FREE Climate forecasting workshop to help in farm decisions

Professor Roger Stone (Director of the Australian Centre for Sustainable Catchments and a University of Southern Queensland Professor in Climatology and Water Resource) will show you in a workshop being held next Wednesday the 27th August how climate information could be used in planning fertiliser & planting activities and marketing & investment decisions.

To find out how climate forecasting can help you, come to the free workshop.

When: 9.45am til 2pm on Wednesday 27th August (smoko and lunch will be provided)

Where: CANEGROWERS Hall, 68 Tenth Street, Home Hill

RSVP to Tiffany on 4790 3600 or email bdk@canegrowers.com.au to confirm your attendance.
Harvest Update

Burdekin CCS per crush week 2013 & 2014

Burdekin Tonnes Cut Per Week

**BUDEKIN MILLS - 2014 SEASON**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ending</th>
<th>JUNE BUDGET (as at 10 June)</th>
<th>ACTUAL / FORECAST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rain Stops hrs</td>
<td>Week Tonnes</td>
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<td>18,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Season</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**CROP CRUSHED TO DATE**

- 2014 estimate: 7,990,000
- 2013 estimate: 7,990,000

**Invicta**

**Pioneer**

**Kalamia**

**Inkerman**
ABC Four Corners – Battle for the Reef
By Matt Keally, CANEGROWERS Senior Manager, Environment & Natural Resources

The ABC has broadcast a program on Four Corners titled “Battle for the Reef”.

The story focuses on the decision by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority that approved the plan to dump three million cubic metres of dredge spoil inside the marine park to expand the Abbot Point coal port.

The story details how the decision has shocked and angered the scientific community and focuses on internal documents obtained by Four Corners that reveals deep divisions between the scientists and bureaucrats behind the decision. The Chairman of the Marine Park Authority denies the decision was political and the Federal Environment Minister insists it will take place under the strictest environmental conditions.

The dumping approval also comes as scientists are confirming a link between port dredging and deadly coral disease for the first time.

This week the Marine Park Authority released a report showing the Great Barrier Reef has significantly declined in just the last five years. It confirms climate change and ocean acidification is threatening the very survival of the reef.

It all comes at a critical moment in the reef's history. In June, UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee criticised the dumping decision. Next year it will decide whether to place the Great Barrier Reef on the World Heritage "In Danger" list.

The story did not focus on the environmental impacts of agriculture or sugarcane on water quality impacts to the Great Barrier Reef. It seems as though coal, mining and port developments are the current focus of political and environmental groups.

Given the pressure by UNESCO on the Australian and Queensland Governments, the Queensland sugarcane industry has an excellent opportunity to consolidate the proactive work through the Reef Rescue program and gain significant positive leverage through Smartcane BMP.

This program was aired on Monday 18 August 2014 and can be viewed on ABC Four Corners website here.

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* Two employees paid fortnightly with membership discount applied. CANEGROWERS Burdekin is a registered BAS Agent - registration number 24762820
A message from the Ayr Police Service

Car Theft in the Burdekin

Unfortunately property theft remains an issue in Ayr and the surrounding rural districts and in particular, the unlawful use of motor vehicles.

In the majority of instances keys are left unsecured or in the vehicle, making it all too easy a target. Make sure if you are leaving your vehicle unattended it is locked and the keys are not left unsecured.

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 Giru
Marketing

✓ Minister McVeigh announced that the Queensland Government’s sugar industry investigation was moving ahead with representatives from across the sugar industry soon to be invited to have their say on the sector’s marketing and competition challenges following approval by the state government of the investigation.

✓ CANEGROWERS met with Queensland Department of Agriculture officials today. They confirmed that CANEGROWERS will be invited to make a submission to the Government’s Agricultural Cabinet Committee which is charged with oversight of the investigation.

Trade

✓ CANEGROWERS provided further information to Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in preparation for the next round of Trans pacific Partnership and the China Free Trade Agreement

Smartcane BMP

✓ CANEGROWERS attended an information session hosted by Bonsucro providing an outline of the program, current industry support and future targets.

✓ CANEGROWERS met with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to discuss current achievements of the Smartcane BMP program.

✓ CANEGROWERS visited and met with representatives from CANEGROWERS Mackay, Sugar Services Proserpine, Plane Creek Productivity Services Limited and Mackay Area Productivity Services to discuss the concept of an industry combined productivity services and support for the Smartcane BMP program.

Environment

✓ CANEGROWERS attended the Department of Natural Resources and Mine six month update.

✓ Minister Andrew Cripps provided an overview of the activities Department of Natural Resources and Mines have undertaken to improve services and reduce red tape including water meter readings, land valuations and vegetation management.

Ravensdown

✓ CANEGROWERS met with a representatives of an international fertiliser company involved in the due diligence process for the RFA business last week.

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**CANEGROWERS’ leadership has earned the respect of community, industry and government for its persistence and professionalism.**

*The Burdekin’s local and regional leadership is complemented by CANEGROWERS’ leadership at national and international levels.*

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Plus GST
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⇒ Experience in Semi & Coach driving
⇒ Experience in farm work
⇒ HC Licence
⇒ Ph 0499 455 553

Good rollup at dewatering project sessions

On Wednesday about 30 interested growers and officers from DNR, DEHP, DAFF and DSITIA attended the project observation and presentation arranged by BPS who are delivering the RWUE-Irrigation Futures Program in the Burdekin.

The program is funded by the State Government through the Department of Natural Resources & Mines.

Two of the five bore sites in the Mulgrave sub area that have been funded under the dewatering component of the RWUE program were observed in operation prior to a presentation on the Mulgrave Dewatering Project at the Clare Club.

The following points are some of those covered in the proof of concept presentation:
- 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

Comments raised during discussion at the conclusion of the presentation included the need for ongoing support; adequate funding and the need for an offset or rebate of channel water costs of to encourage further groundwater pumping.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin Managers had discussions the next day with DNR Senior Project Officer Karen Murday who travelled from Brisbane to attend the dewatering project sessions.

Right: Karen Murday DNR RWUE Senior Project Officer with CANEGROWERS Burdekin’s Wayne Smith.
Sugar

The raw sugar market has continued its downward trend. Although the market traded over a 100 point range it only ended up ultimately moving 40 points with the October14 contract closing the fortnight at 15.92 c/lb while the March and May closed at 17.77 and 18.05 c/lb.

Physical demand for sugar remains low with over 1 million raws yet to be sold out of Thailand. This now poses the threat of these sugars being delivered to the October tape rolling the problem forward to the first quarter of 2015.

The second half July UNICA numbers for Brazil show sugar production and yields down. This could be an indication that the crop will come in well under expectations.

QSL’s view remains that we expect prices to continue to trend low while the surplus is in tow. We anticipate sugar prices to move higher once surplus has fed into the supply chain.

Currency

The Australian dollar has remained relatively stable over the fortnight with the range trading between 93.70 US cents and 92.40 US cents with mixed data out of the US.

Geo-political issues have heightened once again weighing on the risk appetite of the market. The Aussie seems to be determined to hold at these levels for now but our view remains that we expect to see the Australian dollar come down later this year. We remain of the view the US will move forward with its economic recovery giving some relief to the Australian exporters later in the year with a lower dollar.
Pricing information

2014 Season Advances & Payments
as at 6 August 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/tonne IPS</th>
<th>% estimated return</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial *</td>
<td>$249</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 August 14</td>
<td>$275</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 October 14</td>
<td>$296</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 December 14</td>
<td>$317</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>22 January 15</td>
<td>$332</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 February 15</td>
<td>$342</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 March 15</td>
<td>$353</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 April 15</td>
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<td>87.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 May 15</td>
<td>$373</td>
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<td>25 June 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Payment</td>
<td>$415</td>
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* 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 20 August 2014

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2016 Season</td>
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Estimated QSL 2014 Pool Prices
As at 15 August 2014

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<th>$/Tonne IPS NET</th>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Discretionary Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
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<td>QSL Growth Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL 2014 Season Forward Pool</td>
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<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2016</td>
<td>$451</td>
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</table>

Growers 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.
Ag Infrastructure & Logistics Forum: 18 August, Canberra

In partnership with the Australasian Railway Association (ARA), the National Farmers’ Federation (NFF) will be hosting an Infrastructure and Logistics Forum, taking place next Monday 18 August, 2014 in Canberra. The forum will be a unique opportunity to bring together key industry and government leaders to explore the challenges facing rural and regional infrastructure, and identify pathways to resolve them.

The forum will have a strong focus on the importance of cost-effective freight flows within Australia, and identify options to encourage further investment, and remove the regulatory impediments holding the sector back. Speakers include:

- The Hon. Warren Truss MP, Deputy PM, Minister for Infrastructure & Regional Development (confirmed);
- Brent Finlay, President, NFF;
- Bryan Nye OAM, CEO, Australasian Railway Association;
- Luke Fraser, Principal, Juturna Infrastructure;
- Angus Trigg, Director Media & Government Relations, GrainCorp; and
- Andrew Higgins - CSIRO

For more information, please contact Tony Mahar on 02 6269 5666 or tmahar@nff.org.au

Blueprint for Australian Agriculture Cocktail & Forum

The NFF will be holding its third Blueprint forum next Tuesday 19 August 2014 in Canberra. The Forum will be held at Hotel Realm, from 8:30am to 4:00pm. The forum will report on the progress of each Blueprint working group, discuss the alignment between the Blueprint’s priorities and the Government’s White Paper, and identify areas that Australian agriculture needs to focus on, in order to drive real change across the sector. As part of the Forum, the NFF will host a Blueprint cocktail function on Monday 18 August 2014, 6pm to 8pm, Hotel Realm, Canberra.

For further information please contact Sophie Keatinge by phone 02 6269 5666 or via email at skeatinge@nff.org.au.

NFF Congress ‘Producing Our Future’: Early Bird Rego Now Open!

Early Bird registrations are now open for Australia’s leading agricultural event, NFF Congress 2014, being held in Canberra on Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 October, bringing together Australian agriculture: farmers, industry and government from grassroots to global.

The NFF Congress will look at a diverse range of issues affecting the Australian agricultural sector, on both a policy-development level and a practical on-farm level.

This year’s Congress will focus on core business, left-field ideas and blue-sky opportunities for agriculture at the grassroots, Australian and global level.

Attendees will hear from an exciting range of domestic and international speakers, including key parliamentarians, thought leaders and commercial decision-makers. Speakers will cover a range of high-profile issues, including agriculture’s role within society, competition for natural resources, global trends impacting on farm businesses, practical strategies to drive profitability and much more!

The Congress is open to all within agriculture, and farmers are strongly encouraged to attend. Early bird registrations have now opened: to register, or for further information, visit the Congress website today.
Modern award: annual leave ‘common issues’ conciliation

This week the NFF participated in two days of conciliation over employer claims to increase flexibility in the annual leave terms in modern awards. Key claims are the ability to pay for annual leave in the regular pay cycle, cashing out annual leave, direct excessive annual leave to be taken and permitting an annual close down each year. Also in issue was the ACTU claim to insert a term of the National Employment Standards in all modern awards so that leave loading is payable on all annual leave on termination, regardless of what the modern award provides. Some progress was made on excessive leave accruals, however, the remaining issues are likely to be considered by a Full Bench of the Fair Work Commission in the two day hearing scheduled for next week. For more information, please contact Sarah McKinnon.

Seasonal Worker Program: member views invited

This week the NFF invites members to provide comments on how the Seasonal Workers Program is working for them or whether it should be expanded to cover other industries within the sector. Currently the Program seeks to provide a reliable, job ready seasonal workforce to the horticulture, cotton and cane industries, while supporting the development of small nations in the Pacific and Timor-Leste. Workers can come to Australia for 14-26 week periods each year and can return for the following harvest by mutual agreement. The NFF is developing a new policy on the issue with a view to seeking an expansion of the program. For more information or to provide contact, please email Sarah McKinnon.

RIRDC Rural Women’s 2015 Awards: apply now!

Nominations are still open for the RIRDC Rural Women’s Award, which recognises outstanding women in rural communities and their innovation and commitment to improving life in rural Australia.

The RIRDC Awards winners will receive financial and professional support and a variety of assistance in development opportunities. Successful applicants will have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving life in rural Australia, as well as having a clear vision or project for the future of rural people, industries and communities.

State and Territory winners will receive a grant of $10,000 to go towards making their rural vision a reality. A national winner will be chosen from the list of State and Territory winners, and will receive an additional $10,000, while the national runner up will receive a further $5,000. Applications close on the 31st of October 2014. More information and application forms can be downloaded from here.

ABARES Weekly Climate, Ag and Water Update:

- During the past week much of Australia recorded little to no rainfall. Rainfall in excess of 15mm was restricted to western Tasmania, the far south of Victoria, the central coast of New South Wales, and the north Queensland tropical coast.

- Parts of Western Australia have recorded day-time temperatures over 30 degrees Celsius this week, with some regions recording day-time temperatures 10 degrees above average for this time of year. The combination of soil moisture deficiencies and high temperature has done little to support winter crop prospect across northern and eastern parts of the wheatbelt.

- The rainfall forecast for the next eight days indicates that falls in excess 25 millimetres are likely for much of eastern Australia. The highest falls, of up to 200mm, are likely to occur along the eastern coastline and across inland regions of New South Wales and southern Queensland.

- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin increased 167GL this week and are at 66 per cent of total capacity.

- The Queensland young cattle indicator price (330-400 kg live weight C3) averaged 347 cents a kilogram this week, 3 per cent higher than the previous week. Cattle prices fell in NSW and rose in Victoria.

The saleyard indicator price of lamb (18-22kg fat score 2-4) fell in most states in the week ending 8 August, compared with the previous week. In particular, the indicator price fell by around 9 per cent in both Victoria and Western Australia. For the full report, please see here.
More intensive farming regions added to drought declared list

The State Government has added remaining areas of southeast Queensland that had not previously been drought declared to the list of official drought declared shires. The declarations are effective as at August 1 and cover council areas including Brisbane, Ipswich, the Lockyer Valley, Logan, Redlands, Scenic Rim, and Somerset. While relatively small in terms of geographic size, these declarations cover a crucial component of the State’s agricultural production, and in particular many of the high-value and perishable commodities that supply the huge population in the region. QFF CEO Dan Galligan spoke to ABC 612 last week explaining what the drought declarations means to the Brisbane audience, available to listen here.

The weekend’s rain event has brought welcome respite to many farmers, with falls of more than 50mm recorded in some farming regions. However, disappointingly, the rain event failed to match the forecast for parts of the Darling Downs, with many farmers in this key farming region missing out on substantial beneficial rainfall.

NORTHERN AUSTRALIA DEVELOPMENT MUST BE PLANNED AND SUSTAINABLE

QFF has lodged a submission to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on the Green Paper for developing Northern Australia. The submission is available here and details QFF’s views on the opportunities and constraints that come with increasing development in Northern Australia. QFF sees that there is a need for clear policy direction on developing the north that lifts it beyond being an election pledge. QFF is looking for sensible and sustainable development of the north, facilitated by policies that encourage growth and development, along with sufficient support for supply chain and logistics development, as well as market development. Clearly coordinating this effort and blending the requirements between science and agronomy and investment opportunity will be fundamental to any long term success for Australia agricultural development.

GROUNDWATER TENDER ROUND STILL OPEN

QFF Water Policy Officer Ian Johnson has spoken to ABC Rural about the just-closed tender round for groundwater buyback from the Condamine Alluvium on the Darling Downs. The interview is available here, where Mr Johnson is joined by Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment, Simon Birmingham. The tender round closed on August 14.

QFF WORKING ON SOLUTIONS TO ENERGY CHALLENGE

QFF earlier this month spoke to the State Government’s Agricultural Cabinet Committee on QFF’s and our member’s proposal to assist intensive farming industries grapple with the difficult issues associated with rising electricity costs and increasing energy efficiency. QFF is continuing to work with a range of industry partners and stakeholders on this crucial policy area.

NEW SPEED LIMITS DETERMINED

THE State Government has announced a new round of speed limit changes on Queensland roads. A significant number of speed limits that many of regional Queenslanders would have hoped to have seen increased (or at least retained) have been decreased or kept at their current levels. Nonetheless, QFF respects the thorough process that the Department of Transport has put into this review in assessing the speed limits on a number of roads. The full list is available here. There are some speed limit increases to 110km/hour, including the Carnarvon Highway between Surat and St George, on the Leichhardt Highway between Taroom and Miles, and the Warrego Highway between Jackson and Roma and between Macalister to Brigalow.

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