Wilmar Cane Supply Strategic Direction

Your Board held their first meeting for the year on Tuesday 10th February.

Part of the meeting was set aside to receive a presentation from Steve Postma, Wilmar’s Burdekin CS&T Manager.

Steve advised that his team is working on five strategic themes of:

- Standardisation
- Safety
- Value Add
- Crop
- People

On the topic of **Standardisation**, Steve advised that Wilmar is focused on “finding the best way of doing it and then standardising the process across their eight mills”. Steve provided examples of work already completed in this area of the changes to the consignment notes, communications (mainly changes to how letters to growers are drafted and distributed) and changes to Human Resource practices.

The biggest standardisation process for the coming 18 to 24 months is the roll out of the new Geographic Information System (GIS) where Wilmar will move away from the current “Farm Map” system. This change will eventually impact on the way farms are mapped, estimated and how the harvest is managed, although growers should see no changes for the 2015 season.

On the topic of **Safety**, inspectors from Workplace Health and Safety Queensland have advised they will be undertaking a consultative two year project to come and see “what is there” in regard to cane, rail and transport ...they will focus on “Paddock to the Mill”. See article on page 6 of canenews on a Workplace Health and Safety responsibility that could impact you. Moving forward Wilmar will continue their focus and enthuses on the on-line Siding Induction process and risk assessments.

Steve also advised that Wilmar will be undertaking between 2 to 4 level crossing upgrades per annum over the coming years. The crossings marked for upgrade this year include Beach Road, Kalamia, Ucchino’s on Groper Creek Road and Drynie Road at the entry to Pioneer Mill.

**Value Add**...the main area Wilmar is focused on as a value-add is the GPS on harvesters project. Once the new GIS system is operational the focus will return to the GPS project. Everyone is well aware of the issue harvester speed has on yield and the challenges around this. Wilmar is of the view that once growers can access data on harvester speed this will be of value and will assist growers.

Wilmar is also focusing on re-writing the Grower Web mainly in the security area and around sign in details and passwords plus to move to having the Grower Web accessible via mobile devices such as smart phones.

Into the future Wilmar is looking at implementing APPs which will allow information to be pushed out rather than growers having to go to a web site and pick up the information. An example given was if a grower’s dirt levels were high this info could be pushed out pro-actively rather than the current reactive process.

Continues page 2
Wilmar Cane Supply Strategic Direction continued

Other APPs under consideration include Loco locations, this would include if the loco has a growers bins on it or not. Wilmar has this data already it is just a matter of developing the tool to share the data.

Crop planting incentive....last season this region had an additional approximately 600 hectares of new ground under cane ....mainly on land suppling Invicta Mill.

On the topic of People, Steve advised that the Wilmar Enterprise negotiations begin next week. Directors advised they hoped the negotiations could be finalised prior to the crush commencing to avoid any unrest and delays.

As usual Steve was very open in his communications and Directors all felt the meeting was of value, albeit there was some concern when Steve arrived at the Board meeting in goal house strips....

You can donate to get Steve out of gaol on Saturday 18 April at Woolworths in Ayr.

Support Time4Kids to help raise money for Police-Citizens Youth Club’s youth crime prevention programs and activities.

PAUL’S YARD
CLEAN UP
ABN: 41 677 579 848

PULL DOWN THOSE OLD SHEDS
PULL OUT THOSE OLD TANK STANDS
CLEAN THE PLACE UP

FREE QUOTES
Phone 0416 952 932
Paul Felesina of PAUL’S YARD CLEAN UP
Grower Pricing Information Sessions
By Cathy Kelly, QSL Industry Relationship Manager

Representatives from Queensland Sugar Limited and Wilmar addressed over 150 growers over three individual sessions last Friday to outline their pricing options for the 2015 season and provide an update on the current international sugar market.

Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) Finance Manager Supplier Relations Bryce Wenham said that following feedback from growers around the state, QSL had simplified its pool options this season from seven pricing pools to four, these being:

- QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool
- QSL Actively Managed Pool
- QSL 2-Season Forward Pool
- QSL Harvest Pool

Other changes for 2015 included the ability for QSL to start pricing the Harvest Pool’s storage peak as early as 1 December the year prior and the ability to use ‘put options’ to protect the value of the Production Buffer by locking in a price.

While the overall structure of QSL’s 2016 2-Season Forward Pool remains the same, it now features pricing targets at $450, $475 and $500, which allow QSL to price more sugar when these levels are reached.

This added discretion at these points will enable QSL to complete more pricing at these favourable thresholds, rather than being bound by the pool’s usual +/- 30% discretionary pricing limits.

Jean-Vincent Piot from Wilmar’s Singapore team also addressed the Burdekin meetings, speaking on the company’s operations and providing an update outlining key themes in the current international sugar market. Click here.

Mr Wenham said he was pleased that so many Burdekin growers had made the time to come along to the information sessions.

“It’s important that all growers understand the pricing options they have for the 2015 season, as the decisions they need to make by the close of nominations on 23 February will ultimately affect their returns and potentially their cash flow for the year head,” Mr Wenham said.

“Choosing not to do anything with your sugar is actually a decision to put all of your production in the QSL Harvest Pool, which is the QSL pool with the highest level of price risk due to its exposure to the market.

“So we really urge people to take a little time to familiarise themselves with their pricing options and make an informed choice that fits the unique needs of their business.”

Mr Wenham said that a copy of his presentation as well as Pool Description Statements for each QSL pool and QSL’s Marketing Guide were available on the QSL website by clicking here.

QSL’s Industry Relationship Managers are also available to answer growers’ questions and can be contacted on 0409 372 305 (Carla Keith) or 0409 285 074 (Cathy Kelly).

2015 Season pricing nomination closes soon
The nomination close date for 2015 season pricing is Monday 23rd February. Any growers that are wishing to Forward Price must have their orders (i.e. tonnes of sugar they wish to nominate into committed tonnage pools) into the system by 5pm on the 23rd February. Growers may elect to commit up to a maximum of 60% of the production they estimate.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin offers assistance to it’s member with using the grower web to forward price. We cannot recommend how you choose to price your cane, this is an individual decision made by the grower.

If you would like assistance please don’t wait until the last minute, phone 4790 3600 to arrange a time for Tiffany or Michelle to assist you with using the grower web to enter your forward pricing commitments.
The latest Climate Change forecasts from the CSIRO for the Burdekin region

Extreme temperatures are projected to increase at a similar rate to mean temperature, with a substantial increase in the temperature reached on hot days, the frequency of hot days, and the duration of warm spells (very high confidence).

Mean sea level will continue to rise and height of extreme sea-level events will also increase (very high confidence).

For 1966 to 2009, the average rate of relative sea-level rise for Australia, from observations along the coast, was 1.4 mm/year.

There is very high confidence in future sea-level rise. By 2030 the projected range of sea-level rise along the coasts of the Monsoonal Northeast cluster is 0.06 to 0.16 m above the 1986–2005 level, with only minor differences between emission scenarios. As the century progresses, projections are sensitive to concentration pathways. By 2090, the intermediate emissions case (RCP4.5) is associated with a rise of 0.28 to 0.61 m and the high case (RCP8.5) a rise of 0.38 to 0.81 m. Under certain circumstances, sea-level rises higher than these may occur.

Late in the century warming of the Monsoonal North East coastal waters poses a significant threat to the marine environment through biological changes in marine species, including local abundance, community structure, and enhanced coral bleaching risk. Sea surface temperature is projected to increase in the range of 2.2 to 3.9 °C by 2090 under a high scenario (RCP8.5). The sea will also become more acidic, with acidification proportional to emissions growth.

Increased intensity of extreme rainfall events is projected, with high confidence.

Despite uncertainty in future projections of total rainfall for the Monsoonal North East sub-cluster, an understanding of the physical processes that cause extreme rainfall, coupled with modelled projections, indicate with high confidence a future increase in the intensity of extreme rainfall events. However, the magnitude of the increases cannot be confidently projected.

Drought will continue to be a feature of the regional climate variability, but projected changes are uncertain.

With medium confidence, fewer but more intense tropical cyclones are projected.

TROPICAL CYCLONES: Tropical cyclones are projected to become less frequent, but the proportion of the most intense storms is projected to increase (medium confidence).

FIRE WEATHER: The primary determinant of bushfire in the Monsoonal North East is fuel availability, which varies mainly with rainfall. Changes to future rainfall will be the determining factor of change to fire frequency. When fire does occur, there is high confidence fire behaviour will be more extreme.

EVAPORATION: Potential evapotranspiration is projected to increase in all seasons as warming progresses (high confidence).

HUMIDITY: There is little change projected in relative humidity until later in the century under a high emission scenario (RCP8.5), where a decrease in relative humidity is projected (medium confidence).

Click here for more information.
Interest rate drop creates opportunities for farmers

The Reserve Bank last week cut the base interest rate to 2.25 percent on the back of declining commodity prices but with inflation remaining moderate. The low interest rate and predicted slow economic environment present both opportunities and challenges for farmers. Farm finance is historically cheap, which provides increased opportunities for repaying debt, lowering operating costs, or possible expansion. Yet slow economic growth and instability presents risks to commodity prices with easing demand for some commodities.

There has also been a gradual slide in the Australian dollar to the high 70s US cents mark, which has helped export commodity prices. The converse to that is that the low dollar increases the cost of some capital upgrades such as machinery. Nevertheless, at its current rate, the exchange rate is at a much preferable level to the 100c plus mark that it has hovered around in recent years. While petrol prices have dropped to unexpected lows (unfortunately almost cheaper than milk in some petrol stations) the diesel price has not dropped at the same rate, although it is still back from its previously very high levels.

Reef Quality Grants close May 2015

The Reef Water Quality Grants are coming to a close in May 2015. This is likely to be the last opportunity for farmers to access water quality incentive grants.

These grants are capped at $24,000 and will support farmers to implement changes that yield improved water quality leaving the farm.

Measures supported by the grant include (but are not limited to):
- Recycle pits
- Improved fertiliser or pesticide application including GPS linked to variable flow applicators
- Measures to improve irrigation efficiencies
- Legume planters

If you are thinking of implementing any of the above changes or have something in mind that could possibly reduce the losses from your farm, please call Tom McShane (0429 834 344) or Julie (4783 4344) at BBIFMAC soon.

Sugarcane Grants

Maximise your productivity by applying for WATER QUALITY GRANTS

Applications now open.
Funding is available for practices that reduce nutrients and pesticides leaving Burdekin sugarcane farms.
Contact a Field Officer:
NO Dry Tropics
David Olsen 0468 741 609
Luciano Verpaele 0417 799 023
DAFF
Brock Dembowski 0467 819 592
BBIFMAC
Tom McShane 0429 834 344

Save money through:
- Effective chemical application rates
- Precision fertiliser placement
- Improved irrigation efficiency
- Reduced off farm runoff

NO Dry Tropics is providing support through the Australian Government Reef Programme to help farmers implement changes that improve management practices and productivity while also reducing agricultural run-off into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

ENDS MAY 2015

NQ Dry Tropics

Australian Government

RYELLEN HELIWORK

Your local operators servicing the Burdekin and Haughton areas for 17 years

Specialising in
- Vine spraying
- Fallow sprayout
- Feral pig control
- Moddus application

Mark your farm maps and fax to 47 824 175 or email to ryellen1@bigpond.com

Ryan Jones 0427 111 176
First Aid: It’s your responsibility

A person conducting a business or undertaking has the primary duty under the WHS Act to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that workers and other persons are not exposed to health and safety risks arising from the business or undertaking - Workplace Health & Safety Act 2011.

The WHS Regulations place specific obligations on a person conducting a business or undertaking in relation to first aid, including requirements to:

- Ensure that an adequate number of workers are trained to administer first aid at the workplace or that workers have access to an adequate number of other people who have been trained to administer first aid.
- Provide first aid equipment and ensure each worker at the workplace has access to the equipment.
- Ensure access to facilities for the administration of first aid.

When considering the provision of first aid, a person conducting a business or undertaking must consider all relevant matters including:

- The nature of the work being carried out at the workplace - risk level
- The nature of the hazards at the workplace
- The size, location and nature of the workplace
- The number and composition of the workers at the workplace.

Know what your obligations are, and be prepared.

Is a farm a high risk workplace?

A high risk workplace means a workplace where workers are exposed to hazards that could result in serious injury or illness and would require first aid.

Check your level of risk

- Do you use hazardous machinery - for example: mobile plant, chainsaws, power presses and lathes?
- Do you use hazardous substances - for example - chemicals, petrol?
- Are you at risk of falls that could result in serious injury - for example - working at heights?
- Do you carry out hazardous forms of work - for example - working in confined spaces, welding, demolition, electrical work and abrasive blasting?

How will first aid training help?

First aid is the immediate treatment or care given to a person suffering from an injury or illness until more advanced care is provided or the person recovers.

First aid involves emergency treatment and support to:

- preserve life through monitoring wellbeing until the person recovers or is transferred into the care of ambulance paramedic, doctor or nurse
- protect a person, particularly if they are unconscious
- prevent a condition worsening

CANEGROWERS Burdekin are holding free first aid courses for members on Wednesday 25th February and Wednesday 4th March, phone 4790 3600 to secure your spot today.
A message from the Ayr Police Service

Property theft

The incidents of property theft continue to target the rural areas of our community.

Since 01 January, 2015, there have been a number of property offences including:

- Unlawful use of a motor vehicle from McNeil Road Jarvisfield. Vehicle was unsecured with the keys in the vehicle;
- Stealing from a building (open farm shed) from Rita Island Road, Jarvisfield;
- Unlawful entry of a motor vehicle on Kilrie Road, Ayr, where a window was smashed to gain entry and money stolen from the vehicle;
- Stolen fuel trailer containing 80l of fuel and battery from Becker Road, Brandon.

Regarding the Stealing from a building offence in Jarvisfield, a CCTV system was in use. As a result of the recorded footage, a male offender was arrested and charged with this matter and is currently before the courts.

Unlawful entry of vehicles has increased in the Ayr Police division over the past several months. In many of these instances, cars have been left unlocked or the keys made easily accessible and then valuables have been left in the vehicle, e.g. money, wallets, portable electronic smart devices, etc.

A greater number of property offences in rural areas are targeted and offenders do case various locations looking for places to commit their crimes, e.g. location of 4 wheelers, isolated sheds, tractors (for UHF radios, fuel), etc. However many are also opportunistic where offenders take the spur of the moment opportunity to commit these types of offences as the opportunity presents itself.

Close by in Clare Police division, property offences have also been committed:

- Burglary at a residence on Ayr Dalbeg Rd, Dalbeg, cash & credit card stolen;
- Unlawful use of a motor vehicle on Ayr Dalbeg Road, Clare – a 4 wheeler was stolen from an open farm shed
- Unlawful use of a vehicle Ayr Dalbeg Road, Millaroo – a 4 wheeler stolen from a farm with the keys in the ignition;
- Unlawful entry of a motor vehicle Keith Venables Road, Upper Haughton – forced entry into a locked tractor and UHF radio stolen.

What else can we do?

Ensure the security of keys;

Not leaving valuables in cars;

Consider removing UHF radios from tractors when not in use – does the time it takes to remove then replace the UHF next time outweigh the frustration and loss if stolen??

Installation of CCTV or movement activated cameras – colour / infra-red cameras would be best;

Leaving more valuable items, e.g. 4 wheelers in lockable sheds;

Not leaving property, e.g. tools, etc, readily accessible, but securing them;

Also, in many instances where property theft is reported, apart from a brand there is no serial number to positively identify the property. For example, a property list received by Police will include the description of ‘green drill’ – do you know how many green drills are around?? Probably twice as many than there are white four wheel drive utes driving around the Burdekin.

Further, talk to your neighbours or if you see a vehicle or person acting suspiciously or in a location where they shouldn’t be, take down details of that person and vehicle including registration number if possible and call Police. If you do fall victim of property theft, again let your neighbours know. This not only increases their level of awareness but your neighbour may have seen something of interest related to those involved.

By taking further steps to protect your property, you are also protecting your business, your neighbours and the area you live in.

If you have any information about these thefts or of suspicious activity in your area, I would urge you to contact your local police station or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Yours sincerely

Steve BARTON
Snr Sgt, 5950
OIC Ayr
4790 3555
CORES: About Helping Mates and Eliminating Suicide

"Going along to the CORES session didn’t bring my mate back, nor did it take away the pain of his loss, but it did answer some of my questions”.

CORES is a not-for-profit, non-government community organisation. Their charter is suicide prevention with the one day suicide intervention training at the heart of the program.

CORES operates from the ground up. It draws on the fact that everyone is capable of saving a life. They teach people what to look for, where to go and who to ask for help. The people trained are not there to solve people’s problems, they are there to recognise when a friend is doing it tough and help them get to people who can assist them.

If you’re interested in gaining some skills which may one day help your mate, your son or daughter, wife or husband, mum or dad, get in touch with CORES.

CORES have provided the following tips:

1. When you notice something is not right with someone, take the time to ask them if he/she is ok.
2. There are many great services available use them. You may have to help your mate access these services.
3. Self care is essential. Take the time to do the things you enjoy doing.
4. Physical activity is a great way of improving our moods. Something as simple as a walk with our partner can change our day.
5. Help out your mates. It’s been proven many times over that doing something nice for someone else makes us feel good about ourselves.

CORES Co-ordinator Ross Romeo can be contacted on 0427 455 313 or email coresqld@kentishrc.com.au

Healthy Habitats 2015

Jaymie Rains, Healthy Habitats Project Officer from NQ Dry Tropics encourages readers to check out the great “weed identification videos” (click here) prepared by Biosecurity Queensland.

Jaymie advises these clips may help you identify some scary weeds or give you advice on how to control those weeds. Jaymie has also advised that you can contact her if you have any questions regarding weeds on your property and she will help you out.

p: 07 4724 3544 m: 0427 023 192 e: Jaymie.Rains@nqdrytropics.com.au

Water Quality Improvement Plan to be Updated

NQ Dry Tropics has been given funding from the Australian Government Reef Programme for a project to update the Burdekin WQIP that was originally developed in 2008/09.

WQIP’s are a vital part of the Australian and Queensland Government’s Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan).

The first meeting, held at NQ Dry Tropics in Townsville yesterday was an introduction to the project and was attended by Manager Wayne Smith as a stakeholder representative.

The introduction involved an overarching presentation of the main components of the WQIP update, an overview of the supporting studies being commissioned, and an introduction to the INFFER (Investment Framework for Environmental Resources) which is a tool that will be utilised to assess the cost-effectiveness of meeting ecologically relevant targets for pollutant reduction for the NQ Dry Tropics section of the Great Barrier Reef as well as developing and prioritising projects to address environmental issues such as reduced water quality, biodiversity, environmental pests and land degradation.
Trade
✓ The Thai and Australian sugar industries have called on the Indian government to resist the introduction of export subsidies, describing the practice as the most disruptive of government policies.
✓ Warren Males, a panellist at the Kingsman Dubai sugar conference, discussed the marketing reviews underway by the federal and state governments.

Reef
✓ Government policy relating to Reef – depending on who governs:

LNP
⇒ The policy invests $155m over the next four years in “practical reef protection work” with $35m per year for whole-of-government reef initiatives.
⇒ $17.1 million to boost reef vessel tracking services based in Gladstone and continue the Great Barrier Reef Foundation’s e-Reefs project to deliver real time monitoring and modelling of the reef system.
⇒ Money from the $590m innovation fund will go towards investment in “practical environmental science, research and development” though it is not specified how much of the $590m will go towards that.

ALP
⇒ Has promised a $100 million investment over five years to meet new targets and reduce pollution run-off for the Great Barrier Reef.
⇒ It also proposes to form a new committee to look at Reef issues, but has provided insufficient detail on where the funding would be spent and the new targets.

✓ CANEGROWERS attended the Reef Alliance meeting in Brisbane. Discussion focused on Reef Trust, Reef Programme activities, Smartcane BMP and Queensland election.
✓ CANEGROWERS met with Department of Environment in Brisbane to discuss Reef Programme, Reef Trust and Smartcane BMP.

Red Witchweed
✓ CANEGROWERS has spoken with Australian Government, Biosecurity Queensland, and other industry organisations to resolve the eradication of this weed.
✓ CANEGROWERS will be attending a meeting instigated by the Australian Government in Canberra on this matter.

Fuel credits
✓ CANEGROWERS participated in a teleconference of the Fuel Tax Credit Coalition which includes a number of industries (e.g. agriculture, resources, tourism, irrigation, fishing) which have off road use of fuel and hence currently receive the fuel tax credit. With the Federal budget due in the next few months there is often a need to defend the fuel tax credits which is mistakenly seen as a subsidy. The following key messages will be included in a booklet along with a number of examples including cane growing, harvesting and transport to the mill (rail).

- Fuel tax credits are vital to regional Australia
- A diverse range of diesel users claim fuel tax credits
- Removing fuel tax credits would undermine industry competitiveness
- Fuel excise should not apply to the off-road use of diesel
- Fuel tax credits are not a subsidy

Australian Bureau of Statistics
✓ CANEGROWERS meet with Australian Bureau of Statistics who have established a Rural and Agriculture division in Brisbane. The objective was to understand some of the industry needs and sources of data.
Constructed Wetlands Development for the Barratta Creek Catchment

Constructed wetlands are used to naturally increase the quality of run-off water or excess water not only in agriculture but also in towns and cities across Australia.

Irrigation tailwater runoff from several large cane farms in the Burdekin-Haughton Water Supply Scheme in North Queensland is being diverted from the current tailwater drain system through a constructed wetland via a remediation pond.

At a recent update it was reported 3,000 trees have been planted with another 1,000 of wetland, over story and mid-story species put in; with an additional 6,000 stems to be planted planned for the following two months.

Stage 2 of the wetland will boast an island to provide safe habitat for local fauna and will also play a large role in stripping nutrient and chemicals from the water as it flows back into the tailwater drain on its way to the natural creek systems. This project aims to showcase other options for the many Burdekin farmers who choose to invest in tailwater recycling to not only improve farm water use efficiency but also to protect our environment.

Below are images from the wetland site, provided by Senior Project Officer Merv Pyott.

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Sugar

After a steady comeback to start the year for raw sugar, the market has retreated from the upper 15-cent level over the fortnight, making an early high of 15.51c/lb before trading to a low of 14.22c/lb, eventually closing the period at 14.51c/lb.

The remainder of the curve has also crumbled away with no real major developments guiding the market, resulting in a marked strengthening of the MAR/MAY spread in from -25 points to just -7.

The Brazilian Real (10-year low of 2.7842) and the Indian Rupee have weakened significantly off the back of a strong US Dollar, providing little support for sugar prices.

The market looks to have consolidated at current levels and will likely continue trading sideways until some solid fundamental news gives it some guidance.

Longer term, a moderate global deficit remains in play, with all eyes focused on Brazil’s weather patterns. But this deficit is unlikely to emerge until Q3 2015.

Currency

Meanwhile, our currency has continued to retreat, with levels now consistently below the 79-cent mark.

The RBA made a surprise 25-point rate cut announcement last week, pushing the Australian Dollar down 160 points to a six-year low of 0.7626. Commentary was less dovish than expected, however the majority of the market still believes this will not be a solitary cut and may be followed by further cuts in the coming months.

Although the post-RBA losses were mostly recovered, the currency remains under pressure from the surging US Dollar, which continues to be boosted by positive US data, as seen in Friday’s non-farms jobs print. Falls in major commodities across the board have forced many central banks across the world to commence rate cuts while Chinese data has begun to show signs of a slowing economy, providing less support to Australian growth prospects.

Risk remains to the downside, with the RBA seemingly focussed on moving the exchange rate down towards the 75-cent level, which will be welcome news for the Australian exporter.
Bearish sentiment dominates in Dubai

QSL Treasurer Stephen Stone recently attended the 11th Annual Kingsman Sugar Conference in Dubai. Below he outlines some of the key themes and messages from the three-day event, which attracts over 650 sugar industry representatives from around the world.

GLOBAL PRODUCTION LEVELS

- It seems any significant global production response to current lower ICE 11 prices remains insulated by the domestic agricultural policies of many countries.
- India is expected to extend their export subsidy program soon, whilst Indonesia’s delay in granting import licences has had a similar effect on sugar sentiment. Meanwhile China appears to be moving toward direct subsidies as their sugar stockpile grows.
- Weaker prices in other soft commodities also seems to be making any shift from sugar to alternate crops less appealing, keeping growers in the industry despite a fifth year of surplus.
- Broader macro drivers look likely to remain important variables, with oil prices dragging other commodities down, whilst the stronger US dollar will help make Brazil more competitive.
- Thailand and Europe were seen as the two regions showing the greatest increases in productivity in recent years.

OTHER INFLUENCING FACTORS

- One speaker from Europe said he saw 2017 definitely delivering more refined sugar to the export market, with significant pressure on refining premiums.
- Refining capacity is now very high, with toll refining more commonplace over the last decade. This has also increased the global stockpile of refined sugar.
- A speaker from the International Sugar Organisation also alluded to the increasingly dramatic ‘anti-sugar’ lobby, and urged that the sugar industry unite to ensure consumers are more informed as to the benefits of sugar in a normal diet.

THE BIG QUESTION

- Overall there were no major curveballs at this year’s conference. But what does it all mean for Queensland’s sugar producers?
- The majority of those at Dubai were bearish for the current season, and were left with no doubt that a weather event was required if we are to move into deficit – and stronger prices - more quickly.
- So, it appears the market has consolidated at current levels and will likely continue trading sideways until some solid fundamental news gives it some guidance.
- The consensus seems to be that for the 2015-16 season the global sugar deficit is around 5 million tonnes.
- So while we’re still dealing with the impact of a global surplus, a moderate global deficit remains in play, with all eyes focused on Brazil’s weather patterns, but this is unlikely to emerge until Q3 2015.

QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool Indicative Price

The Guaranteed Floor Pool (GFP) should be familiar to many growers and guarantees pool participants a minimum $A/IPS price (an absolute floor) at the start of the season through the use of insurance.

QSL will regularly publish indicative pricing levels for the guaranteed floor price on its website in the lead up to the Pricing Declaration Date. You can find the latest indicative floor price at our [website](#).

The indicative Floor Price for 2015 as at 11 February 2015 is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 Floor Strike</th>
<th>446.00 AUD/MT IPS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absolute Floor</td>
<td>430.00 AUD/MT IPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation rate</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: This is an indicative price ONLY.

Participation condition: Participation on a daily basis when market trades above strike price

Absolute Floor: This represents the strike price less the A$10 per tonne cost to insure the minimum price for the season. The GFP Gross $A per Tonne Actual price cannot go below the absolute floor.
Today, the Prime Minister, the Treasurer and the Minister for Agriculture have announced major changes to the review of foreign investment in agricultural land.

The changes include:

- A reduction in the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) threshold from $252 million per purchase to $15 million cumulative purchases – including the proposed purchase;
- The introduction of a foreign ownership register of agricultural land;
- A stocktake of existing agricultural land ownership by foreign interests by the Australian Tax Office (ATO); and
- Continual collection of information relating to foreign investment in agricultural land by the ATO, irrespective of value.

The Federal Government’s announcement follows from the Coalition’s election commitment of improving the scrutiny and reporting of foreign purchases of agricultural land. The Coalition’s junior partner, the Nationals, have been highly supportive of the announced foreign investment review and reporting changes.

The Prime Minister also cited increased interest in foreign investment in agricultural land, following the completion of the Chinese, Japanese and Korean Free Trade Agreements, for the need to make changes to the existing review and reporting mechanisms.

For more information on the announced changes, or to receive assistance in gaining investment approval with the Foreign Investment Review Board, do not hesitate to contact the SAS Group.

Understanding irrigation electricity tariffs

Local community organisation BBIFMAC is continuing to work with growers to reduce their irrigation power bills through its Energy Efficiency for Australian Irrigators project.

More than 230 farms are involved in the project. Participating growers are now invited to attend short workshops to review the results of their whole-of-farm energy assessments and to find out if they could be on a cheaper tariff.

Feedback from growers who have already participated in the workshops has been overwhelmingly positive, with many stating that the really big eye-opener for them was the session on electricity tariffs.

“We are shocked at how much we didn’t know about the differences in tariffs and the impact on how much we pay”.

“It brought about some awareness about tariffs - I will now ask some questions of Ergon about the tariffs that we are on”.

“The workshop was very informative. It answered a lot of our questions. This will be great because we can do it at home now any time we want into the future and continue to monitor our energy usage and make sure we are doing the correct thing”.

Workshops are being held during February, March and April for those growers who have signed up for the project. If you haven’t yet signed up for the project but wish to, BBIFMAC is accepting late applications until the end of February.

Contact the BBIFMAC office on 4783 4344, email arwen@bbifmac.org.au or drop into our office at Unit 2/20 Queen Street Ayr for more information.
Pricing information

2014 Season Advances & Payments
as at 10 February 2014

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<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>$290</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 December 14*</td>
<td>$310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 January 15*</td>
<td>$323</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 February 15</td>
<td>$337</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 March 15</td>
<td>$357</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 April 15</td>
<td>$378</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 May 15</td>
<td>$388</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 June 15</td>
<td>$398</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Payment</td>
<td>$408</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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 13 February 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS</th>
<th>% estimated return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Season</td>
<td>$399</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Season</td>
<td>$452</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>$471</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Season</td>
<td>$466</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated QSL 2014 Pool Prices
As at 23 January 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS GROSS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
<td>$408</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Discretionary Pool</td>
<td>$438</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
<td>$440</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Growth Pool</td>
<td>$440</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
<td>$428</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
<td>$607</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2014 Season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$420</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
<td>$452</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
<td>$443</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2016</td>
<td>$454</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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.

REMINDER: 2015 Pricing Nominations close date, Monday 23 February

PLACEHOLDER

Invitation to
Irrigators’ Energy Savers Workshops

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), in connection with the Queensland Farmers Federation and the Queensland Irrigators’ Council, is conducting a series of workshops to encourage your attendance to learn how to better manage your irrigation energy needs.

Workshops will include
- Case studies on farm energy efficiency
- Propose report on irrigation energy audits
- Understanding your electricity account
- Meet irrigation equipment representatives

Register by email to energy@qff.org.au or phone 07 3881 6439.
Please register at least one week before your workshop.
Provide your energy account details only for workshops.

DISPOSE OF YOUR UNWANTED AG CHEMICALS

QUEENSLAND COLLECTION MAY/JUNE 2015

FREE COLLECTION FOR CHEMICALS DISPLAYING THIS LOGO

Eligibility requirements for free collection:
- Readable product labels
- Not mixed with any other product
- Within two years of expiry date or date of registration.

Other agvet chemicals:
- Collection is available for chemicals that do not meet free eligibility, a per kg fee is applicable.
- Primary producers are partly subsidised in the 2015 campaign.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Registrations close on 27th March 2015

For more information or to register:
www.chemclear.com.au 1800 008 182

Collection supported by the QLD Department of Environment and Heritage
DATES TO REMEMBER

Women In Sugar Burdekin AGM, Wednesday 18 February
2015 Pricing Nominations close date, Monday 23 February
Women In Sugar Australia Conference, 10-11 March @ Ingham
Next Gen Step up conference, 16-18 March, @ Palm Cove

Next Gen
Palm Cove
16-18 March 2015
Next Gen invites the young (and young at heart!) to ‘Step UP!’ and join in the conversation about innovation, sustainability and profitability in the Australian sugar industry at Case IH Step UP!
This year’s conference will feature both international and domestic speakers who will discuss topics including best farming practice; precision farming; sugar marketing; R&D; agricultural engineering & technology; and financial products & planning.
Monday 16 March 2015
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm: Welcome function & early registration
DAY 1: Tuesday 17 March 2015
7:30 am – 8:30 am: Registration
Morning: Presentations of the latest in cane
Afternoon: Field Trip
Evening: Conference Dinner
DAY 2: Wednesday 18 March 2015
Morning: Presentations of the latest in cane
Afternoon: Field Trip
For more information about the event, or to register online, please visit nextgenstepup.com

Women in Sugar
Ingham
10-11 March 2015
Women In Sugar Herbert will host the Women In Sugar Australia Conference in March 2015. The 2-day conference is themed “Working Together to Move Forward”.
Day 1: Tuesday 10 March
Morning: Conference presentations
Afternoon: Conference presentations
Evening: Dinner
Day 2: Wednesday 11 March
Bus tour showcasing the diversity of the Herbert from Wallaman Falls to Lucinda for a tour of the Sugar Terminal and finishing with lunch in Halifax.
For more information about the event, click here to download the program

REGISTER NOW

Click here to download registration form
or register online nextgenstepup.com

CHAIRS FOR HIRE

CANEGROWERS Hall Home Hill
$10 plus $0.50 per Chair
Plus GST
75 Available
To book please phone
4790 3600
Labor likely to form Government in close election result

LAST month’s large swing toward the Labor party at the State election has seen the party likely to enter the Parliament with 44 seats, one short of the majority required to form government outright, with vote counting continuing. While there is still some uncertainty surrounding the exact final result, it now seems likely that Labor will form minority government this week. It is unknown who will be Minister for Agriculture. Leader Annastacia Palaszczuk proposed before the election that there would be five fewer Ministers under her government, as well as reducing assistant Ministers from 12 down to one. The Party said during the campaign that Agriculture would remain as a Ministerial portfolio.

The coming days will also bring greater clarity around a new minority Labor Government and how its policies would align to deliver the announcements made during the election campaign. Some commitments from Labor present significant uncertainties to agriculture, including its plans to reverse changes to the Vegetation Management Act and the Water Act. It is unknown how the three independents, each with a rural constituency and strong understanding of rural issues, would approach such issues in their negotiations to assist in the formation of a Government. With such a small majority in the Parliament, the policy agenda for the coming term within the Parliament will be complicated and subject to instability.

QFF is committed to working with the new government on achieving positive outcomes for farmers. Our message has been consistent to all political parties, and that is, that we wish to find a stable policy environment that assists farmers being sustainable and profitable into the future. There is a broad, existing policy agenda that the new government must tackle quickly as well as a need to clarify the way forward on a number positive initiative that industry has established. QFF will be acting quickly to ensure the new government and its Ministers understand the complex issues that are a high priority for farming businesses in Queensland. Establishing a stable and consultative Government will assist greatly in this task. Read Joanne Grainger’s comments on the election result here.

Salvos launch Rural Appeal to help Australian farmers

WITH drought increasing its grip on rural and regional Australia, the Salvation Army is encouraging Australians living in cities or rural communities not affected by drought to make an investment towards the ‘Salvos Rural Appeal’ to help The Salvation Army continue to support farmers through good times and bad. The Salvation Army’s Rural Support Services relies on corporate and individual donations, as well as the organisation’s own funds to deliver its life-saving services throughout Australia. Donations to the Salvos Rural Appeal will enable The Salvation Army to provide increased levels of practical and social support to rural and remote communities in need. To make a donation or find out more, visit www.salvos.org.au/rural or call 13 72 58. If you need help or someone to talk to, please call Salvo Care Line on 1300 36 36 22.
canenews is read by the majority of Burdekin cane farmers and their families in the Burdekin. Copies are also circulated to all CANEGROWERS Offices, businesses, industry, politicians, Government Agencies and members of the community.

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