Grower Information Session

A grower information session was held on Wednesday 13 August at the CANEGROWERS Hall in Home Hill.

The forty attendees heard from industry representatives from Wilmar, QSL, BBIFMAC and SRA.

The first guest speaker of the session was Carla Keith, QSL Industry Relationship Manager. Carla provided an update on the 2014 season estimated pool returns, a sugar market update and currency market update.

A copy of Carla’s presentation can be found here.

Ken Mackney, Inkerman Mill Manager gave an update on the Inkerman Mill and Steve Postma, Cane Supply Manager updated attendees on logistics and transport of the Burdekin Mills.

Ken’s key points included Inkerman manning, preparation for the 2014 crush, crushing performance and major stoppages to date, capital plans for 2015 and the upcoming Inkerman Mill centenary celebrations. To view Ken’s presentation click here.

Steve provided information on the Burdekin season to date, comparing budget to actuals, cut to estimates, dirt and CCS levels and the rest of the season. Click here for Steve’s presentation.

The next speaker was Eleihsa Burton from BBIFMAC. Eleisha gave a project overview on BBIFMAC’s Energy Efficiency Project. The project aims to provide relevant customised information to irrigators that will improve energy efficiency, save money and drive innovation and productivity. Eleisha’s presentation (click here) outlined how they will achieve these aims.

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) Chief Executive Officer Neil Fisher discussed Yellow Canopy Syndrome, varieties, local research investment overview and driving adoption on the farm and in the mill. Click here for the presentation.

The next Grower Information Session will be held on Friday 22 August at the Giru Bowls Club. Invicta Mill Manager, Craig Wood will provide an update in the Invicta Mill, with Steve Postma updating attendees on the logistics of the Burdekin Mills and Carla Keith presenting on QSL followed by lunch. Phone Tiffany on 4790 3600 or email bdk@canegrowers.com.au to register your attendance.
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75 Available
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4782 1922

Grower Information Session
Wednesday 13 August
Payroll & HR update by Tiffany

The Fair Work website would be best known for finding industry awards and checking pay rates; however the website has a lot more to offer.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has just launched its latest interactive online learning course to give guidance on managing employee performance.

The free online course takes around 30 minutes to complete and is accessible from your computer and most tablets and mobiles.

The managing performance course will provide employers with help on promoting good employee service and addressing underperformance when it occurs.

The course is interactive and includes scenarios where users are taken through real workplace performance issues and are required to make judgements on what is and is not best practice management in each situation. Users then receive feedback on the consequences of their decisions.

The course also contains a toolkit with a suite of additional resources including a template performance agreement, template letters of warning and a performance meeting plan checklist.

Click here to access the course.

Launch of new digital magazine

The first edition of new digital magazine “Leading Agriculture” was launched this week, available here.

The magazine is an initiative from Farming’s Future. Farming’s Future is dedicated to a better future for Australian agriculture.

It is a unique independent communications resource that focuses on showcasing the very best of what is happening in Australian agriculture. It supports and supplements current and future activities across agricultural sectors at all levels of the supply chain.

The first edition of Leading Agriculture features exclusive commentary from Federal Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce about the future of agriculture PLUS families in the industry, new technologies, food as medicine and more.

If you wish to subscribe to the publication email Sherrie Mazur at smarzur@thegets.com.au

CANEGROWERS Burdekin Payroll Service

At CANEGROWERS Burdekin we take the burden out of processing payroll, from just $1 a day* our comprehensive payroll service will cover all your reporting requirements.

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* Two employees paid fortnightly with membership discount applied. CANEGROWERS Burdekin is a registered BAS Agent - registration number 24762820
**Harvest Update**

**Burdekin CCS per crush week 2013 & 2014**

**Burdekin Tonnes Cut Per Week**

- **Invicta**
- **Pioneer**
- **Kalamia**
- **Inkerman**

**Week 10 - as at 09/08/2014**

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</table>

**Crop Crushed to Date**

- **2014 estimate**: 7,990,000 tonnes
- **2014 rainfall**: 38%
Harvest Management Meeting Update

The third update meeting for the current season was held on Tuesday 12th August at Pioneer Mill’s blue room.

As the meeting clashed with the CANEGROWERS Burdekin monthly board meeting, grower member and past Director Gary Stockham kindly consented to represent CANEGROWERS at the update meeting.

Following is an overview of the key topics from the meeting.

Safety:
As per normal the first item on the agenda was a report on any safety incidents.

It was very disturbing to hear again of another incident at Carey’s cane rail level crossing (near Bruce Highway and Upper Haughton Road intersection) where a semi-trailer vehicle was racing against the stop lights to beat the cane train across the crossing.

Also a quad bike being ridden by 10 and 12 year old children collided with a Wilmar employee when the quad bike drove out of a paddock in front of the Wilmar vehicle as the employee was heading home after finishing work for the day.

Another incident was avoided where a loco driver had reported a grower who drove out in front of the loco as he was leaving the farm residence and shed.

In the siding induction space there is still a number of drivers that have not completed the required siding induction.

A notice has been drafted that will be sent to the grower members and contractors of harvesting groups. The notice will contain a warning of the possibility of interruption to bin deliveries.

Noted was the concern of haul out drivers operating in the Greenacres section of the Bruce Highway where the public are overtaking and passing incorrectly when haul out trucks are entering or exiting the highway.

Mill Operations:
As has been reported fairly extensively Burdekin Mills had the best throughput last week for the 2014 season so far. It was recognised that this level of throughput can only be achieved when the whole supply chain is working well,

A special thanks to the growing and harvesting sectors for their efforts was recorded and congratulations offered to all Burdekin Mill’s management and their teams on a very significant achievement.

With the weather forecast indicating rain from about Friday most mills were indicating that any scheduled cleans for the week would be postponed to take advantage of any stoppage caused by wet weather interruptions.

Also Pioneer has a risk arising with an ID fan motor that must be addressed as soon as possible.

The concerns raised by the Invicta Cane Auditor over the reliability of juice pumps to the laboratory was raised and will be followed up by Wilmar Operations General Manager Mike Mcleod who was at the meeting.

Cane Supply:
Cane quality is seeing some incremental improvement.

Comments noted were that some contractors are experiencing difficulty in retaining drivers where there is longer haul distances.

Also there is general concern in all mill areas of instances where growers and contractors are over burning on the last day of harvesting; it is all well and good to say that the cane will be harvested once the group is back on roster but this approach impacts on other suppliers/groups and their allotments.

Pioneer groups will be affected over the next three weeks or so as allotments will be inflated as one of the transfer groups moves from supplying Pioneer to Invicta.

Wilmar also advised that the practice of keeping bins on haul out trucks overnight is impacting on the mill’s bin fleet and bin allotment quantity and delivery times for all groups.

The Growerweb is to be upgraded next year and will be compatible with mobile smart phones.

Next update meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd September.
Invicta Sample Supply

Member Services Manager Wayne Smith visited Invicta Mill this week for discussions with Site Manager Craig Wood and Cane Auditor in charge Marie Watson.

The discussions mainly involved the inconsistencies around juice sample supply to the laboratory that cane auditors had reported they were experiencing which was increasing the level of missed samples.

Invicta Site Manager Craig Wood has initiated an investigation with remedial action and advised that he is committed to resolving the issue as it is well recognised the important part that a consistent supply of juice sampling plays in determining growers Cane Pay.

Wayne also held discussions with Invicta Cane Supply Logistics Officers Franco Zaini and Mark Lazzarini regarding the performance and supply of harvest groups and made enquiries on siding priorities.

Craig will be giving an update on Invicta Mill performance at the CBL Grower Information meeting being held on Friday 22nd August, come to the Giru Bowls Club at 10am to receive the update.

CANEGROWERS submission on the proposal to ratify the Minimata Convention on mercury

By Matt Keally, CANEGROWERS Senior Manager, Environment & Natural Resources

CANEGROWERS has provided a submission to the Consultation on Australia’s possible ratification of the Minimata Convention.

The Minimata Convention is looking to phase out the use of mercury. This directly affects the fungicide product Shirtan® which is used to control pineapple sett rot in sugarcane.

The objective of the treaty is to protect human health and the environment from emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

The treaty listed a range of mercury added products which included mercury-added pesticides. Under the ratification of the treaty, these products are due to be phase-out by 2020.

The Australian Government is now progressing to ratifying the treaty and has invited submissions. CANEGROWERS has provided a submission to the Consultation on Australia’s possible ratification of the Minimata Convention that specifically relates to Shirtan®.

Shirtan® is registered for the control of pineapple sett rot of sugarcane, also known as Pineapple disease. Shirtan® is popular with many cane growers as it stimulates rapid germination of sugarcane in addition to protecting against pineapple sett rot. Growers that use Shirtan® will only apply the chemical to an individual field once every 4-6 years.

CANEGROWERS understand the risks that mercury poses to human health and the environment, even at low concentrations. However, CANEGROWERS and the sugar cane industry’s research arm Sugar Research Australia, does not know of any data that shows a significant increase in mercury in soils in sugarcane growing regions from the use of the fungicide Shirtan®.

CANEGROWERS considers Shirtan® to be an important fungicide for the cane industry and its use pattern in cane poses a negligible risk to human health and the environment. Therefore its availability should be maintained and not phased-out after 2020 as recommended in Part I: Products subject to Article 4, paragraph 1 of the consulting paper.

The next steps for the Australian Government are to consider the submissions. The submission is available here. CANEGROWERS will provide further information as it comes to hand.
CANEGROWERS Burdekin update briefing to Senator Ian McDonald

With the State Agricultural Minister (Minister McVeigh) calling on the Federal Government to consider powers under the Federal Competition and Consumer Act to ensure growers retain a say in marketing their share of the sugar and the ACCC investigating Wilmar’s decision to withdraw from QSL together with investigating the consistency of Wilmar’s forward pricing representations with Australia’s consumer laws is continuing.

Representatives from Canegrowers Burdekin provided an update briefing to Senator Ian McDonald on Friday morning. Senator McDonald was accompanied to the meeting by competition specialists from the Office of Minister Bruce Billson MP being Stefanee Lovett (Chief of Staff) and Michael Xanthis (Advisor).

Chairman Phil Marano and Director Roger Piva explained to Senator McDonald how the income growers receive for their cane depends on the price the raw sugar is sold for and our concerns if the marketing and pricing of the raw sugar is taken away from QSL, an industry owned not for profit marketer who has no other role than to serve the interests of growers and millers for the long term prosperity of the Queensland sugar industry and given to a foreign owned for profit private company (Wilmar Sugar Trading) that has the principal interest of returning dividends to its shareholders and in extracting value from every step of the production chain (with growers being a key part of that production chain).

Phil and Roger stressed that growers have a right to have a say in how the percentage of the raw sugar that represents the payment growers receive for their cane is priced and marketed.

Update from Greg Beashel CEO of QSL

Greg Beashel, CEO of QSL, provided the Board and Management of Canegrowers Burdekin with an update at the CBL Board meeting held Tuesday 12 Aug.

Greg spoke to a presentation he had recently given to the Press Club titled “What next for sugar marketing” (click here). This presentation included an overview of the current situation and then challenged some of the common views held by non-growers such as:

- Why should growers have a say in how their sugar is marketed?
- Industries work best when they are deregulated and governments removed
- QSL is trying to hold onto an outdated, single desk model

Greg then spoke about his vision for the future of the Queensland sugar industry.

State Government Investigation into the Sugar Industry

The Agriculture Cabinet Committee held their first meeting on Tuesday of this week. Minister John McVeigh has reported that the terms of reference for the State Governments investigation into the sugar industry had been set and the Committee would commence its inquiry shortly.

This will include hearings to ensure the industry has input into the investigation to enable the government to consider what is best for the whole industry.

Minister McVeigh has called on all sectors of the industry to show strong leadership and pursue commercial solutions to the current impasse.

CANEGROWERS reaffirms that we will re-join the discussion when Wilmar are prepared to respect growers view and their rights and when Wilmar accepts that CANEGROWERS members have completely condemned their current proposal.
WILMAR EXITING QSL

Wilmar Focus Group Meetings

Early last week (the week commencing Monday 4th Aug) we were contacted by members raising concerns that a Sydney based market research company working for Wilmar had phoned them to issue an invitation to attend a focus group meeting later in the week. It appeared a key topic of the meeting was to be the marketing issue following Wilmar giving notice to exit QSL.

Growers advised they were very unsure as to what the caller was exactly talking about and felt concerned as they did not want to do or say anything that could be misinterpreted and used by Wilmar to support Wilmar’s case for exiting QSL.

As Wilmar had not been in contact with us to advise of any meetings so we contacted John Pratt, Executive General Manager, North Queensland asking him to let us know what the meetings were about.

John replied to confirm that Wilmar had commissioned an independent market research company to conduct small group meetings with growers to discuss and gauge opinions on issues of concern. He stated that he would expect that this would cover productivity and cost concerns in addition to sugar marketing and that they had asked them to seek growers’ views on sugar marketing because it is a topical issue, along with a number of other industry matters (productivity/YCS, rising input costs etc.).

John also stated that the independent researchers had been employed to guarantee growers’ views will remain anonymous and to encourage growers to share their views openly. The researchers were to recruit growers at random from across Wilmar’s milling regions, and would not share the names of the focus groups participants with Wilmar or others.

We advised that we would be interested in receiving a copy of the report from the independent market research company as we, as always, are very interested in Burdekin growers issues of concern, in particular in relation to productivity and cost concerns, together with growers’ views on sugar marketing.

We also advised that we remain keen to work with Wilmar on all and any areas that Wilmar can assist growers in reducing their input costs, such as costs associated with fertiliser, fuel and finance (as previously discussed) but also in regards to costs associated with harvesting, electricity, insurance and council rates.

On Wednesday 6th Aug, we asked Wilmar to advise if they would be prepared to share the report, to date we have not received a response.

Following the focus group meetings we received the following feedback from the various meetings that were held in Herbert River, Plane Creek and Burdekin:

1. the growers in attendance had made it clear to the consultants that they do not trust Wilmar with marketing growers economic interest sugar because of the obvious conflicts and that was the final message at the end of the meetings

2. there was no hard particular or soft sell by the consultants who said they were interested in getting grower feedback

3. there were about five growers in attendance for each of the various meetings but if the independent consultants had randomly selected attendees then they must have struggled to find any CANEGROWERS members who agreed to attend as there appeared to be an over representation of non-canegrowers members at some of the meetings

4. the focus group was supposed to be about 3 topics: productivity, growers input costs and the QSL marketing issues …but attendees felt it was really focused on the QSL marketing issue

5. the consultants wanted to know why growers did not trust Wilmar to do the marketing … feedback from many of the sessions was that growers strongly stated they did not trust Wilmar to do the marketing and how Wilmar had ignored growers views on Wilmar giving notice to exit QSL was a clear example of why growers cannot trust them …Wilmar went ahead even though growers clearly stated they did not want this and condemned the Wilmar proposal

6. the consultants apparently said they had heard loud and clear that growers want a REAL SAY in how their share of the raw sugar is priced and marketed …they thought they were going to be lynched in Plane Creek
Wilmar exclude QSL Relationship Manager from Harvest Management Meetings

Canegrowers Burdekin was very surprised and disappointed to learn that Wilmar has withdrawn the open invitation to local QSL Industry Relationship Manager Carla Keith to attend the Wilmar Harvest Management Meetings.

Carla was a regular attendee at these meetings during the last crush and provided marketing related information that Canegrowers Burdekin found of great value and the representatives from the other grower collectives also appeared to find of value.

QSL has expressed their disappointment of this decision by Wilmar as they valued having their Relationship Manager hear first-hand how the crush was progressing and this allowed QSL to utilise the information provided at the harvest management meetings to assist with avoiding another 2010 event.

Canegrowers Burdekin has written to Wilmar to request this decision be reversed.
Wilmar International Ltd. (WIL), the world’s largest palm oil trader, said second-quarter profit fell 22 percent as industry overcapacity hurt margins in palm oil refining.

Net income was $170.7 million in the three months ended June 30, from $218.5 million a year earlier, the Singapore-based company said in a statement. That compares to the range of $240 million to $270 million profit estimated by UOB-Kay Hian Holdings Ltd. Sales rose 0.9 percent to $10.5 billion.

“Overall, we expect much better performance in the second half of the year,” Chief Executive Officer Kuok Khoon Hong said in the statement. “Increased supply of crude palm oil will help to improve Palm & Laurics performance even though operating conditions will remain challenging.”

Wilmar is adding businesses as it seeks new revenue streams outside Indonesian and Malaysian sourced palm oil. It’s in the process of buying Australia’s top baker Goodman Fielder Ltd. and has added sugar assets in Myanmar and India and bolstered packaged foods units on rising demand from consumers in China and other Asian nations.

The stock was unchanged at S$3.24 at the close in Singapore. The announcement came after market.

Excess Capacity

Palm & Laurics saw pretax profit fall 56 percent to $99.8 million on tight supply of crude palm oil and increased competition due to excess capacity industrywide, Wilmar said. Pretax profit at its plantations division more than double to $107.1 million on improved yields and higher palm prices.

Palm oil, the world’s most-used edible oil, has tumbled 23 percent from an 18-month high in March and entered a bear market last month as production in key nations such as Malaysia expanded and demand in food and biofuel trailed estimates. Record U.S. output of soybeans, crushed to make an alternative oil, is adding to global cooking oil supply this year.

Wilmar’s sugar unit narrowed losses to $23.7 million for the quarter, while Consumer Products and Oilseeds posted profit on increased sales.

Wilmar, which is buying Goodman Fielder together with Hong Kong-based investment group First Pacific through a 50-50 venture, won acceptance from the Australian baker’s board for its bid, which it then cut by 3.6 percent in July due to the target firm’s plans to write down asset values.

An independent expert appointed by Goodman Fielder is due to report in September on whether they deem Wilmar and First Pacific’s offer of 67.5 Australian cents a share, or A$1.32 billion ($1.22 billion) for the Sydney-based maker of Wonder White bread fair and reasonable.
Dewatering information session invitation

Growers are invited to an information session to update everyone on progress to date on the dewatering project as part of the Rural Water Use Efficiency – Irrigation Futures project.

When: Wed 20th August 2pm

Where: Meet at Paul Hatch’s shed on Mulgrave Rd to view dewatering bores, then Clare Club for presentation at 2:45pm

The presentation will cover

- Summary/update of dewatering project to date
- Managing water quality and flow rates
- Discussion of barriers to adoption of dewatering and ways these could be overcome
- Future issues and approaches to dewatering at a regional scale

This meeting will be attended by representatives of Qld Government (DEHP, DNRM) who are interested in seeing progress of the project and obtaining feedback on future dewatering activities and potential funding.

Hopefully you can attend to show that growers are supportive and keen to manage the serious issue of rising groundwater levels.

For any questions, please contact Rob Milla at BPS – 0490 036 329.

Announcement of the results of the election for QSL Grower Representative Members

The results of the hotly contested election for Grower Representatives for QSL have been announced.

Congratulations go to:

David Lando  Canegrowers Burdekin Deputy Chair
Russell Jordan  Canegrowers Burdekin Director
Roger Piva  Canegrowers Burdekin Director
Ramon Poli  Kalamia Cane Growers Ltd Director

QSL Grower Representative Members are a vital communication link between QSL and growers throughout Queensland. This link is vital now more than ever with the ongoing developments in Queensland’s sugar marketing arrangements for the future and QSL’s continued advocacy for growers to have a say. We encourage growers throughout the region to reach out to their local QSL Grower Representative Member and provide them with feedback.

QSL Grower Representative Members have an important role in providing direct feedback to QSL on behalf of growers and in sharing information that QSL provides on its latest updates, value offerings and activities. QSL is committed to providing Grower Representative Members with an understanding of the services they offer, listen when feedback is provided and keep representatives updated on QSL’s activities. The first official duty of QSL’s Grower Representative Members will be to attend the QSL Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 20 October 2014 in Brisbane.

Wilmar exiting QSL

In these uncertain times you need CANEGROWERS.
Support us, so we can support you.
If you are not with CANEGROWERS join now.
Market reports available for members

Exclusive to CANEGROWERS members a free market information service is available.

This service includes:

- A specially commissioned fortnightly CANEGROWERS Market Report prepared for CANEGROWERS by Czarnikow Ltd.
- The daily sugar and currency market analysis In the Raw, prepared by Warren Males.
- The LMC quarterly Sugar Price Forecasting Service.

For more information and to subscribe to the service click [here](#).

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**CANEGROWERS Weather**

The CANEGROWERS website features a weather section that by typing in your postcode will provide you with a seven day forecast for your desired postcode along with a 12 month rainfall outlook, SOI information and sea surface temperatures.

To see the latest forecast for your postcode click [here](#). The following outlook is for Brandon.

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**Climate Forecasting Workshop**

Ever wondered why some years are wetter or drier than others, what climate terms like SOI, El Nino or La Nina mean, or how to know when the next burst of the monsoon might impact on the Burdekin region???

A workshop to be held in Home Hill on Wednesday 27th of August will answer those questions and any others you may have about climate and climate forecasting issues. Workshop participants will also be challenged to use the information provided in the workshop to make better and more profitable business decisions.

Canegrowers, millers and other service providers to the sugar industry who attended workshops held in 2012 rated the workshops very highly in terms of the usefulness of information presented and how that information could be used in their planning and decision making. Fertiliser and planting activities, marketing and investment decisions were examples of where climate information presented at the workshop could be used in a practical way.

**Climatologist**, Professor Roger Stone will provide information on El Nino and La Nina, the SOI (Southern Oscillation Index), and how they are associated with rainfall in the Burdekin district. New forecast system information developed with international partners will also be presented which is assisting the sugar industry to improve planning and marketing decisions.

**DAFF Industry Development Officer**, Neil Cliffe, will challenge participants to use the wide range of climate information available on the internet and elsewhere to make better decisions.

**Venues/Dates/Times:** CANEGROWERS Hall, 68 Tenth Street Home Hill,  
Wednesday 27th August, 9.45-2.00, with smoker and lunch provided.

**To Register Contact:** Tiffany at CANEGROWERS on 4790 3000 by 25th August.
CANEGROWERS Queensland … taking up the fight on all issues affecting cane farmers
For the week ending 5 August 2014

Marketing
- The ACCC assessment of Wilmar’s decision to withdraw from QSL and investigation and investigation into the consistency of Wilmar’s forward pricing representations with Australia’s consumer laws is continuing.
- The ACCC is seeking further information in relation to both issues and we understand has been in touch with the Queensland Minister.

Trade and Market Access
- The next round of Trans Pacific Partnership meetings is expected to be held in early September.
- The sugar industry’s request for sugar to be included in the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement has been lodged with the Australian Government.

Reef Trust
- Expressions of Interests to administrate the Reef Trust reverse auction closed on Friday 1 August 2014. CANEGROWERS Queensland did not put in an application.

NERP WQ IG
- CANEGROWERS attended the last meeting of the National Environmental Research Program Water Quality Industry Group in Townsville.
- Reef scientists presented updated on their research including:
  - Diuron’s effect on seagrass.
  - Socioeconomic research on the community’s value of the reef and impacts.
- The program has developed some excellent research and this is available at [http://e-atlas.org.au](http://e-atlas.org.au) and [http://www.ereefs.org.au](http://www.ereefs.org.au)
- CANEGROWERS had the opportunity to provide an update on the Smartcane BMP. The scientists and research organisations were very supportive of the program and encouraged by the endeavours CANEGROWERS was taking on.

Biosecurity
- CANEGROWERS participated in a conference call on Red Witchweed.
- CANEGROWERS participated in discussions around on plant industry biosecurity and the Plant Industry Forum in November.

Research
- Input has been made into the development of the SRA monitoring and evaluation system via Jeff Coutts the consultant employed to assist in this.

RWUE-IF
- A meeting was held with DNRM with regard to RWUE-IF progress. The regions have agreed that the use of the scheduling program Irrigweb should be acquired as part of the information systems funding and this was agreed to by DNRM. Seven productivity services companies and two district offices will have the opportunity to have contracts for the use of Irrigweb.

Smartcane BMP
- CANEGROWERS participated in a research project interview discussing drivers for change in the sugar industry. The research project is funded by Coca Cola and SABMiller.
- CANEGROWERS participated in the monthly Smartcane facilitator teleconference.
DATES TO REMEMBER

Dewatering information session, **Wednesday 20 August**, 2pm @ Paul Hatch’s Shed

CBL Grower Information Meeting, **Friday 22 August**, 10am-12.30pm @ Giru Bowls Club

BBIFMAC General Meeting, **Friday 22 August**, 9.30am-12pm, Ayr PCYC

BPS Annual General Meeting, **Tuesday 26 August**, 7.30pm @ Delta Cinemas

Climate Forecast Workshop, **Wednesday 27 August**, 9.45am-2pm @ CANEGROWERS Hall, Home Hill

Landcare Meeting, **Tuesday 2 September**, 5.00pm, John Hy Peake Room, Burdekin Shire Council

Classifieds

Send through your classifieds to bdk@canegrowers.com.au
Free for members

Work Wanted
⇒ Haulout / Farm Hand / Mechanic
⇒ HC Licence
⇒ Experience in carting hay, cattle, machinery & general freight
⇒ 6 years working on New Holland machinery
⇒ Ph: 0405 683 813

Harvesting Contract Wanted

Experienced Harvesting Contractor with full complement of late model machinery, interested in operating a sizeable harvesting group in Burdekin region.
For further information phone 0407 374 512.

WANTED
⇒ 8 Foot Back Blade Bonel or similar
⇒ 2 Row Scarifier with Crumble Rollers with or without tynes
⇒ Drag Roller 3.8m or wider
Phone 0417 798 541 or 4782 1341

Lower Burdekin Landcare Meeting
**Tuesday 2 September**, 5.00pm, John Hy Peake Room, Burdekin Shire Council

BBIFMAC General Meeting
**Friday 22 August**, 9.30am - 12.00pm, Ayr PCYC
**Advances Program**

With the crushing season well underway across the state, Cathy and I thought it timely to recap some of the small adjustments QSL has made to the 2014 Advances Program. Feedback about the Advances Program is always appreciated and we are happy to discuss your ideas with you.

When structuring the advances program, QSL aims to deliver cash flow as soon as possible, whilst keeping overall borrowing within our banking limits and minimising the risk of overpayment should the ICE 11 market fall before pricing can be completed. It’s important to note the greatest volatility in advance rates is experienced during the crushing season where the majority of the QSL Managed Pools are priced.

Following feedback from individual growers, QSL Grower Representatives and grower collectives, QSL has reduced the number of rate increases during the 2014 season, however have made the increases larger. We’ve done this to make the cash flow to growers more predictable whilst delivering overall more cash by the end of the season than in previous years. This is demonstrated below.

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<th>2012</th>
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<td>Nov</td>
<td>No increase</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>68.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
<td>74.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
<td>78.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar**</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
<td>82.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr**</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May**</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun**</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A revised indicative program is currently being considered by the QSL board**

**Women In Sugar Burdekin to incorporate**

On Wednesday 13th August, the Women In Sugar Burdekin (WISB) members unanimously voted to incorporate.

The WISB group is an independent group representing all women involved in the sugar cane community.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin and QSL would like to congratulate this group on their move to incorporate and wish them all the best as they move to grow their membership base and profile in the Burdekin.

WISB meet every second Wednesday of the month and encourage all women in the sugar industry to attend.
Pricing information

2014 Season Advances & Payments
as at 6 August 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/tonne IPS</th>
<th>% estimated return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial *</td>
<td>$249</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 August 14</td>
<td>$275</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 October 14</td>
<td>$296</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 December 14</td>
<td>$317</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 January 15</td>
<td>$332</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 February 15</td>
<td>$342</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 March 15</td>
<td>$353</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 April 15</td>
<td>$363</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 May 15</td>
<td>$373</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 June 15</td>
<td>$394</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Payment</td>
<td>$415</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

* paid

The Advance Program is a guide only. CANEGROWERS Burdekin takes no responsibility for its accuracy. It only applies to growers who did not forward price for 2013 (the default method). Growers who have forward priced for 2013 will be paid the same percentage of their final expected proceeds. For individual advance rates check your grower forecast on the Wilmar website.

Wilmar Indicative Future Sugar Prices
as at 15 August 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Season</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Season</td>
<td>$455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>$472</td>
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</table>

Estimated QSL 2014 Pool Prices
As at 8 August 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
<td>$414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Discretionary Pool</td>
<td>$424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
<td>$428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Growth Pool</td>
<td>$430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
<td>$422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
<td>$489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2014 Season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
<td>$441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
<td>$448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2016</td>
<td>$451</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Growing can monitor QSL pool performance via the Price Pool Matrices published on the QSL website (www.qsl.com.au). This information is updated regularly and provides a sense of how the QSL-managed pools are performing over the current season.

QSL Market Update
By Mark Page, Treasury Analyst
as at 11 August 2014

Sugar

The past fortnight has seen the raw sugar market in a downtrend. The October 14 contract has fallen 100 points to close on Friday at 16.14 c/lb while the March and May 15 contracts have also given up significant ground (minus 99 and 84 points).

A fire in a Rumo sugar warehouse at the Santos Port in Brazil last weekend provided the market with some excitement on Monday, with prices spiking about 60 points in early trade. This was, however, short lived as momentum quickly turned and prices finished lower on the day. This set the tone for the week and typified the overwhelming bearish sentiment in the market at present.

The flat price is working lower to try and find some physical demand, however we are still seeing little indication of the big buyers coming to market at these levels. With more than 1 million tonnes of Thai raw sugar still to find a home, we are seeing the OCT/MAR spread widen as the threat of these sugars being delivered to the October tape increases and the problem rolls over to the first quarter of 2015.

The story in Brazil remains unchanged, with production rattling along just ahead of last year, whilst most of the market expects a short tail and a lower overall yield of just over 32 million tonnes. This is not helping the current oversupply situation.

As such, we anticipate that the move higher will still occur, however not likely until early next year once the decline in Brazilian production feeds into the supply chain and the issue of the surplus Thai sugar is resolved. For now, we expect to see prices trending at the lower-end of the range.

Currency

The Australian dollar is remaining relatively stable against the Greenback. Geo-political issues continue to weigh on risk appetite.

Data out of the US has begun to ramp-up, suggesting an acceleration in the economic recovery, whilst some of our own local data has been a little disappointing. This has seen the exchange rate dip slightly lower over the fortnight to around the US 93 cent level.

Although still at uncomfortable levels for Australian exporters, we expect to see the Australian dollar come off later this year. The quantitative easing program in the US is scheduled to wind-up before the end of 2014 and following this, we see potential for US rate hikes as we move into 2015.
NFF response to Russia’s ban on Australian food

The NFF has today expressed its concern over Russia’s decision to impose a ban on food imports from Australia—a market that contributes roughly $400 million to Australia’s economy each year.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said the year-long ban, introduced yesterday, would affect imports on beef, pork, fruit, vegetables, poultry, fish and dairy products from the EU, US, Australia, Canada and Norway. The NFF said the farm sector was concerned about such disruptions, acknowledging Australia exports over 60 percent of its produce and is inherently export-orientated.

A key concern for the NFF is based on international competitiveness. As the ban was placed on a number of key western trading partners, we expect to see increased competition from these players, as they look to sell their products to other competing markets. Furthermore, the farm sector may see a shift in current supply arrangements and a decline in market price.

The NFF will be watching this space closely, and will ensure that members are kept up to date as more details become known. For more information, see our release here. Alternatively, contact Tony Mahar by email tmahar@nff.org.au or phone 02 6269 5666.

Code of Conduct

The Treasury is consulting on Improving Commercial Relationships in the Food and Grocery Sector and the draft Food and Grocery Code of Conduct (the Grocery Code).

In November 2013, Coles, Woolworths and the AFGC provided their jointly developed Grocery Code to the Government. Subsequently, the Grocery Code was redrafted to comply with the legislative framework under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (CCA).

The proposal brought forward by these industry proponents is for the Government to prescribe the Grocery Code as a voluntary industry Code under the CCA. If a retailer agrees to be bound by the Grocery Code and is later found to have breached it, enforcement can be taken under the CCA by the ACCC or by private action. There are a range of remedies for breaches of a prescribed industry code, including injunctions and compensation for damages.

The NFF has welcomed this approach by the Government, and views the Grocery Code as an important step towards greater transparency and relations between supermarkets and industry. The NFF will be reviewing the draft Prescribed Code and continue to work with government and retailers to make sure farmer concerns are represented at the decision-making table. For further information, please contact Tony Mahar by email tmahar@nff.org.au or phone 02 6269 5666.

Seasonal Worker Program Conference

This week the NFF attended the annual Seasonal Worker Conference in Melbourne to gain further understanding of how the program is operating and continue talks with the Department of Employment about opportunities to broaden the scope of the program, generally to seasonal work in agriculture and horticulture.

Work Health and Safety (WHS) Issues Paper

The NFF has made a submission to the Federal Government on Wednesday in relation to the current regulatory burden imposed on business by WHS laws and regulations and opportunities to streamline the content to make it more relevant and easier to manage for the many farm businesses across Australia.

Regional Delivery for National Landcare Programme - Consultation

The Australian Government is currently conducting consultation on the design of the regional delivery components of the new National Landcare Programme. The consultation discussion document, and associated on line survey is available here.

The NFF is preparing a response, and any questions or contributions should be directed to Jack Knowles.
Green Army Announced

The Prime Minister and Minister Hunt announced the first successful projects for the Green Army last weekend. The media release can be found here. Details of successful projects can be found here.

The NFF will be analysing the successful projects to better understand how accessible the program has been for organisations delivering projects related to agriculture. If members are aware of any good project proposals that are unsuccessful, they would be useful to inform any approach we make to Minister Hunt and Minister Joyce regarding revision of the program over time. For further information, please contact Jack Knowles.

Farm Finance concessional loans announcement

This week Minister Joyce announced an additional $40 million of Farm Finance concessional loans for farmers in NSW and Queensland. It is worth noting that this is not new funding, but an allocation of remaining funds from when the new Coalition Government reallocated funding amounts among the states. While the funding is welcome, NFF member feedback still indicates that many farmers in need are unable to receive support due to stringent eligibility requirements. If members have feedback on how drought support measures could be better targeted, please send through to Dave McKeon.

Telstra partnership discussions progressing

This week the NFF met with Telstra for further discussions on partnerships between the NFF (including with members) and Telstra. A range of options were canvassed, including direct lines for farmers to call, savings on products for members, and opportunities for building farmer capacity and farmer-specific technology development. The NFF will be progressing these discussions with Telstra over the coming months.

Small Landcare Grants

Ministers Hunt and Joyce have announced $5 million in National Landcare Programme grants which will provide up to $20,000 for local groups to enhance their natural resources and engage their communities in land and environmental management. 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants 2014-15 are expected to open mid-September.

In addition the Government has asked all regional natural resource management organisations to invest at least 20 per cent of their Australian Government funding into Landcare and other local projects. It is estimated that a minimum of $90 million over four years is directed towards small projects under the National Landcare Programme.

For more see www.nrm.gov.au

2015 Science and innovation awards now open

The annual ABARES Science and innovation awards for young people in agriculture, fisheries and forestry foster greater participation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry through innovative scientific research projects.

The awards aim to assist industries improve productivity, sustainability and adaptability through the provision of science and innovation in research, development and extension.

Research project funding of up to $22,000 for a twelve month period is available, to young people between 18 and 35 years and their host organisations, who are working, employed or studying in agriculture, fisheries or forestry related industry in each category.

Applications are currently open closing in November with the winners announced in March next year.

Click here for more information.
CaneClips

This week Rob Eccles and John Agnew from MAPS talk about their harvest loss extension program for 2014.

Industry Update by Neil Fisher, CEO

The SRA Board has made a conscious decision to alternate its Brisbane Board meetings with regional visits. This will allow the Board to meet as many of our members, delegates, productivity service boards and industry stakeholders in their own region, and listen and learn about research and development issues of primary concern to your profitability and sustainability. Industry Update - 4 August 2014

Research and Development leads to Mobile Maturity Tester

With harvesting well underway, planning a harvest schedule to gain maximum profit is an activity many growers are dealing with at the moment. While the use of a dibbler to record brix readings on a refractometer works well and is cheap and simple to do, SRA’s Mobile Maturity Tester does this and much more. Described as a new generation high throughput, go anywhere sugarcane tester for maturity testing, the Mobile Maturity Tester measures the actual cane composition (CCS, fibre and pol) in the field without taking it back to a lab. Read here

Stop the spread of pests and diseases

To prevent the spread of pests and diseases, ensure that machinery is cleaned down after farming operations when moving machinery between farms within the same Pest Quarantine Area. If moving machinery between PQA’s, ensure that you have the correct approvals (permits) from Biosecurity Queensland prior to moving any machinery.

You can get more information on PQA’s through our website and our biosecurity information sheet.

Biosecurity Information Sheet

You may also find this CaneConnection article of interest that deals with the recent changes to biosecurity within the Queensland sugar industry.

Spotlight on Research

Soil Health and Nutrient Management is the second key focus area within SRA's Strategic Plan. This area focusses on understanding and improving soil health issues; understanding the impacts of on-farm practices on water quality; and improving methods and tools to enable, or improve, cane production on poor performing or marginal soils.

A grower group project that began last year has been investigating the effects of microbial additions to sugarcane soils and their effect on crop productivity. Quantifying the effects of microbial additions to sugarcane soils on crop productivity
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Contact us today with the details.