

In the zone: the benefits of zonal tillage - Clearing category x vegetation

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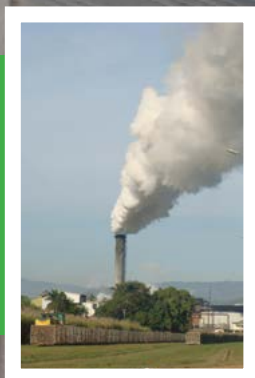
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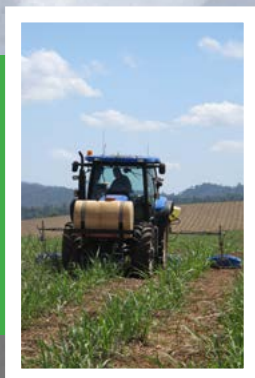


FUTURE LEADERS

Growers hail "life-changing" rural leadership course



Growers vow to keep going in fight to save Mossman Mill



Weed killer Glyphosate facing first Australian court challenge



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COVER IMAGE: Abergowrie cane farmer Greg Erkkila was one of three growers to take part in a "life-changing" rural leadership course. Read more on page 6.

Editor: Wayne Griffin

Design and classifieds: Angela Linhart

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CANEGROWERS

Level 6, 100 Edward Street, Brisbane,

Queensland Australia

ABN 94 089 992 969

Postal Address: GPO Box 1032, Brisbane,

Queensland 4001 Australia

Telephone: 07 3864 6444

Fax: 07 3864 6429

Email: info@CANEGROWERS.com.au

Website: www.CANEGROWERS.com.au

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Global pressures and local politics

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

The Palaszczuk State Government has handed down its fifth budget and the reviews are mixed.

The headline the Queensland Government wanted was payroll tax relief for businesses, and certainly for those businesses who can take advantage of it, this will be a strong stimulus.

The threshold at which businesses need to start paying payroll tax has been increased to \$1.3 million. A boost for many small businesses.

For agriculture, any strong budget initiatives were difficult to identify. Continued funding for energy savings and training programs is a plus, but there is no real sign of significant reform for the energy and water pricing regimes and indeed no real sign of a blueprint to drive agricultural industries through our current frustrating productivity plateau.

It is interesting to note that the focus of the budget is back to the basics of health, education, law and infrastructure. There is very limited reference to the old model of the pillars of the economy of mining, tourism and agriculture.

Only tourism remains as warranting a special mention and it feels like the Government sees mining only as a revenue source, while agriculture is viewed as a problem that must be managed.

It seems some of our industries in Queensland are essentially losing their identity within government.

The rhetoric from the government was very strong. On the back of Labor's poor federal election result, the state government seems at great pains to mention the regions in almost every public statement.

And, to be fair, investment has accompanied this rhetoric, with 60% of a \$12.9 billion infrastructure investment to be spent outside of Brisbane.

A move to focus on the regions is a personal observation of the shift in the way government is doing business, but it is a shift we in industry must respond to.

CANEGROWERS is well positioned to fit within the very appropriate model of driving growth by supporting our regions.

Our 13 district companies are the driving force for CANEGROWERS. Seeing government work closely with our regions and our strong CANEGROWERS districts will in the end be good for the state.

Ensuring government acts as an enabling force, not a handbrake on innovation, will be key.

The State Government has maintained strong investment in Advance Queensland, their initiative to fund forward-thinking innovations, and of late this program has looked to agriculture for new and exciting projects.

It must be acknowledged that under current world price conditions it is hard to remain positive. This negativity prevails across every sugar-producing nation, as was evident during our recent World Association of Beet and Cane Growers meeting in Brazil.

We have much to learn from other sugar-producing nations and they from us. European sugar beet producers are completely beaten up when it comes to environmental regulations, having lost all access to imidacloprid seed treatments last year, with no alternatives. Now they are factoring in a possible loss of access to glyphosate within five years and potentially all pesticides within 10-15 years.

Such environmental restrictions, if translated to Australia, would shut down entire industries.

The cane-producing countries, in comparison, are all striving for productivity gains by searching for improvements in farming system technology. Reducing harvesting losses, improving variety selection and traits and improving cane haul out logistics are all common trends despite our industries being so geographically diverse.

With the possibility of an improvement in market conditions through to the later half of 2019, let's hope that the harvest season just getting underway provides a much-needed boost in confidence. ■



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Growers vow to keep up fight for Mossman Mill

A group of Tableland and Mossman growers has vowed to push ahead with plans to purchase Mossman Mill despite a last-minute hiccup with Federal funding arrangements.

Far Northern Milling (FNM), which represents a group of about 60 growers, is in discussions with the Government over funding arrangements that currently prohibit the use of federal funds for operational payments, such as wages.

"The State and Federal funding is secure, there are no concerns over that whatsoever," FNM Chairwoman **Maryanne Salvetti** said.

"But we're working closely now with the Federal Government to see if there is a way legally or legislatively that we can access that funding for operational needs as well as capital expenditure, which is what it's currently earmarked for."

"We're going to build an awesome boutique business that supports the community and that Mossman can be proud of."

At the time of print (12 June), FNM milling representatives were racing to finalise the funding arrangements ahead of a 14 June deadline for Mossman Mill owner Mackay Sugar to complete negotiations with German company Nordzucker for the sale of its other three mills in Mackay and Plane Creek.

As part of the Nordzucker deal, Mackay Sugar must offload Mossman Mill before any agreement is signed.

Despite the long, drawn out process and the last minute funding hitch, Ms Salvetti said the mood was upbeat at a meeting of FNM growers on 11 June.

"The mood was awesome, I love my

growers," she said. "They know what's at stake and they know that even if everything falls into place and we purchase the mill, there's still a chance it might not work and we may have to sell it again in a few years. But they're ready and willing to give it a real go and that makes it worthwhile for me.

"Representing those types of growers, positive people who want to have a go, that makes life wonderful."

FNM has set a self-imposed deadline of 24 June for completion of the mill purchase.

"This has been a long process, over 25 or 26 months, so we've basically said it needs to be sorted out by 24 June, and if it's not then we just need to move on and get back to our lives and our businesses.

"But I'm hopeful it will all go ahead and on 1 July we'll take over operation of the mill.

"From there we're going to work like we've never worked before to get the value-adding, bio-precinct side of the mill up and running.

"We're going to build an awesome boutique business that supports the community and that Mossman can be proud of." ■



THANKS FOR NOTHING – POWER PRICE CUT IGNORES STRUGGLING FARMERS

Farmers in Queensland relying on irrigation are angry the State Government has once again ignored them in the latest Queensland Competition Authority announcement on electricity prices.

"Lower electricity tariffs have been announced today for residential and business customers but in a cruel blow existing farming and irrigation tariffs have been left out of any price relief," CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** said.

"The southern farming regions of Queensland are in the grip of what can only be described as drought conditions and are about to start harvesting a reduced crop.

"They have been irrigating through the summer months where usually there would be rain and growers are seeing power bills in excess of \$30,000 just to keep their crop alive with no relief in sight.

"With the world sugar price also below the cost of production for Australian growers, being excluded from today's relief is a cruel blow."

Adding to the insult is that sugarcane growers know that part of every bill they pay includes an amount for something that is not needed.

"Around 40% of growers' electricity bills are network charges with are structured around the need to alleviate congestion," Mr Galligan said. "But the reality is that regional networks have spare capacity, not congestion.

"So struggling growers are paying for future network upgrades that are not needed!

"While it is aware of this the QCA says this concern should be directed to the Australian Energy Regulator as part of its distribution pricing determination process.

"So round and round we go again with no agency or government taking responsibility – it is very frustrating!"

CANEGROWERS has been calling on Energy Queensland to design modern and efficient network tariffs that reflect the reality of providing power to farms and is urging the Queensland and Australian governments to prioritise action which alleviates the huge impact electricity costs place on food and fibre producers. ■

Fighting for growers rights in Brisbane

CANEGROWERS Senior Vice-Chairman Kevin Borg and Director Allan Dingle had a busy Queensland Day on June 6 representing growers in Brisbane.

The pair met with the new Federal Agriculture Minister Senator **Bridget McKenzie** to introduce her to the organisation and give an outline of its work and key issues.

Among the topics discussed were the rising cost of electricity, environmental laws, the industry's Code of Conduct and a need to address the disconnect between consumers and farmers.

Kevin Borg and Allan Dingle then headed to the city Botanic Gardens to walk in the Queenslanders Unite rally, organised by the Queensland Resources Council, which aimed to remind city people of the valuable contributions made to the state by regional industries. ■

Pictured: (right) L-R CANEGROWERS Senior Vice-Chairman Kevin Borg, Federal Agriculture Minister Senator Bridget McKenzie, CANEGROWERS Director Allan Dingle. (Below) Allan Dingle and Kevin Borg walking in the Queenslanders Unite rally.





Growers hail "life-changing" leadership experience

A twelve-week rural leadership course turned out to be a transformative experience for three Queensland cane growers, with physical, mental and emotional trials putting them out of their comfort zone in a bid to enhance their leadership and communication skills.

Growers **Bill MacDonald** (Mackay), **Joanne MacDonald** (Isis) and **Greg Erkkila** (Herbert River) were sponsored by CANEGROWERS to participate in the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation's 2019 Agribusiness Leadership Program.

The twelve-week course, which brings together participants from a wide range of agricultural industries, is designed to build leadership capabilities, improve communication and negotiation skills, and enhance the networking and collaborative capacity of participants. While that might sound tame, the reality is much different.

The first week saw the group dropped in the Tasmanian wilderness for what was described as a chaos phase. This was followed by some online sessions, collaborative team projects, and another week of face-to-face sessions in Orange, NSW.

"You go through these chaos phases where you don't know what is happening," said Greg Erkkila. "They're designed to get you right out of your comfort zone and make you work as a team and you quickly identify the

individual strengths in the team and how to work with those."

Participants are asked not to divulge too much about the course so as not to lessen its impact on future participants.

"I'd recommend the course to anyone, it's absolutely life-changing," Greg said. "It's actually really hard to explain what it teaches you. One of the things I suppose is that it really enforces that you have to reflect on how you take feedback and to treat it differently. It changes the way you deal with criticism.

"It also gives you tools to modify your own behaviour to enable you to deal with different types of people. It changes the way you perceive everything, not just at a personal level but at a business and industry level. Rather than being on the inside looking out, it gives you the tools to take an overarching view of things."

Bill MacDonald was equally impressed.

"Personally I got a lot out of it. I wanted to get some tools and confidence to be able to speak publicly and communicate better with people and I really found I got that from the course," he said. "We

also learned how to network, do strategic planning and there was a lot on team work. It covered a lot of important areas. It really opened my eyes."

For Joanne MacDonald the course was all about personal growth.

"The Tasmanian experience was really focussed on learning about yourself and what kind of leader you are and what you need to do to become a better leader. It set the benchmark for everything else. The rest of the course was really about giving you those tools and skills to reach that potential.

"I'd definitely encourage anyone to take part in this course if they can. I think there's probably something in it for everyone.

"I'd really like to thank CANEGROWERS for giving me and the other participants the chance to be a part of it."

CANEGROWERS offered the three scholarships in partnership with the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Agricultural Industries Fund. ■

Weed killer may face Australian court test

The spotlight is again on the use of glyphosate with reports the first Australian legal action against Monsanto has been launched.

Michael Ogiarolo, a 54-year-old former landscape gardener who has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, has lodged writs in the Victorian Supreme Court alleging the manufacturer failed to warn him that Roundup was dangerous and capable of causing serious injuries, loss and damage.

His lawyer is reported as saying they will rely on similar evidence presented in successful United States trials showing glyphosate could cause cancer.

However, the manufacturer, chemical regulators and user groups including

farmers say the scientific evidence shows the opposite.

In a statement, Bayer Australia (which owns Monsanto) said:

"We have great sympathy for any individual with cancer, but the extensive body of science on glyphosate-based herbicides over four decades supports the conclusion that Roundup does not cause Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL).

Glyphosate has been extensively studied globally by scientists and regulators, and results from this research confirm it is not carcinogenic. We firmly stand behind the safety of glyphosate-based products, and as a company devoted to life sciences, assure Australians that their health and the environment are our top priority."

The National Farmers' Federation President **Fiona Simson** says expert scientific advice from the regulator, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) confirmed that glyphosate, the active ingredient in

products such as Roundup, was safe to use.

"The same conclusion has been made by every regulator in the world. No other chemical compound has been studied to the degree that glyphosate has," Ms Simson said. "There is an extensive, international body of scientific work – spanning 40 years and 800 studies that affirms that glyphosate is not a carcinogen.

"As farmers we understand the concerns, we appreciate the questions, we have asked them ourselves, but we remain confident in the science and the ability of the regulator to make informed decisions based on facts."

Glyphosate is an organic compound which interferes with a plant's metabolism. It has been registered for use in Australia for 40 years and is a vital tool assisting farmers manage weeds and adopt practices, such as minimum tillage, to improve environmental sustainability. There is currently no comparable alternative product.

For more information please refer to the National Farmers' Federation Glyphosate Fact Sheet on page 21. ■



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SMALL MILLING RESEARCH PROGRAM

enhances collaboration between millers and researchers



SRA has announced new investment in the Small Milling Research Program, which will see a range of milling companies partner with research organisations to undertake projects that benefit the Australian sugarcane industry.

This is the second year of the program, which was developed as a way for SRA to invest in relatively small research projects that develop a product, service, or process

"The scheme continues to improve and is strengthening collaboration between industry and research through the direct involvement of the milling sector in SMRPs. It is also increasing research skills and capability in sugar mills."

that would solve targeted problems in sugar mills and deliver tangible outputs with almost immediate outcomes.

SRA CEO Mr Neil Fisher said that SRA was investing in four new projects in 2019. The project investment is:

- Evaluate the performance of the falling film tube evaporator at Bingera Mill (Bundaberg Sugar/QUT)
- Evaluate the suitability of the fixed element crystalliser for widespread adoption in Australian sugar factories (Sunshine Sugar/QUT)
- Address operational and maintenance issues with cleated belt intermediate carriers (Wilmar/QUT)
- Reduce surging in shredders (MSF Sugar/QUT/Wilmar)

Mr Fisher said that the SMRP projects would deliver lower-cost, short-term, industry-identified and industry-led research.

"The SRA Board has undertaken this initiative to allow SRA to work on priority areas of research that align with the needs of our Milling Members. The investment is included in our current total investment in our Key Focus Area (KFA) of Milling Efficiency and Technology," he said.

"Now in its second year, the scheme continues to improve and is strengthening collaboration between industry and research through the direct involvement of the milling sector in SMRPs. It is also increasing research skills and capability in sugar mills."

Existing 2018 SMRP projects are currently being concluded and outcomes from these projects will be communicated to the industry from SRA. ■

WABCG Conference 2019



CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** has been elected Vice-President of the global organisation representing more than 5 million farmers in the sugar industry - the WABCG.

The election for the 2019-2021 term occurred at the annual congress of the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil.

Along with Mr Schembri, David Thompson of the USA and Jean-Pierre Dubray of France are Vice-Presidents assisting the new President Eduardo Romão who is a cane grower in Brazil.

The WABCG brings together 36 grower organisations across five continents to share ideas and techniques to find solutions to the problems and issues facing farmers.

The sugar price, market supply and demand, sustainability and public trust were heavily discussed by growers and were reflected in the WABCG Board's communique committing to pursuing the organisation's work to:

- Underline the importance of recognised, united, financially independent sugar beet/cane growers' associations, committed to support independent growers in the sugar supply chain, and allowing them to be heard and respected, especially by the industry in charge of processing the beet/cane that they supply.
- Maintain that only a clear and fair sharing of the value of the products derived from beet and cane (sugar, bagasse and pulp, molasses, energy

and electricity) between growers and factories is able to ensure sustainable cohesion between growers and factories.

- Promote the diversification of outlets from cane and beet processing as the crops have exceptional diversification potential. Efforts to find new outlets including through bioethanol, bioplastics and biogas should be encouraged and supported by industry and governments.
- Help its members to find ways to fight the effect of price volatility on growers. Growers and processors must have the necessary tools to prevent the economic risks.

Mr Schembri introduced the sustainability session at the congress, pointing out not only the pressures growers were under in many locations (including Queensland with the proposed extension of Reef water quality regulations) but also the market opportunities that a focus on sustainability provided.

CEO Dan Galligan accompanied Mr Schembri to the congress and two days of field trips to Brazilian farms and research centres to look at twin row harvesting, seedling planting and variety trials.

"It's been a great honor and privilege to come over here to share with likeminded producers and representatives," he said.

"We've come home with some sensational ideas to share."

Mr Schembri said he also took the opportunity to talk with the Brazilian growers, particularly those from Orplana a collective of 32 grower associations based in the State of Sao Paulo, about the joint action the countries were taking in the World Trade Organisation against India's sugar subsidies. ■

Pictured: (above) CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri speaking at the WABCG 2019 Conference in Brazil (below) with President Eduardo Romão.



2019 Indicative Advances Program released

QSL has released its indicative Advances program for the 2019 Season, with the initial rate set at 65%.

The program table (refer to page 11) now also features additional fields detailing the estimated payment for the default QSL pricing position of 97.5% Harvest Pool + 2.5% US Quota Pool based on pool values as at 17 May 2019, as well as the estimated payment change as the season progresses. It is important to note that these estimated payments will change as the pool values used to calculate them are updated throughout the course of the season.

The Advances program itself is indicative only in its entirety and may change during the course of the season, and so should not be taken as a commitment by QSL with regard to either the Advance rate or date of increase. The QSL Board reviews Advance rates periodically to determine whether scheduled increases to the program should be approved or amended, weighing factors such as movements in the

marketing and shipping plans, sugar price and currency movements and the timing of cash flows. Suppliers' positions in relation to any pricing elections may also impact the timing and size of Advance payments.

ACCELERATED ADVANCES - 2019 SEASON

An Accelerated Advances Program is also available for participants in QSL's 2019 Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Guaranteed Floor Pool, where they can elect to receive 90% of that product's indicative pool value by December 2019.

Under this scheme, Advance rates paid for tonnages in these products remain at 90% from December 2019, reverting to the QSL Standard Advance Rate from the May 2020 payment.

Court case resolved with no appeal

Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) has reached a confidential settlement on the costs associated with Wilmar's recent unsuccessful Supreme Court action against QSL, and on that basis the matter is now resolved, with no appeal to be sought.

On 10 May 2019 the Supreme Court of Queensland dismissed Wilmar's legal action against QSL relating to losses associated with the 2010 sugar production season, and awarded costs to QSL.

QSL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Greg Beashel said the developments meant that this case is now closed, with no appeal and no negative impact on QSL's current or future pool returns.



By Greg Beashel
QSL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

DISCLAIMER:

This article contains information of a summary nature about QSL's payment arrangements and other activities. You should not make a decision based on this summary information unless you have read the full Pricing Pool Terms available on QSL's website or from your local QSL office. Please note that the information in this article does not constitute financial, investment or product advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice before making any decisions in relation to QSL pool/offering selection and pricing. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance and nothing contained in this document should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters.



2019-SEASON INDICATIVE ADVANCES PROGRAM

Based on an estimated combined QSL Harvest and US Quota pool value of \$391/t IPS as of 17 May 2019.**

APPLICABLE FROM*	QSL STANDARD ADVANCE RATE	PAYMENT CHANGE \$/TONNE IPS	QSL STANDARD ADVANCE RATE DEFAULT PAYMENT \$/TONNE IPS GROSS **
Initial	65.00%	\$0	\$254
15-Jul-19	65.00%	\$0	\$254
15-Aug-19	65.00%	\$0	\$254
17-Sep-19	65.00%	\$0	\$254
16-Oct-19	70.00%	\$20	\$274
20-Nov-19	72.50%	\$10	\$284
11-Dec-19	75.00%	\$10	\$294
22-Jan-20	80.00%	\$19	\$313
19-Feb-20	82.50%	\$10	\$323
18-Mar-20	87.50%	\$20	\$343
15-Apr-20	90.00%	\$9	\$352
13-May-20	92.50%	\$10	\$362
17-Jun-20	95.00%	\$10	\$372
Final payment by 30 July 2020	100.00%	\$19	\$391

Shaded fields are yet to be approved and may be still be altered at the QSL Board's discretion.

* May differ from your actual payment date due to local milling arrangements and bank processing times.

** This figure is an estimate only for the default QSL pricing position of 97.5% Harvest Pool + 2.5% US Quota Pool based on pool values as at the date specified. Please note that the pool values used to calculate the default payment will change as the season progresses. The default payment figure incorporates an average Shared Pool allocation. The actual Shared Pool allocation applied to grower payments will vary in each region due to regional costs (regional Shared Pool details are available at www.qsl.com.au). The estimated payment figure quoted also does not include any applicable Loyalty Bonus, GST, allowances, deductions or any other adjustments incurred by the grower or passed on by their miller.

EXCITING TIME TO FARM CANE

By Wayne Griffin

As a third-generation farmer who's worked the land all his life, Cairns Region grower Andrew Greenwood has witnessed big changes. But while some growers yearn for a simpler time, when the industry was regulated, prices were supported and cane was cut by hand, Andrew says there has never been a more exciting time to grow cane in Queensland and believes there's a bright future ahead for young farmers wanting to make a living from sugarcane.

"Yes, I've definitely seen some big changes over the years," Andrew said when *Australian Canegrower* visited the Greenwoods' Gordonvale farm recently.

"But, you know, I think it's a lot more exciting now. Years ago my dad and my grandfather, all they did was grow cane, cane, cane. Just like everybody else in the industry.

"Now we grow different crops in our fallows, we're constantly adapting our farming systems, using new and improved technologies, not just to make the farm more efficient and productive, but to improve the soil, lower our input costs and just generally farm better.

"For me and for the next generation coming through, I think that keeps it interesting."

Andrew farms around 250 hectares across a number of leased and family-owned properties in the Cairns Region alongside his wife Nadine and son Tom.

No stranger to change, he's updated his farming system in various ways over the years, including moving from 1.6m to 1.7m rows and implementing a GPS controlled traffic system.

He also made the switch from pumpkins to peanuts in his cane fallow about 13 years ago.

It proved a success, with the legume crop not only providing a nitrogen-fixing boost to his soil but also making a tidy profit.

More recently he's moved to a two-year fallow system and is now hoping to incorporate a second winter crop with the peanuts to ensure a continuous ground cover and reduce soil erosion.

"Some people are doing cotton, some are doing soybeans, I've found peanuts work well for me. They're good for the soil and I get the maximum return on them," Andrew said.





"What I'm doing a little bit different is I'm going to a two-year fallow with peanuts. As long as I can make it pay, I think having it out of cane for two years will be a win-win. The soil health will improve further and we'll hopefully get a return from it."

"What I'm possibly doing a little bit different than others is I'm going to a two-year fallow with peanuts. As long as I can make it pay, I think having it out of cane for two years will be a win-win. The soil health will improve further and we'll hopefully get a return from it.

"I'm also looking at some sort of winter cover crop that I can direct drill a second crop of peanuts into, that'll further reduce the soil erosion.

"We've already reduced erosion with having the hard centres through controlled traffic, but you'd still have some loose soil running off. If this fallow system comes off, that soil erosion should be reduced down to zero."

After an initial summer crop of peanuts, Andrew will plant Japanese millet, which he will later spray out before planting a second peanut crop directly into the row with little or no cultivation.

"Having that constant cover crop is very big in other countries. A farmer from Maryborough said to me years ago, that you've got to keep the sun off your soil.



Pictured: Cairns Region cane grower Andrew Greenwood will incorporate a two-year peanut fallow into his cane farming system.

Continues on page 14 ►



"At the time I thought he was mad, I'd never heard anything like that but he was a mile ahead of his time. It's become an important factor in best farming practice."

Andrew recently tried corn in his fallow, although he's yet to decide if he'll repeat the exercise.

"I did try corn last year, about 40 acres of it, and that went alright but I don't know if I'll be doing that over winter yet."

"The corn needed too much water and too much labour. The irrigation costs were huge. I ended up putting on six megalitres."

"The yield was so-so, although that might come down to a few mistakes with it being the first crop, but the price was very good. So there's some money in it, but whether I do it again I'm not so sure."

The Greenwoods recently made another change to row spacings, moving from 1.7m to 1.85m rows. This season will also see them harvest their own cane for the first time.

The decision was prompted by 23-year-old Tom's return to the farm full time in 2018.

"Tom's always been interested in the farm, I just never thought he'd take it on full time like he has," Andrew said.

"But, as you know, there's not a lot of money in just growing cane and nobody works for nothing, so we've decided to cut our own cane this year as a means of hopefully boosting profits a bit."

"We're hoping to cut about 17,000 tonnes. Tom will drive the harvester and myself and Nadine will haul out."

Tom was also the driving force behind the switch to a 1.85m system, a decision that came about after he took part in a two-day MSF Project Uplift farm tour.

"He jumped on the bus and came back two days later and said we need to go to wider rows," Andrew said.

"I knew myself we'd need to at some stage, but I'd already gone from 1.6m to 1.7m controlled traffic about five years ago and was just starting come back to do a first round on 1.7m, so now we've changed out to 1.85."

"But this is what the industry is telling us we need to do – controlled traffic on wider rows. Matching the rows to the harvester."

"It isn't without its problems. There are issues with grass and vines coming up on the wide rows and the highrise will need adjusting, but that's just going to have to be overcome."

"The benefit, or one of them, is less compaction which improves your soil health and benefits the crop - means you need less inputs."

"They're also telling us there's a lot of dollars to be saved in it through less travelling, less turning, fuel, wear and tear, machinery size. Also 1.85m is much better for peanuts and crops like that."

"And you've got to believe what people tell you. After all, they're the ones who have done the research, done the trials."

"None of this is a new story, in fact, it's very old story, but as an industry we're still only getting there very slowly."

"But I think with this new generation of young farmers coming through, we're going to see change and adoption of new and better farming practices really start to pick up pace and that can only be good news for the industry." ■

Pictured: Andrew Greenwood carries out some running repairs on his prized peanut trasher.

NSW CRUSH KICKS OFF



Pictured: Harwood Mill and Warehouse.

The New South Wales crushing season is set to kick off across the three Northern Rivers milling areas, with an estimated 1.5m tonnes of sugar cane expected to be harvested between June and November.

Much like Queensland's southern cane-growing regions, the NSW industry has been impacted by continuing dry weather conditions, resulting in slower plant growth over the summer months and a reduction in overall yield. However Sunshine Sugar says this has not hindered growth plans for the industry, with a host of business improvement initiatives in progress.

A significant program of off-season maintenance work has been undertaken across the three sugar mills.

In addition, the food grade facility at Condong has successfully implemented a new bagging plant for the ongoing supply of brown and icing sugar to Woolworths under its Essentials brand.

A state-of-the-art \$8m warehouse at the Harwood Mill and Refinery is at completion phase and will be fully operational by the end of June.

Supporting these investments is the success of Sunshine Sugar's Low GI Sugar, with sales continuing to grow both domestically and internationally.

"As a business we continue to explore ways in which we can do more with the assets we have and utilise as much of the cane plant to decrease waste and increase profitability," CEO of Sunshine Sugar Chris Connors said.

"Our low GI sugar has been a great success and we are now seeing returns for this premium product flowing back into the business.

"Continued increased revenue from the sale of this premium sugar will provide the necessary access to funding for Sunshine Sugar to implement diversification projects that realise the potential use of the whole sugarcane crop."

The Harwood Mill will commence crushing the week of the 17 June, followed by Condong Mill on 24 June. Broadwater Mill is the last to kick off, with a planned start date of 8 July. ■

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TILLING IN THE ZONE

BENEFITS OF BEING IN THE ZONE

Improving soil health is one of the key areas of Smartcane BMP, reflecting the concerns, ambitions and innovations of growers in relation to the effects on soil of continuous cane cropping, excessive tillage and compaction.

Many agree that the ideal cane farming system is based on controlled traffic with GPS, use of permanent beds in conjunction with green trash blanketing, and legume-based fallows between each crop cycle.

However, full adoption of this system remains relatively low and the SRA Soil Health project and the MSF's Project Uplift are both working to increase its use by growers.

Regardless of the overall farming system, reduced tillage is one important step towards better soil health.

Many growers have moved to a reduced number of tillage operations in

preparation for planting but still work the whole field.

Other growers have moved to zonal tillage, where only the row area is cultivated in preparation for planting the sugarcane sett and the inter-row area remains undisturbed.

Trials with zonal tillage have shown:

- improved soil structure as the soil peds are not broken down through excessive tillage. This aids water infiltration and drainage, resulting in improved crop growth, and also retains organic matter which stimulates soil organisms.

Continues on page 17 ►



- significant savings from the reduced use of fuel and labour, and reduced repairs/maintenance and capital costs.
- improved water quality as the soil is less prone to erosion. Better soil structure leads to improved infiltration, resulting in less runoff. Also, there is generally more trash left on the soil surface and the wheel track area remains firm.
- crop establishment using zonal tillage is equal to that achieved with conventional tillage, while crop yields are also similar.

WHY ISN'T EVERYONE IN THE ZONE?

Zonal tillage is not practiced universally – it is not even practiced by a majority of growers. Both Smartcane BMP data and SRA survey data show that zonal tillage is used by only 15-20% of growers. It is more common amongst growers in the Burdekin and central region, and on larger farms (with >150 ha of cane).

Obviously, some situations will be more suited to benefitting from zonal tillage than others, but it might also be that

growers believe it will cost too much or that the cane will not establish or grow as well.

Trials have shown that cane on zonal cultivation does every bit as well as cane on conventional cultivation, but growers worry about how it will work on their farm.

That is why trialling zonal tillage in a couple of blocks is the best way forward, but the cost of trialling or moving to zonal tillage need not be high.

Obviously, buying specialist gear is expensive, and is much more likely to pay off if you are looking to gradually transition to a controlled traffic system.

If not, then you may be able to practice zonal tillage by modifying your existing gear, e.g. by removing tynes/blades in the wheel tracks. This will allow you to evaluate zonal tillage at relatively low cost.

A number of Wet Tropics growers have made the change to zonal tillage with the aim of improving the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon.

Innisfail grower **Lorens Riera** has been practicing zonal tillage for almost fifteen years by simply modifying his rotary hoe to cultivate the row area only, leaving the wheel space undisturbed.

Wayne Gattera uses a non-PTO powered bed renovator to cultivate the row area only on his Innisfail farm, significantly reducing the time and energy required to get a block ready for planting after fallow.

"I definitely recommend growers try out zonal tillage on their farms. We have been using a bed renovator on the hilly country on our farm which has resulted in less erosion. There is also less soil preparation time needed, we use less fuel and the ground comes up softer for the billet planter," Mr Gattera said.

If you plan to trial zonal tillage, be sure to talk with locals who have made the change, and also consult your local agronomist, as it is not usually a one size fits all approach. ■

Pictured: (page 16) Innisfail grower Wayne Gattera with his bed renovator.

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Policy Update

Environment with Mick Quirk

Industry with Burn Ashburner

A capital idea

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) is promoting the development of a marketplace for 'natural capital'. Natural capital is the world's stock of natural resources, which include soils, air, water and living organisms. It is from this natural capital that humans derive a wide range of services, often called ecosystem services.

The most obvious ecosystem services include the food we eat, the water we drink and the plant materials we use for fuel, building materials and medicines. There are also many less visible ecosystem services which are provided for free, such as climate regulation and natural flood defences provided by forests and grasslands, the billions of tonnes of carbon stored by peatlands and the pollination of crops by insects.

As with financial capital, if we overdraw on our natural capital, the level and quality of ecosystem services will eventually decline. So, putting an appropriate value on natural capital is one way that we can help ensure it is maintained.

Establishing a marketplace for natural capital enables it to be valued through crediting payments for derived ecosystems services. Valuing natural capital will also encourage direct measurement and tracking of the condition of land and water and provide landholders with incentives to improve the value of these assets.

Landholders recognise the need to protect the natural capital that underpins their production systems however there is little recompense for the services that their farming systems deliver to society.

Furthermore, there is little acknowledgement of landholders who actively make improvements to their land and waterways to increase the value of their natural capital.

NFF anticipates that the Australian Government will help support a pilot agricultural stewardship program which will be based on the concept of natural capital.

Once this is confirmed, NFF will establish a cross-industry group to design and implement the pilot program.

For cane farmers, the development of a marketplace for natural capital should provide ongoing income streams as reward for going the extra mile to help improve water quality, to create or maintain wetlands, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ■



SIX EASY STEPS Advisory Committee

A few years ago, CANEGROWERS ran a project to determine a Nitrogen use roadmap. One of the outcomes was the formation of the SRA SIX EASY STEPS Advisory Committee (SESAC) of which CANEGROWERS is a member. SESAC has two major functions:

1. The SESAC provides a contact point and review mechanism to assess the technical and scientific merits of recommended changes to guidelines and future nutrient management tools that comprise the SES-guidelines and the broader SES-Tool Box development. The terms of reference have been identified:
 - Set standards for accepting amendments to the SES guidelines and delivery packages
 - Develop guidelines for materials and standardised assessments of submissions for use by referees
 - Identify referees with expertise in sugarcane production, soil management/crop nutrition to assess merit of new/amended information and deliver mechanisms, and evaluate whether standards are met
 - Receive submissions and ensure they are refereed in a timely manner
 - Consider submissions and referees' reports and determine, by consensus, if submissions meet standards and can be used to modify current SES Tool Box; the SES guidelines and/or Tools
 - Pass accepted submissions to the SES-Team to incorporate this information into the SES guidelines/ Tool Box
2. The SESAC will be proactive to ensure that the SES continues to mature and evolve, to adapt to stakeholder needs and delivers to industry a balanced science approach to crop nutrition. This may include identifying knowledge gaps or industry tools and draw attention to such priority issues to SRA's CEO.

SESAC has developed a method of defining robust data which is suitable to be incorporated into the SES guidelines and/or tool box and a process which needs to be followed to allow research to be presented and assessed.

One of the major projects expected to present data to SESAC is the SES Tool Box work, which is a joint initiative of SRA, Department of Environment and Science (DES) and CANEGROWERS. The project will run until February 2020. ■



Economics with Warren Males

Electricity – price gouging must be stopped

The cost of electricity is threatening the international competitiveness of industries across the state, and irrigated agriculture is no exception.

Australia's electricity pricing framework allows electricity networks to earn a guaranteed return on their network investments. This has encouraged over-investment in those networks and led to unnecessarily high prices for electricity users.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is on to this. In its July 2018 report, *Restoring electricity affordability & Australia's competitive advantage*, it found that there had been significant over-investment in Energy Queensland's network businesses, Ergon Energy and Energex.

The ACCC recommended that the Queensland Government take immediate steps to remedy this by a voluntary write-down of the net asset bases of those businesses. According to the ACCC, this would 'enhance economic efficiency by reducing current distorting price signals'.

Last week's Queensland State Budget was the first to be handed down since this ACCC recommendation. It is disappointing to see that the State Government decided to ignore the recommendation and do nothing to reduce underlying pressure on electricity prices.

Although this opportunity has passed for another year, and perhaps will have to wait for another government, working within the existing regulatory structure, CANEGROWERS has called on the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) to reject Energy Queensland's latest regulatory proposal and tariff structure statement.

CANEGROWERS' underlying concern is that the cost escalations contained in Energy Queensland's regulatory and tariff proposals are not reflective of the true costs of prudently and efficiently delivering electricity to consumers, and should be rejected by the AER.

CANEGROWERS engaged the Sapere Research Group to review Energy Queensland's tariff proposals and provide expert advice in relation to those proposals. Sapere found Energy Queensland's tariff proposals:

- are not cost reflective;
- are inconsistent with the principles contained in the National Electricity Rules (NER); and
- do not meet any of the three limbs of the AER's compliance assessment approach.

CANEGROWERS has presented evidence to the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) ahead of its determination of retail electricity prices in regional Queensland for 2019-20 that the network costs borne by irrigators are too high. In its final determination, QCA acknowledged CANEGROWERS concerns but it noted that its hands were tied, stating '...concerns regarding network prices should be directed to the AER as part of the AER's distribution pricing determination process'.

CANEGROWERS calls on the AER to reject Energy Queensland's tariff proposal, reduce its allowed revenues and require network tariffs suitable for food and fibre production. ■



Money Matters

with Sunsuper

MEET LOCAL REGIONAL MANAGER, DANIEL

Following the merge with AustSafe Super in April 2019, Sunsuper's local presence has never been stronger for rural and regional Australia. One of the friendly faces you'll find on the team is Daniel Kinnane, Regional Manager for North Queensland. We caught up with Dan to see how he's been travelling.

WHAT'S DAY-TO-DAY FOR YOU NOW?

I'm still on the road visiting our members and employers based in North Queensland. I've been helping with the changeover in systems as well as general super things like making contributions and ways to boost super for retirement.

I also still enjoy hosting onsite Shed meetings where I cover super, financial literacy and mental health awareness. We try to be as involved as possible in helping to create the best future for working Australians.

WHAT'S THE MOST REWARDING PART OF YOUR ROLE?

Helping our members and employers to gain a clearer understanding of super. I strive to be open and available, so I can be there for them whenever they need me.

WHAT DO YOU GET UP TO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I grew up in the Pioneer Valley, and as a member of the Pioneer Valley Bowls Club, you can catch me on the green of a weekend playing bowls. I'm also a father of three, so you can imagine they keep me fairly busy every other day. We love camping and four-wheel driving when we get a break between sports and dancing.

FIND OUT MORE

Your local Regional Manager and Customer Service Team are on hand to help. To find out more visit sunsuper.com.au or call 13 11 84.

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CLEARING CATEGORY X VEGETATION GROWERS BEWARE



A recent Queensland Court of Appeal decision has surprisingly upheld and confirmed a previous decision of the Planning and Environment Court dealing with the clearing of category x vegetation.

Category x land is land described as such in Department property maps of assessable vegetation. It is generally covered with non-remnant vegetation and regarded as low value.

Previously, it had generally been accepted by government that the clearing of category x vegetation was exempt clearing work. On that basis landholders were allowed to clear category x vegetation as of right without the need for any approvals or permits.

However, the Court of Appeal decision provides that a local council planning scheme can make clearing of category x vegetation assessable development. This means that depending on your local council's planning scheme, you may require a development permit to clear category x vegetation.

It is also possible that a consequence of this decision may be that clearing category x vegetation in declared disaster areas might also require approval.

It is recommended that growers check with the local council before clearing category x vegetation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any growers wishing to discuss aspects of clearing category x vegetation, or any other matter, should contact your local CANEGROWERS office or call CANEGROWERS Legal Adviser, Chris Cooper, on Free Call 1800 177 159, for free initial legal advice. ■



By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor

What you need to know about glyphosate

1.

What is glyphosate?

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in the popular weed killer RoundUp, and about 500 other herbicide products. It's widely used by farmers, gardeners and other land managers. When applied, glyphosate prevents weeds from making the proteins they need to grow.

Why is glyphosate important?

Glyphosate allows farmers to control weeds from above the ground – doing away with the need to plough or till the soil. Reducing tillage maintains soil nutrients and improves water use efficiency.

Healthier soils mean higher yielding crops – a win for farmers and the environment.

Glyphosate is also used to control aggressive, noxious weeds such as serrated tussock and African lovegrass. If not controlled, these weeds can rapidly take over a landscape – at the expense of native pastures and biodiversity.

2.

Why is glyphosate under pressure?

In the United States, during the past 12 months there have been a number of legal cases which have found in favour of plaintiffs who claimed exposure to glyphosate was the catalyst for their non-Hodgkinson Lymphoma. The decisions are subject to appeal.

In these cases the juries have drawn on a study by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which identified exposure to glyphosate, as well as activities such as drinking hot drinks, frying food, and hairdressing, as 'probable carcinogenic' activities.

In 2016, the APVMA evaluated the IARC report and other contemporary scientific assessments as part of an established chemical review nomination process. The APVMA concluded that glyphosate did not pose a carcinogenic risk to humans and that there were no grounds to place it under formal reconsideration. The APVMA is a globally recognised, science-based regulator.

What does the science say?

No other agricultural chemical has been tested to the extent that glyphosate has. The scientific evidence supporting glyphosate's safety is clear and overwhelming.

In the past three years alone, regulatory authorities in the European Union, South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States have publicly reaffirmed that exposure to glyphosate does not cause cancer.

More than 800 scientific studies and reviews, including numerous independent regulatory safety assessments, have informed and confirmed these regulators' stance.

A recent longitudinal study by the United States' National Institute of Agriculture followed 57,000 farmers and registered applicators of glyphosate for more than 20 years. The study found no connection between cancer and glyphosate.

4.

Busting the myths on glyphosate

Glyphosate causes cancer.

✗ MYTH.

Every regulator in the world, including the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority has approved glyphosate as safe to use. A longitudinal study followed 57,000 registered users of glyphosate over 20 years and found no connection between cancer and glyphosate. The findings of a study by the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer, identified exposure to glyphosate, drinking hot drinks, frying food, and hairdressing, as 'probable carcinogenic' activities. In 2016, the APVMA evaluated the IARC report and other contemporary scientific assessments as part of an established chemical review nomination process. The APVMA concluded that glyphosate did not pose a carcinogenic risk to humans and that there were no grounds to place it under formal reconsideration. In April this year the United State Environment Protection Authority declared glyphosate was not a carcinogenic.

Food grown in farming systems where glyphosate is used, is safe to eat.

✓ FACT.

Glyphosate is typically not applied directly to food crops. Nevertheless, as with all other agricultural chemicals, farmers must adhere to maximum residue levels (MRLs) for glyphosate. In May 2016, the Joint World Health Organisation (WHO)/ Food & Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Meeting on Pesticide Residues concluded that "glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans from exposure through diet".

Australian farmers could use an alternate herbicide.

✗ MYTH.

Currently, there is no product approved for use in Australia that is as safe or as effective as glyphosate for weed control.

Glyphosate is good for the environment.

✓ FACT.

Glyphosate allows farmers to control weeds from above the ground, doing away with the need to plough fallow paddocks in preparation for a crop. This practice minimises soil disruption and maximises soil health and water use efficiency. Less tillage, means less machinery operation and therefore less emissions generation. Glyphosate is also used by farmers to control aggressive, noxious weeds such as serrated tussock and African lovegrass.

Products containing glyphosate should be used according to the directions on the label.

✓ FACT.

In the same way it is recommended users observe the directions for use on the labels of household products, users of glyphosate products should always follow directions for use. It is important to note that there is no level of exposure to glyphosate that has been deemed to be dangerous to human health.

Australian farmers could produce the food and fibre they do today, without using glyphosate.

✗ MYTH.

Through better weed control, improved soil health and water use efficiency, the addition of glyphosate has allowed farmers, in particular cotton, cereal, oilseed and pulse growers, to greatly improve their productivity per hectare. Australian farmers are trusted across the world for producing safe sustainable food and fibre – glyphosate plays an important role in making this possible.

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4T HBM side tipper, good condition. Ph: 0428 100 564.

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2015 Case Track Harvester 8800, Trimble GPS, shedder topper, hyd. adjustable fronts 1.50m to 1.85m. Balance valve fitted to front suspension; iFit engineering chopper drums; Glenella Engineering taper locks on chopper gears; Blackey Bisalloy elevator floors; greasing system fitted; Tungsten on front shoes; floating side walls & base cutter discs. All in good condition. Ph: 0427 617 807.

Track transporter; 2x6t side tippers; V10 Mercedes motor; Robot running gear. Good condition. Ph: 0427 617 807.

John Deere 830 2cyl antique tractor \$25,000. John Deere 30/20 \$15,000. Ph: 0435 550 737.

TM155 New Holland Tractor very good condition with low hrs, engine fully rebuilt 200 hrs ago, serviced every 150 hrs from new. Tractor has a GPS AG Auto Farm A5 steering kit fitted, screen and antenna not included. \$60,000 + GST ONO. Ph: Andrew 0428 597 324.

New Holland TS110A 4WD, 110hp, 4,980hrs, \$42,900 Inc., Kubota M135X-DC 4WD, Loader + 4in1 bucket, 135hp, 4,970hrs, \$58,000 Inc. Transport subsidised. Ph: 0418 788 643.

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Rainfall Report

brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Year to date	Average rainfall (mm) January–June
	7 days to 9am	10.06.19		
	03.06.19	10.06.19		
Mossman	9	16	2418	1724
Mareeba AP	5	0.8	628	717
Cairns	8	16	1818	1598
Mt Sophia	6	22	2498	2577
Babinda	0	25	2540	2714
Innisfail	20	50	2540	2714
Tully	3	0.1	1880	3154
Cardwell	18	2	1887	1655
Lucinda	0	0	2197	1653
Ingham	27	8	2611	1555
Abergowrie	25	8	1796	1429
Townsville	19	3	1741	868
Ayr DPI	8	0.8	928	712
Proserpine	4	7	1348	1027
Mirani	8	4	1312	1118
Mackay	6	3	947	1169
Sarina (Plane Ck)	2	4	1248	1282
Bundaberg	8	3	231	610
Childers South	1	4	227	513
Maryborough	1	8	398	728
Tewantin	22	13	561	1131
Eumundi	16	7	404	1095
Nambour	10	5	633	1085
Woongoolba	5	2	405	834
Murwillumbah	2	0	391	1035
Ballina	27	23	512	1146
Woodburn	0	0	261	878



dream with
your eyes open

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

3 furrow square plough with spare hanger \$3,000. Dbl row fert dist ss worms 1.25" tynes \$2,000. Twin worm single row fert dist \$1,000. 700L spray tank with boom \$2,500. Yeoman 5 tyne ripper with coulters \$4,500. Ph: 0427 599 636.

Katek mix 1 tonne \$500. 1000L pod Dr Grow It All \$500. Diatomaceous Earth organic insecticide 1T \$800. Ford 4600 tractor - 64hp reg'd \$8,000. Ph: 0427 599 636.

Criton Mark 2 Harvester with 135 Massey Ferguson Tractor attached. Fiat High Spray Rig 7 Foot clearance. 2x 6000 Austoft Harvester Elevator Slews and 1 Ram. Quantity of elevator flights to suit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000. Hydraulic Wheel Motor to fit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000, as new condition. Quantity of commercial pumps and motors to suit Austoft Cane Harvester 4000, 6000 & Mark 1. Diff and Episicals to suit Austoft Harvester Mark 1 and Mark 2. Dyna Power motors and pumps. Quantity of 5 inch irrigation pipes. Topper to suit Austoft Harvesters 6000 & 7000. Ph: 0427 598 333.

Low pressure irrigator \$37,000 + GST, 6T side tipper on Austin truck, \$6,000 + GST, Trash incorporator, s/steel worm & plastic bin, \$12,000 + GST. Other implements available also. Ph: 0419 577 110.

Wanted

STL shares wanted. Ph: 0408 448 227.

Positions Vacant

Haulout driver operator needed for Proserpine area. 2019 cane crushing season. HR licence a must. 3am starts. 8 out of 10 roster. Must be reliable and have own transport. Experience preferred with cane cutting and general farm equipment maintenance. Accommodation not provided. Start: Late June through to November. Ph: 0407 111 661.

MSF Sugar: Farm Hand/Spray Operator - South Johnstone area. Further information can be found on our website: www.msfsugar.com.au

Work Wanted

Looking for work as a haul out operator. Some experience and willing to learn. Ph: 0499 611 306.

Cane harvester and haul out operator for the crushing season 2019. Can do farm work repairs and maintenance, case 7700-8800 and other farm machinery. Ph: +230-57523057.

Property

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 35 kms South of Cairns. 209 Acres Total. Approx 170 Acres cane area. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 40 kms South of Cairns. 185 Acres Total. Approx 100 Acres under cane. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

Cane farm, Silkwood area. 27.82 ha total, 27.62 under cane on 1 freehold title. 5 yr av 97 t/ha. 7.5 kms from Kurrimine Beach. Shed and bore water. Ph: 0417 647 002.

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

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

Tropical Paradise Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property, 96 acres 6klms to PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable land, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. Easy farm to maintain. Ph: Mandy 0408 880 724.

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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