WorkCover, costing the scheme approximately \$6.5 million.

"Any Queensland business which employs a worker is breaking the law if they don't have a WorkCover Accident Insurance policy," WorkCover Queensland CEO, Tony Hawkins said.

"If employers are confused about their obligations to insure their workers against injury or who they need to cover, WorkCover is here to help."

For more information call 1300 362 128 or visit worksafe.qld.gov.au/insurance.





Growers hope new system will provide easier road access for wide vehicles

Easier access to public roads for wide agricultural vehicles could be just around the corner, with changes to the current permit system expected to be gazetted on 1 September.

CANEGROWERS has been negotiating changes to the cumbersome permit process with the relevant

state and regional authorities, as well as the Queensland Police Service, since the National Heavy Vehicle Law was introduced in February 2014.

Without gazetted notices, ag vehicles over 3.5m in width require a permit every time they travel on or across a public road.

It is hoped the new notices, the details of which have yet to be released, will reduce the regulatory demands on growers while maintaining the safety of all road users.

Turn to page 9 for more information on the proposed changes to road access for wide agricultural vehicles. ■

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CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

By CANEGROWERS district offices

Mossman

To Week 10 Mossman Mill has crushed a total of 308,647 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 10.91 CCS.

Coastal/Julatten growers have supplied 224,375 tonnes of cane for an average of 10.26 CCS.

Mareeba growers have supplied 84,271 tonnes of cane for an average of 12.66 CCS.

Although the mill had some mechanical issues during the week with the milling train and boiler station operations, Week 10 saw the highest throughput for the year with 45,642 tonnes of cane processed at an average crushing rate of 339 tonnes/hr.

Tully

200mm of rain has been recorded for the month of August, which is not what the district needed as we continue to chip away at the large crop.

To date just over 920,000 tonnes or 30% of the crop estimate has been harvested and crushed and a long period of dry weather is required to make the best of the balance of the year. CCS has been depressed by the rain and is running half a unit below last year.

The last week has seen some remarkable efforts by growers and harvester crews, with the mill receiving a reasonable quantity of cane every day, despite the wet conditions.

Burdekin

All four mills in the Burdekin have now completed the first cleaning steps of the season during normal crushing operations.

Harvesting crews are still experiencing challenging ground conditions, with harvesting on some blocks taking up to a week to complete after burning.

Cairns Region

Wet weather across the area has seriously affected the harvest and planting and season length issues are now paramount in the minds of growers.

At the time of writing, the sun has appeared across the CANEGROWERS Cairns Region area and as the ground is drying out, farming activities are re-commencing.

Innisfail

Further rainfall across the district has continued to interrupt harvest and planting operations. After five days of relatively no rainfall, from 15 to 19 August, almost 200mm was recorded between 20 and 22 August.

A 'sign-off' day was held on Wednesday 24 August for the replacement Cane Supply Agreement for 2017-2019. Growers were also able to sign

Herbert River

Progress with harvesting and planting has been plagued by a continuing unstable weather pattern across the Herbert. To Monday 22 August the harvest is 23% complete, whilst planting contractors are also mostly 20 to 30% complete.

Mill reliability will be critical this year as the recently released crushing profile to remove the crop takes the Herbert through to the week ending 17 December.

The Cane Supply Agreement for growers who supply South Johnstone Mill has been rolled out with the Mulgrave CSA soon to follow.

Growers across both zones have demonstrated an increased interest in the Smartcane BMP program and it is anticipated that this activity will be reflected in growers becoming in the coming months.

documents in readiness to elect QSL as their preferred marketer.

However, their ability to exercise the Grower Choice option is still being held up by the delay in getting BIM Group approval for the MSF/QSL On Supply Agreement. Angst amongst growers is rising and may force growers to market through MSF Sugar to take advantage of any rise in world market prices.

Unfortunately the Herbert's two mills were found wanting in the 2015 season in processing a similar sized crop when they failed to meet the minimum performance target and therefore paid collective members a Performance Target Allowance that is triggered under the existing Collective CSA when the mill performance fails to meet that minimum level.

This year there are numerous instances where planting preparations have had

There has been a slight improvement in CCS with 13.2 recorded in Week 10 and 13.45 in Week 11, giving a progressive district average of 12.73.

At the same time last year 45% of estimated crop had been crushed with a weekly CCS of 14.94

Proserpine

Crushing recommenced at Proserpine Mill on 2 August after nearly two weeks of wet weather delay. Initially, harvesting conditions were damp and difficult in most areas resulting in a reduced throughput.

The following week saw 103,000 tonnes crushed which was an excellent effort by the field sector and was achieved despite some mechanical disruptions. Throughput for the week ending 21 August was again interrupted by persistent light showers, which affected a vast majority of the district.

In total 387,245 tonnes of cane has now been crushed at a season to date average CCS of 12.45.

CCS continues to rise slowly despite the continued weather events, but remains behind budget expectations. Consequently the Operations Review Committee met to review the interim payment CCS. It was agreed to reduce the payment CCS to 13.90 with a further review in early October. The committee meets again next week to scrutinise the 2016 season estimate of 1.71 million tonnes with a small increase anticipated.

Mackay

Mackay Sugar's three mills processed 203,695 tonnes of cane for the week ending August 21, bringing the season to the 30% mark of the crop now crushed. The focus of mills will now be maximising crush rates at each of the factories.

Crush stats for the three mills for this week are: Farleigh 65,406 tonnes, Marian 74,333 tonnes and Racecourse 63,956 tonnes. PRS for the week was 12.88 with the PRS average to date being 12.18.

Plane Creek

Plane Creek Mill crushed 55,502 tonnes for the week ending August 20, bringing to 334,756 tonnes the total crushed to date this season. The weekly CCS of 12.82 brings to 12.46 the season average to date.

About 7 hours of available crushing time was lost to wet weather including wet field conditions during the week ending 21 August. This week's tonnage brings the harvest to around the quarter-way mark.

Bundaberg

A number of Board and grower members supported AgForce in an organised march to MP Leanne Donaldson's electorate office on 10 August to protest against the proposed vegetation management laws and the broken electricity pricing system (pictured below).

Bundaberg Sugar mills processed 86,238 tonnes of cane during Week 9. The combined average CCS of both mills for the season to date is 13.23.

This is lower than similar periods in previous years, mainly due to lodged cane and the wet weather

The three major varieties KQ228, Q208 and Q240 accounted for approximately 68% of the total supply for the week.

KQ228 was the best performing variety again with a CCS average of 13.97 units (31% of supply).

Q208 recorded an average CCS of 13.53 units (18% of supply) and Q240 averaged 13.66 units (19% of supply).

The highest individual CCS for the week was 16.20 units recorded from KQ228A old ratoon.

to be postponed and repeated, which ramps up the cost of the operation.

The stronger price outlook adds to the motivation to keep going but growers are deeply concerned that there hasn't been a favourable progress report on developing an On Supply Agreement for the growers preferred marketer for the 2017 season crop.

That might be the tipping point for a large increase in fallow area next year

unless there is some positive news very soon.

The Productivity Commission's recent Draft Report on Regulation in Agriculture that recommended scrapping of the 2015 amendments to the *Sugar Industry Act* prompted CANEGROWERS Herbert River to put in its own submission based on a case study of Wilmar's behaviour in renegeing on previous industry undertakings regarding marketing

and the Commission's clear failure to understand the nature of relationships in the sugar industry that the 2015 amendments corrected. The opportunity was taken to make a presentation to the Commission at its Townsville hearings.

Growers have also welcomed the opportunity to meet with the QSL Board of Directors at an update meeting at the Ingham Bowls Club on Thursday, 25 August.

Maryborough

As at 22 August, MSF has crushed 261,282 tonnes at CCS of 13.04. Last week the mill crushed 47,186.29 tonnes at CCS of 13.42. The highest CCS for the week was 15.60 from a block of Q235 at Bidwill.

Top performing varieties were – Q208 13.50, KQ228 13.48, Q232 12.60, Q240 13.66 and Q242 13.36. The mill has now crushed approximately 1/3 of the estimated crop of 770,000 tonnes.

Continues page 8...



Regional Round-up continued...

Isis

As of 22 August, Isis Mill had processed 476,973 tonnes for the season, with 64,179 tonnes in Week 8 and an impressive 70,550 tonnes in Week 7 despite the ongoing impact from rain.

The milder temperatures and wetter than normal winter has resulted in significant crop growth and the 2016 estimate has now been raised to 1.3m tonnes.

With the revised estimate we are still over a third of the way through processing of the 2016 crop.

Weekly CCS climbed from 13.24 in Week 7 to 13.56 in Week 8 bringing the season average CCS up to 13.15. The standout daily CCS in Week 7 was 15.56, achieved by a Farnsfield grower supplying KQ228 first ratoon. In Week 8 it was 15.96 from a north Bundaberg grower supplying KQ228 autumn plant.

Planting activities have commenced with excellent ground moisture, rising temperatures and good quality planting materials providing optimum conditions.



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Growers caution against more reef regulation

Sugarcane growers, like all Australians, are committed to ensuring the health of the Great Barrier Reef and will work with the recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce now agreed to by the Queensland Government.

Dr Steven Miles, the Minister for the Great Barrier Reef, committed another \$90 million over the next four years on reducing catchment runoff.

"We have committed almost \$22 million in 2016-17 for implementing Taskforce recommendations which builds on our existing \$35 million investment in reef water quality programs," he said.

"I look forward to working with stakeholders, experts and community members to implement this comprehensive suite of work to vastly improve the quality of water flowing to the reef."

CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri said growers were determined to continue to play their part in sustainable solutions for a healthy Reef.

"Growers are adopting industry best management practices which keep nutrients, chemicals and sediment on their farms," Mr Schembri said.

"But we remain concerned that the target of an 80% reduction of dissolved inorganic nitrogen is unachievable."

CANEGROWERS supports clear and achievable goals which are applied across the Reef catchments and welcomed Dr Miles' commitment to review the reef water quality targets.

"Growers are adopting industry best management practices which keep nutrients, chemicals and sediment on their farms."

"We have agreed, or agreed in principle, to also review the reef water quality targets, better communicate how everyone can improve reef water quality, use incentives to drive water quality improvements, pursue targeted regulatory approaches, develop a strategic investment plan, and simplify and strengthen governance arrangements," Dr Miles said.

"We realise that some aspects, such as the regulatory reforms, will require further consultation to ensure we develop the most effective approach.

Others, such as the governance reforms, will require working collaboratively with the Australian Government.

"As the Taskforce identified, there is no single tool that will deliver the results we want," he said.

"We need to significantly increase our use of existing tools and seek more innovative approaches."

Mr Schembri reinforced CANEGROWERS opposition to the big stick of regulation as a means of achieving water quality targets.

"Regulation is a blunt instrument that supports minimum standards of compliance at the expense of fostering a culture of innovation and excellence," Mr Schembri said.

"Compliance measures bring everyone down to a lowest common denominator and the money would be better spent on encouraging and assisting growers to move to and beyond industry best management practice farming methods.

"The sugar cane industry's Smartcane BMP program is a far better approach than a big stick.

"It is focusing growers on productivity and profitability hand in hand with environmental sustainability." ■



Burn Ashburner

Canegrowers Manager -
Industry

“It seems that we finally have an agreement that will give growers improved access to public roads.”

HITTING THE ROAD

with changes for wide ag vehicles and combinations

Effectively, as at February 2014, all agricultural vehicles over 3.5m width required an individual permit for each occasion of travel on or across a public road. However, the process to get this permit was not functional, so CANEGROWERS has been working tirelessly to have the system overhauled.

It has been a long and drawn out battle to have this system replaced with a process that is practical and workable for growers, while also maintaining the safety of road users.

This has entailed getting the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, Queensland Transport and Main Roads, the Queensland Police Service, and all the relevant regional councils to agree on various issues.

I think anyone who has ever dealt with these organisations will have some idea of the frustrations caused by their differing agendas and levels of risk aversion.

However, it seems that we finally have an agreement that will give growers improved access to public roads.

There are two national notices, which if all goes according to plan, will be gazetted on 1 September 2016.

The table below shows the Guideline, National Notice or Individual Permit that will be applicable for different width agricultural vehicles in different geographical regions to enable legal travel on public roads.

The full conditions of the notices have not been released and CANEGROWERS will communicate these as soon as they are available.

Growers need to familiarise themselves with these changes and implement them, even if the conditions are not exactly what we wanted.

The alternative may be worse! ■

Region	Road Class	Width 2.5m – 3.5m	Width 3.5m – 4.0m	Width 4.0m – 5.0m	Width 5.0m plus
North of Rockhampton	Critical	Form 14 ¹	Coastal Notice ³	Permit ⁵	Permit
	Major		Northern Notice ⁴	Northern Notice	Permit
	Minor		Northern Notice	Northern Notice	Permit
South of Rockhampton - excl Bundaberg Regional Council	Critical	Form 14	Coastal Notice	Permit	Permit
	Major		Coastal Notice	Permit	Permit
	Minor		Coastal Notice	Permit	Permit
Bundaberg Regional Council	Critical	Form 14	Coastal Notice	Permit	Permit
	Major		Coastal Notice	Permit	Permit
	Minor		Bundaberg Notice ²	Bundaberg Notice	Permit

Source documents

1. Form 14 - Guideline for Excess Dimension Agricultural Vehicles and Agricultural Combinations Vehicles and Drivers Form Number 14 Version 4 October 2013.

2. Bundaberg notice - Bundaberg Region Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (5.0m wide) Dimension Exemption (Notice) 2015 (No.1).

3. Coastal Notice 3.5m to 4.0 m - Queensland Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (Coastal Zone 1) Dimension Exemption Notice 2016 (No. 1). (new notice)

4. Northern Notice - Queensland Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (Northern Zone 1) Dimension Exemption Notice 2016 (No. 1), from Granite Creek north of Rockhampton. (new notice)

5. Permit required application form available on QTMR website.

PRECISION AGRICULTURE

what we know now and what the future holds

By Belinda Billing, Adoption Officer, Brandon

Sugar Research Australia recently teamed up with the Society of Precision Agriculture Australia (SPAA) to run a successful Talking Precision Ag in Cane event at Home Hill.

This was the first time SPAA has held a sugarcane event and about 70 people attended to learn from a range of inspiring and informative speakers.

The event focussed on what can be done now, with local growers Terry Granshaw and Denis Pozzebon speaking about their experiences using variable rate technology for herbicide application.

The pair brought along some equipment to help explain how precision agriculture (PA) works for them.

Growers then heard about precision agriculture on **St John Kent's** Darling Downs pulse and grain farm.

Mr Kent spoke candidly about his journey, starting with a switch to controlled traffic in the 1980s up to his ability to correlate yield mapping to compaction zones with related soil moisture issues.

Technology can now be used to quickly measure compaction, soil EC values and particle size, plus a range of other parameters, creating layers of spatially displayed information that can be used to better understand and potentially resolve problems in the paddock.



This has resulted in Mr Kent fine-tuning his farm management down to the minute details of tyre tread pattern and the position of his herbicide tanks.

Bryan Granshaw, from BMS LaserSat, spoke on the potential of using multiple layers of soil mapping information to better manage farm inputs.

He explained how mapping can be applied to reduce the cost of using expensive ameliorants like gypsum and lime through variable rate application.

He also explained how technology can now be used to quickly measure compaction, soil electrical conductivity (EC) values and particle size, plus a range of other parameters, creating layers of spatially displayed information that can be used to better understand and potentially resolve problems in the paddock.

The theme of mapping and utilising these layers of information continued with a talk from Farmacist's **Peter McDonnell**, who spoke of his experience collecting and utilising information layers through EC mapping and soil testing, along with working on an SRA-funded project with **Andrew Robson** of the University of New England.

This project uses satellite imagery to obtain crop yield estimates, crop growth curves and measures nitrogen response in the cane leaf.

Peter's main message to the audience was that the information available through mapping and other PA technology is a fantastic tool and the power of the technology is constantly improving – but it all must be ground truthed, which can only be done by getting out in the paddock.

Troy Jensen, of the University of Southern Queensland, spoke of another SRA-funded yield mapping research project. This project uses yield monitors on harvesters and includes trials that have been run with Burdekin grower Denis Pozzebon.

Troy outlined the continuing improvement in the accuracy of yield monitors on harvesters, from early work in 1998 (with David and Graeme Cox) to the present day.

The current mapping is still not considered accurate enough to serve PA mapping purposes, however ground-truthing of the data showed the technology is progressing.

DEVELOPMENT OF MACHINE VISION-BASED WEED SPOT SPRAY SYSTEMS BY THE NCEA

Dr **Steve Rees** of the National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture (NCEA) had everyone talking with his work on machine vision-based weed spot spraying. ►

This project is funded through SRA and is successfully developing technology to identify and target weeds.

This technology could reduce losses of pesticide in runoff, increase overall profit margins and manage herbicide resistance.

Existing WeedSeeker technology can identify the green of a weed on a bare background and automatically spot spray the weed (shown to work on bare earth and trash blanket).

The new generation of optics-driven weed tech will not only be able to determine green-from-green, it will be able to differentiate between leaf texture and shape.

While the technology that is commonly used in the grains industry has been shown to work in cane, the practicality and economics have not been there.

The NCEA Automation, Robotics and Machine Vision Group is working on a new generation of optics-driven weed tech, proving that not only is green-from-green discrimination possible, they have also developed technologies that can differentiate between leaf texture and shape and using affordable computer gaming technologies have added depth and segmentation to the suite of tools.

2016 Innisfail Show

Cowley cane grower Daniel Borg took out the top prize at the 2016 Innisfail Show sugarcane competition in July.

Daniel's Q251 variety claimed the Champion Cane of the Show title, while he also won the Three Heaviest Sticks crown for his Q250 variety.

In total seven classes of heaviest sticks were competed for in a range of varieties, both old and new.

Other winners included W & M Saro (Q183 & minor varieties), the Fichera Family (Q231), Dodds Brothers (Q200), and A & M Emmi (Q208).

What does this mean? Using NCEA's machine vision techniques, scientists are able to differentiate between different types of grass, for example guinea grass and sugarcane, and can identify where the weedy grass is, even if it is partially obscured by the sugarcane.

The next step is to fire a jet of herbicide directly at the weed and research for this is underway.

Testing of the technology on several hectares of sugarcane in Bundaberg showed a weed hit rate of 85% with only 0.02% false trigger rate on crop.

Additional trials provided up to an 87% hit rate on weeds with a 3.5% false trigger rate where the crop and weeds were mixed together.

The next step for Dr Rees is to develop this further in the field, which he will do in partnership with SRA Weeds Agronomist Emilie Fillols.

The team is also working on making the technology more user-friendly, enabling it to work at higher speeds by adding a multi-core processing technique and working towards the ability to spray during daylight hours.

Over the next two years Dr Rees and his team will be perfecting the technology; focusing on automated spot spraying that will be able to identify and spray weeds in typical sugarcane crops. ■

Pictured, page 10: Terry Granshaw talks to growers at the Precision Ag in Cane event.



Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

AustSafe Super - your award winning fund.

AustSafe Super is thrilled to announce that it's been awarded a coveted Financial Review Smart Investor Blue Ribbon award for Best Growth Fund.

This award is endorsed by the Australian Financial Review, in association with research by Finder.com.au, Lonsec, MorningStar and Rice Warner.

This award is testament to the fact that we've been working hard throughout the past year to deliver superior long-term investment outcomes to members, and to back it up with great customer service, low fees and our local touch.

This award caps off a pretty impressive year for AustSafe Super, one which has seen us recognised through SuperRatings as one of an elite group of eight funds to have delivered a compound return of over 100% since the GFC.



This means that those within CANGEROWERS who are AustSafe Super members invested in the Fund's Balanced Investment option would have seen their money more than double since March 2009, without even making a contribution.

We've also been awarded a coveted Gold rating for both our accumulation and pension products during the year.

What all this means is that we're a competitive fund and, although we're small, we well and truly punch above our weight and will work hard to ensure we achieve the best retirement outcomes for our members.

As a member, you can change your investment options at any time to ensure your super is working the way you want it to.

Simply log into MemberOnline or call us on 1300 131 293 and make the switch.



By **Greg Beashel**
QSL CEO and Managing Director

“Choosing the marketer for your GEI sugar is an important decision, so when weighing up your options, consider the many advantages of nominating QSL as your preferred marketing and pricing partner.”

Marketing Choice arrangements take shape

QSL's ongoing efforts to implement Marketing Choice by securing On-Supply Agreements with MSF Sugar, Wilmar and Tully Sugar are continuing, although with varying levels of progress.

Our arrangements with MSF Sugar are the most advanced, with QSL and MSF Sugar reaching agreement regarding commercial terms for an On-Supply Agreement (OSA).

This is now subject to necessary changes being made to the existing Raw Sugar Supply Agreements in place with Bundaberg Sugar, Isis Central Mill and Mackay Sugar.

The due process associated with the required contractual adjustments is well underway and once this has been achieved, QSL will be able to finalise the MSF Sugar OSA and begin to take marketing and pricing nominations from those growers who have signed a CSA with MSF Sugar.

It is important to note that an OSA must be in place between QSL and MSF Sugar before MSF Sugar can notify QSL of grower economic interest in sugar (GEI Sugar) marketing nominations and pricing elections from growers.

We appreciate that many MSF Sugar growers are keen to nominate QSL as their marketer as soon as they sign their CSA documentation, regardless of whether QSL's On-Supply Arrangements with MSF Sugar have been finalised.

However, in the interests of full transparency, QSL strongly recommends that MSF Sugar growers read the full QSL Pricing Pool Terms and other information regarding our 2017-Season marketing services and pricing products prior to making their marketing nominations.

This information will be featured in QSL's Grower Handbook, which we intend to release as soon as the MSF Sugar OSA is in place.

QSL also intends to host a series of information events in MSF Sugar milling districts to provide local growers with the opportunity to discuss QSL's Marketing Choice offer with our representatives.

Further details regarding these events will be released once the MSF Sugar OSA is finalised.

In the interim, we recommend MSF Sugar growers read the overview of our intended pricing products available in the '2017 Product Offering - MSF Sugar Growers' section of our website, accessible by clicking on the 2017 Marketing Choice icon on our website homepage or via this direct link: www.qsl.com.au/2017-product-offering-msf-sugar-growers.

Growers can also register their interest for QSL's 2017 Season by completing the Registration of Interest Form, accessed by clicking on the 2017 Marketing Choice icon on our homepage at www.qsl.com.au.





Marketing choice for MSF growers the intended process

So just what is QSL's intended process for implementing Marketing Choice for MSF Sugar growers? Here's a quick overview of what is planned:

- As a MSF Sugar grower, you must sign a separate Grower Pricing Agreement (GPA) if you want to have the option to choose QSL to be the marketer for some or all of your GEI Sugar.
 - QSL Target Price Contract (individual forward pricing product)
 - QSL In-Season Fixed Price Contract (individual in-season)
- If you do not sign a GPA, your tonnes will default to the MSF Late Season Pool and will be priced and marketed by MSF Sugar Marketing Pty Ltd until you advise otherwise.
- To select QSL as your GEI Sugar marketer you need to complete a Pool Manager Nomination Form (an example form can be found in Appendix 2 of your GPA).
- If you do not complete a Pool Manager Nomination Form, your tonnes will default to the MSF Late Season Pool.
- You can nominate QSL as your GEI Sugar marketer for one season or for as long as you wish, i.e. you can state on your Pool Manager Nomination Form that you wish to nominate QSL as your GEI Sugar Marketer 'until otherwise advised'.
- Even if you only want to participate in the QSL Harvest Pool in 2017, you must nominate QSL as your GEI Sugar marketer and complete the Pool Manager Nomination form.
- Completing your Pool Manager Nomination Form allows you to choose one or a combination of the following 2017-Season QSL Pools and Pricing Products:
 - QSL Actively Managed Pool
 - QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool
 - QSL Season Forward Pool
 - QSL Fixed Price Contract (individual forward pricing product)
- An overview of these pools is now available in the 2017 Marketing Choice section of the QSL website or from your local CANEGROWERS office.
- The QSL Grower Handbook for MSF Growers will provide full details of your pricing options, including individual forward and in-season pricing, and QSL-managed pool products. This important document will be distributed to MSF Sugar growers once the OSA with their miller is in place, and should be read before selecting any of our products for next season.
- To choose a pricing product or pool you need to complete your Election Notification Form (an example form can be found in Appendix 3 of your GPA).
- Whether you want to participate in QSL-managed pools, or self-managed in-season or forward-season products, you need to allocate tonnages to these products.
- The mechanism for doing this is via completing the Election Notification Form.
- You can do this at any time after the OSA is in place, as long as you have finalised your decision by 28 February 2017. QSL and MSF Sugar will advise of the cut-off date for 2017-Season individual pricing products.
- As in previous years, contact your milling company to place your orders.
- There is no planned change to payment arrangements.

The decision ahead

Choosing the marketer for your GEI sugar is an important decision, so when weighing up your options, consider the many advantages of nominating QSL as your preferred marketing and pricing partner. These include:

1. OWNED BY YOU, FOCUSED ON YOU

QSL is owned by its members and focused on maximising returns. We do not pursue our own commercial interests above those of the industry we serve.

2. PASSING ON THE VALUE

QSL is a tax-exempt, pass-through industry service organisation. That means we don't 'clip the ticket' and pass on all net value created.

3. MULTIPLE PRICING OPTIONS

Whether you want to make your own forward pricing decisions or prefer a managed pool, we offer a varied range of products for you to choose from.

4. EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS

Our dedicated and Queensland-based marketing and pricing team leverages a range of global partnerships to serve our members and their interests.

5. ABOVE AND BEYOND

From daily SMS price updates to more detailed market reports and regular information sessions, QSL is committed to keeping you up to date on the raw sugar market and our performance.

**REGISTER NOW
FOR 2017 MARKETING
CHOICE WITH QSL**

Visit www.qsl.com.au to register online or call **3004 4400** to make an appointment to discuss our 2017-Season products.

Legume fallows and GPS put this family on the right track

By Neroli Roocke

A lot of growers have driven up **Gerry Deguara's** driveway over the past few years wanting to see how he's reinvigorated his profitability and productivity with his two adult sons. In the early days, some took the road to Kinchant Dam ready to scoff at Gerry's ideas, but increasingly people are positive about what he, **Sam** and **Joe** are doing.



Pictured: (above) A healthy crop of soya on the Deguara's farm; (main) Gerry, Joe and Sam with their spray rig; (right) a tailwater dam which catches run off for recycling through the irrigation system and (on pg16) Sam with the header purchased to harvest legumes.



"I don't think anyone goes away critical any more but there used to be people who didn't believe in compaction or that you needed to grow legumes or that chemicals went to the waterways," Gerry says. "Now people accept those things and know it's just a matter of minimising them."

Gerry and his sons have an integrated farming philosophy across their 570 hectares and they're happy to share it.

"The turning point for me was a heavy rain event in 1998 which meant we destroyed every field we harvested – it became a driver for changing our system," Gerry explains.

This change was based on a number of interrelated things: growing fallow crops, avoiding compaction, improving soil health and targeting the application of fertilisers and herbicides.

"No crop likes growing in a compacted root zone – that is number one," Gerry says.

"Number two is that long term monoculture doesn't work, but on this latitude cane is the best thing to grow so we've got to improve our soil. ▶



"Green cane harvesting was the first big leap – it was the biggest thing that happened in the sugar industry in cost reductions, lifestyle and returning organic matter to the soil."

The family has grown soya beans and chickpeas on the 100 hectares they have fallow each year and plan to try mung beans this year.

"I don't think anyone goes away critical any more, but there used to be people who didn't believe in compaction or that you needed to grow legumes or that chemicals went to the waterways."

"We religiously grow soy in our fallow and we will be giving rice a go in the right soils when there's enough water," Gerry says. A good yield is three tonnes of soya beans per hectare.

As well as providing some income, legume crops fix nitrogen in the soil, add organic matter and increase population diversity in the soil biology.

Beginning in 2000, Gerry, Joe and Sam began converting their farms to two-metre uniform beds all mapped by GPS.

"We threw everything out and started again basically," Gerry says of the move to a controlled traffic system.

"We are not ones to compromise and I don't mind putting in the commitment and buying the equipment because Joe and Sam will get the benefit in the long run."

The transition took around six years but now everything that moves through their paddocks has GPS and the correct wheel spacing to avoid impacting and damaging the growing zone.

That includes their harvester, haul outs and all farm tractors, with the investment in the technology supported

by several rounds of Reef Rescue (the precursor to the Australian Government Reef Programme and Reef Trust).

Gerry says he knows they are on the right track because their costs have reduced through more targeted inputs and fewer passes through the paddocks.

"Going from 1.6m cane beds to 2m means every row you pass with the harvester or tractor you're covering 0.4 of a metre more. So in only a few rows you've saved a whole row of fuel and wear and tear," Gerry says.

Continues page 16...





Overall the farm's soils are healthier as evidenced by Farmacist soil tests. The same site has been tested across two crop cycles with the results revealing an increasing quantity of organic matter.

"On our poorer soils too, our yield is increasing," Sam says. "Even areas which never used to grow cane now can grow it – that shows that the soil is improving across the board."

Joe explains that the use of pre-emergence weed control chemicals has been reduced by 30% because the GPS system means only the beds are sprayed.

Any weeds in the wheel tracks are taken care of with knock down preparations using a shielded sprayer.

This is a diversified business which aims to make the best use of its machinery investments.

"We decided to go contracting so we could get the best gear for our place and also hopefully make a few dollars as well," Gerry says.

Their harvester will cut 100,000 tonnes this year across their own and contracted areas for four other growers.

They contract apply dunder to other farms as well as their own using a

variable rate applicator and they've recently purchased a header (which is undergoing modifications to widen its wheel spacings to four metres) to harvest the legume fallow crops.

Gerry, Joe and Sam acknowledge the input of government reef funding in helping them implement their farming system changes.

"This industry has been lucky in that government has been willing to help with change where it delivers an environmental benefit," Gerry says.

While he bought his first GPS unit prior to Reef Rescue, subsequent purchases were jointly funded, as were a zonal cultivator, harvester modifications to match the 2m row spacing, mill mud and dunder applicators and spray rig.

"We were always going to do those things, but it meant we could do them quicker and do them better than we would've been able to without Reef Rescue," Sam says.

Reef funding through government programs has also gone into the construction of tailwater pits to catch and recycle water coming off the farms for supplementary irrigation using centre pivots over 330 hectares.

There are plans for more pits so that 85% of their water is collected.

"There's still more we want to do and things we want to try," Gerry says.

"What we'd like to end up with is zero till soya beans in the cane and zero till cane in the soya beans – permanent beds with minimal cultivation to avoid erosion and losing soil and nutrients into the environment."

He warns growers who come for advice not to expect instant and big results from changes in farming practices.

"There've been a lot of people who've come to see what we're doing and everyone just takes out the bit that suits them or their budget," he says.

Along the way there has been the support of like-minded farmers, many of them neighbours.

They've been part of Project Catalyst and, in the earlier 2000s, Gerry was part of a group of growers sponsored by a Department of State Development program which had ten meetings over five years.

"There were people from different growing areas and we looked specifically at changing to a controlled traffic system, the technology to go with it and how we bring about the change."

Joe and Sam belong to a local Young Farmers Group.

"Around here there are a fair few young farmers and people who would love to be farming full time if they could and the returns were better," Joe says.

"Now that the mining industry has slowed down we're finding a lot are coming back to farm too."

Gerry, Joe and Sam say they work well together.

"We share a vision of where the farms need to be and they never have to convince me when it comes to innovation or technology," Gerry says. ■



Australian Government

This story has been brought to you by the Australian Government Reef Programme

Soil for thought!

By John Irvin, Principal of Irvin Farm

We need to take a more strategic look at our soils and ask the question, "Why aren't we achieving more?"

The answer is that we don't understand our soils well enough.

Innovation has mostly centred on scale activities, rather than learning about soil. But learning the language of our soil may be the single most important activity we undertake as farmers.

Strengthening soil to cope with the requirements of sustained production is paramount when considering how we will profit from farming activities.

It is no longer enough to just consider the mineral wellbeing of soil. We must also consider soil's biological wellbeing as part of our ecological husbandry.

As farmers we must innovate to improve our soil as well as our machinery.

While most people see soil every day, what is not seen is the huge biological factory that makes up our soil.

Innovation based in mechanised scale is often at the expense of this soil factory.

Compaction, mono-culture, artificial fertilisers and other 'mining' activities have become the blunt instruments of agricultural efficiency.

We need our innovation to be more closely aligned with soil health needs.

The business case for maintaining good soil health is quite simple.

You just need to weigh up the cost of addressing your soil's biological needs against the returns in the form of improved productivity, better yields and positive environmental outcomes.

This is about identifying the principles that guide our thinking in determining our daily activities to secure our soils (and in turn our environment) in peak revenue condition.

Principles such as 'light is right', 'the only constant in life is change', 'preserving our assets' and 'innovate or perish' are examples of where our thinking must centre.

These are natural laws and have attached values that are extremely rewarding.

These principles drive innovation in areas such as multi-cropping, controlled traffic, precision farming and the futuristic activities of swarm farming using small robots.

The competitiveness of our industry will be determined by how quickly we can adapt to the needs of our changing environment.

Our soil can do so much more if we can understand its true potential and work towards making Nature our partner, not our servant. ■



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SRA's Julian Connellan collects data from a trial site in the Burdekin.



How could using less fertiliser benefit my business?

That's the question a group of Burdekin growers involved in a nitrogen-use trial wanted to test. They put the Six Easy Steps methodology through its paces in trial sites starting in 2011. By 2016 they had some eye-opening answers.

One grower is now using 15 tonnes less fertiliser a year and hasn't lost tonnage or sugar content. Another grower has calculated his savings to be \$28,000 on 100 ha worth of fertiliser.

To see them talk about their experiences, visit <http://bit.ly/2b1JOrU> to watch the Sugar Research Australia video, or download the SRA Case Studies booklet from <http://bit.ly/29KCrSj>

The success of the project, known as RP20, in turning Six Easy Steps sceptics into converts prompted the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to commit funding through its reef water quality initiatives to support 100 more growers through the process under a project called RP161.

CANEGROWERS congratulates the growers behind the 50 farms that have signed up to participate in the first year of this new fertiliser efficiency program.

"Growers have been telling us they want evidence that changing practices will be worthwhile, that they won't lose money or production while meeting environmental objectives," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said.

"This Burdekin nitrogen trial project is all about growers proving the science for themselves and their neighbours.

"Not only are the growers in the original RP20 project still running highly productive farms, they are saving costs on fertiliser.

ONE GROWER IS USING 15 TONNES LESS FERTILISER A YEAR AND HASN'T LOST TONNAGE OR SUGAR CONTENT. ANOTHER GROWER HAS CALCULATED HIS SAVINGS TO BE \$28,000.

"This is a win on so many levels for the industry and these growers are leaders among their peers for taking action on being involved and testing the science for themselves."

"We are delighted that all of the places in the first year of this project have been quickly taken up – 50 farms will benefit this year and more next year.

"Six Easy Steps ties in to our industry best management practice program

Smartcane BMP which, through the efforts of farmers across the industry, is delivering productivity and water quality results across all cane growing districts.

"These projects are a perfect example of growers, industry research and government all working together towards the common goal of a sustainable sugarcane industry, contributing to the Queensland economy for decades to come." ■

Six Easy Steps is a science-based nutrient management tool. It is acknowledged as industry best-practice for nutrient management to optimise productivity and profitability without adversely influencing soil fertility or causing off-farm effects.

Control sugarcane smut and pineapple disease

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Reduce the detrimental impact on sugarcane yield from sugarcane smut and pineapple disease today.

For further information, contact your Crop Care sales representative or Crop Care Customer Service on 1800 111 454.

Preventing pineapple disease in plant cane this spring

Supplied by Crop Care

Achieving a good strike of plant cane is one of the biggest challenges growers face in producing a high-potential sugarcane crop.

A good strike rate not only sets up yield for the whole crop cycle, it also minimises gaps for weed infestation.

Until roots develop, young shoots depend on the planted sett for nutrients, and later as a conduit from the sett roots to the shoot.

So rotting of the sett during this period can lead to the reduced vigour or even death of young shoots.

The main disease that affects sugarcane crop emergence is pineapple disease rot (or pineapple sett rot).

PINEAPPLE DISEASE

Caused by the ascomycete fungus *Ceratocystis paradoxa*, pineapple disease causes rotting of planted setts, reducing plant stand and subsequent yield potential.

At worst it can cause total germination failure, resulting in the need for replanting.

The pineapple-disease fungus occurs in the soils of all cane-producing areas of Australia, multiplying on decaying plant material.

Spore loads can be particularly high soon after sugarcane stubble is ploughed into the soil.

Pineapple disease favours conditions that slow cane germination – including cool soil, excess or deficiency of soil moisture, poor soil preparation, planting too deeply, and poor soil-sett contact.

Crop Care technical consultant **Glen Tucker** says the fungus enters through the end or damaged parts of the sett.

“Rotting usually starts from the cut ends and becomes more serious when it penetrates through the nodes into the central portion of the sett,” Mr Tucker said.



“Nodes act as partial barriers to the spread of rotting, however in susceptible varieties or planting material, entire seed pieces may become colonised by the fungus.

“The disease severely retards bud germination, shoot development and early shoot vigour.”

Several other factors can cause patchy stands of newly-planted cane. So to correctly diagnose pineapple disease as the cause, Mr Tucker advises digging up and examining planting material as soon as poor germination becomes evident (4-6 weeks after planting).

“When setts are dug up and split longitudinally, pineapple disease-affected internal tissues will be discoloured – from water-soaked to red to red-black,” he said.

“Spore production leads to a blackening of internal tissues, particularly in the central pith. The giveaway is when the freshly-split, infected setts smell like an over-ripe pineapple.”

He said ratoon crops could also be affected when the fungus invaded the cut ends of standing stubble after harvest, inhibiting germination of buds that give rise to the ratoon crop.

SINKER vs PROPICONAZOLE FUNGICIDE RESEARCH 2014

In 2014 trials, Crop Care and Sugar Research Australia tested the efficacy of the fungicide Sinker against pineapple

disease when sprayed on setts at planting.

Two trials were established in Bundaberg and one in Woodford, Queensland.

“Results demonstrated that Sinker sprayed on the setts provided good control of pineapple disease,” Mr Tucker said.

“This meant that Sinker could be used to protect sugarcane setts from both pineapple disease and sugarcane smut with a single application at planting.”

Continues next page...





2016 TRIAL

A large plot strip trial was planted near Giru in the Burdekin in May 2016. The strip was planted in dual rows, 150mm apart in the furrow, using 1.8m beds.

Mr Tucker said the aim was to compare the efficacy of Sinker vs propiconazole on pineapple disease when applied at label rates. Each treatment was applied to setts in the planting chute.

"The Sinker treatment was highly effective – providing 1.32 times more shoots per metre of row than propiconazole treated sugarcane setts.

"With the propiconazole treatment, shoots per metre of row were not significantly different from the untreated plots."

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Tucker said the proven strategies to prevent pineapple disease were to:

- Use an effective registered fungicide to thoroughly cover the sett, particularly the cut ends. Sinker has proven particularly effective.
- Set up planters to apply fungicide sprays so that both ends of the billet plus any cracks are thoroughly covered. Planters with a dip mechanism to apply fungicide must be set up to ensure thorough coverage and regularly cleaned to prevent build-up of mud, which reduces fungicide effectiveness.
- Plant when conditions favour rapid germination, including soil temperature above 18°C.



- Reduce the soil spore-load with a rotational crop or a bare fallow between cane crops. (Note that ploughed-in fresh, green maize or sorghum stalks can act as a food source for pineapple disease spores.)
- Avoid plough-out/replant, which creates an ideal environment for the fungus spores to multiply in the soil, increasing the risk of pineapple disease infection.
- Set the harvester to cut billets long enough to have 2 to 3 nodes – to increase the likelihood of germination. (The nodes act as a barrier, slowing spread of the fungus in the sett and protecting buds until they germinate).
- Ensure that cutters are sharp so that billets are cut cleanly.

- Synchronise harvester rollers and cutters to cut billets cleanly and to avoid crushing and damaging the setts. Rubber-coating the rollers will also help reduce sett damage.
- Ensure good soil tilth, moisture and soil-sett contact (pressing rollers to compact the drill after planting can assist). ■

Pictured: (Page 20) Billets being loaded into a planter during 2016 Sinker trial; symptoms of pineapple disease; (top) 2016 Burdekin trial. - emergence with Sinker-treated plant material; (above) emergence with propiconazole-treated plant material.

Working to give farmers and the environment a **Nu-Edge**

Supplied by Nu-Edge Solutions Australia

Soil health is core to our business philosophy at Nu-Edge Solutions Australia (NESA). We take a holistic approach to farming, promoting a balance between soil and plant health. We also believe in forming genuine partnerships with our clients.

Coupled with a strong commitment to our clients, NESA strives to be a responsible advocate of the environment.

Over the past four years, NESA has invested considerably in the sugar industry, working with growers to improve yields and bring life and vitality back to tired soils.

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Classifieds

Mossman –Tully

Toft 6000 with Rotary Chop & Cat 3306DI Motor, good Billet machine. Mob. 0428 100 564

Cotton King \$1,000.00. Trailer water tanker has twin Gough Plastic 3000 litre tanks. 5HP Honda pump, 60 Litre 51 LVAN chemical mixer \$10,000 ONO. Ph: 0417 665 588

3 point linkage operated Land plane \$4,500 Phone 0417 180 378

90 inch Howard Rotary Hoe with 2 Tyne ripper in front all in good condition, checked out. Ph: 0418 777 319

250HP 6CTA Cummins Engine, Babinda area. Ph: 0418 824 085

Gessener stool splitter Fert Box \$14000+GST. Ph: 0428 562 509

JD 3520, 2012 model, adjustable powerfeed roller, elevator extension, GPS, well maintained, selling at end of 2016 crush. Ph: 0427 667 694

Single row plant cane fertiliser applicator. Mould board cutaway and 6 coil tines. Holds about 4 (50kg) bags of fert. \$220. Ratoon ripper with 4 x inch 1/4 coil tines. \$220. Ph: 0427620316

Herbert River – Burdekin

Massey Ferguson 201 cane harvester with 3208 caterpillar motor. Ph: 0416 174 014

Mackay – Proserpine

12T SELF-PROPELLED 6x6 elev infielder VGC. 6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem GC. Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mason 9550 4-row precision vacuum seed planter GC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay) Westhill tri-axle harvester lowloader trailer, coupled to 4480 Chamberlain with weight transfer hitch. \$25,000 +gst. Wade 1.5m lathe \$2000 +gst. JD 7800 front dif complete, \$4000 +gst, 7000 Chopper system complete with 4ft extractor, \$4000 +gst. Ph: 0427 760 211 Bonel trash incorporator fertiliser box, plastic bin, stainless steel worms, VGC.

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Johnny Farming Company
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or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)
133 Schmidtk Road Mackay Qld 4740

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Year to date	Average rainfall (mm) Jan-Aug
	7 days to 9am 15.08.16	22.08.16		
Mossman	15	32	1442	1795
Mareeba AP	0.4	0	403	731
Cairns	15	18	1059	1655
Mt Sophia	38	61	1931	2725
Babinda	36	179	2812	3517
Innisfail	32	179	2664	2967
Tully	11	163	2941	3433
Cardwell	6	19	1721	1716
Lucinda	2	50	1792	1753
Ingham	6	16	1644	1631
Abergowrie	2	29	1115	1488
Townsville	0.2	4	911	898
Ayr DPI	0	5	498	743
Proserpine	0	38	1224	1077
Mirani	0	12	1204	1183
Mackay	0.6	18	1386	1240
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	16	1571	1344
Bundaberg	6	1	692	686
Childers South	5	2	673	585
Maryborough	7	3	666	822
Tewantin	6	3	896	1270
Eumundi	11	7	829	1231
Nambour	16	15	837	1222
Woongoolba	0	0	393	960
Murwillumbah	5	12	1107	1154
Ballina	9	0	1030	1350
Woodburn	3	0	613	1035



The industry super fund for rural and regional Australia.

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

Ph: 0417 617 084

Valtra 6400 4WD tractor - 100HP, air-con cab, 2004 model, 3700 hours, good condition. \$30,000 incl gst, ONO. Phone: 0418 710 958 / 4950 3048.

Merril wholestick plant cutter, Don Gough planter, 3 fan Blower, cane plant trailers, Napier Shearer offsets 24 plate 24",80" Howard Rotaryhoe Phone 0417272424

1996 Cameco full-track harvester with Cat 3306 motor, 8 blade Westhill chop with adjuster, used for billet planting last 6 years. Ph: 0438 789 106 or 07 4959 7080.

Howard AH 90" Rotary Hoe fully rebuilt, sand blasted, painted, new galvanised panels & new blades \$10,500.00 + GST. AR 80's also available. (will rebuild rotary hoe to specific size required). Ph 49595883 or 0407643441

Austoft 7700 89 leg box, vertical arm ext, chopper adjuster, good condition. Ph: 0428 444 885

1200L Fuel tank, 2010 425cfm Sullair trailable air compr. aft/cool air 1900hrs VGC 4 outlets suit sand blasting/cleaning/ tools, new 600 psi 50'x2" wire braid hoses AM26 ends, International 574 tractor Ph 0438 784 684

Bundaberg - Rocky Point

DROP-DECK, tautliner and flat top extendable for hire. 07 4159 8174 or 0417 004 717.

Gandy Box on 2" toolbar little use \$750, J I Case 1194 tractor 49hp 3 speed, PTO approx 3000hrs - \$8500, Janke Precision Planter 4 row, suit soy beans, peanuts, cowpea, etc. - \$6750, cotton king \$250, Rawlings 24 plate 24 trailing offsets \$5000, 1 tonne Bag Lifter \$1200, 11 x 1.25' coil tynes on 2.5" toolbars (old fert box) \$900, 12hp Kubota Interrow sprayer with trailer, 2 pumps \$3900. Ph: 0418 874 615

Whole stick plant cane harvester and Bonnel trash fan. In good working order. \$500 ea. Ph: 0418 985 675

Morooka MST 1700 rubber tracked 6 tonne high lift in-field transporter. 1910 hrs in good condition. \$50,000 (inc GST). Ph 0428 221 850

Trailco water winch, southern cross water winch, International with loader, International 766, David Brown 990 with loader. Ph 0419 577 110

Wanted

TRACTOR TYRES of all sizes. 0418 775 698 all hours.

Howard Rotary Hoe 100", Good Condition PH: 0409 613 215

One 90" to 100" rotary hoe. In good condition. Ph 4159 8445.

For Hire

Contract rotary hoeing; 5m(200") folding hoe; 250hp NH T7070 tractor; 2cm RTK GPS; tynes fitted behind crumble roller to mark out for planting whilst hoeing. Ph: 0429 143 074

Dropdeck with ramps. Move harvesters and tractors. 20 & 40ft container pins. Ph: Shane: 0428 007 955 or Mick: 0438 167 545

Positions Vacant

INGHAM AREA: Harvester operator for billet planting. Week on / week off available if required. Experience preferred. Ph: 0418 78 40 20

OAKENDEN - Contractor wanted to harvest and plant small cane farm. Flat farm, close cart. 07 4958 5224 or 0428 575 787.

Work Wanted

MACKAY-BLOOMSBURY- WHITSUNDAYS REGION - Seeking haulout work, willing to travel. Own reliable transport. forklift experience, HR licence, UD licence. Past cane haulout experience. Reliable, hard working and honest. Please phone 0415 864 848 or email legendarydaddy86@gmail.com.

BURDEKIN REGION - Experienced farmhand seeking full-time work or haulout job. Keen, honest and reliable hard worker with HR license, forklift license, white card and chemical accreditation. Ph: 0417 682 797 or email John jgreco127@yahoo.com.au

Property

OAKENDEN: Cane farm or sale. Irrigated, flat, no rocks, good soil, close siding for carting, close to town. Call 07 4958 5224 or 0428 575 787.

MACKAY: 1750 Acres, seven lots, Coastal flat freehold property. South of Mackay supplying Mackay Sugar. High rainfall area and endless potential for diversification. House and garage, equipped irrigation system, shed, machinery and equipment. Ph: 0407 157 792

MACKAY: 422 hectares, cattle and cane. Huge supply of water, absolutely drought-proof property, 120 mega-litre water license, right on the coast. Ph: 0407 157 792

HERBERT RIVER: Cane farm 60.73ha with machinery and 4 bedroom dwelling at 194 Lannercost Ext Rd, Ingham Ph. 40454321

WALKERSTON AREA: Cane farm for sale, fully irrigated, 42.5ha cane 3.6ha grazing Ph: 0418 185 663

84Ha, 70.5Ha, 8Ha. Hwy access, old house+services, suit cane/cropping. Fitzroy Basin, 15min cane siding/20min Mill. Ph 0438784684





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