CANEGROWERS Burdekin insurance service has evolved

Canegrowers Burdekin first commenced offering an insurance broking service in 2012 with the dual ambition of providing farmers with access to value for money insurance whilst developing a new revenue stream, that will help run your organisation. Over the years our insurance service has evolved into Solaris Insurance Brokers.

Solaris is a full blown insurance service and we are part of NAS which is the largest broker authorised representative network in Australia. Via NAS we have access to numerous and a wide range of insurance companies.

We are very proud of what has been achieved in such a short time and it gives us great pleasure when our professional insurance team comes up with options that both provide substantial savings and meet the clients’ needs. Solaris is different to most insurance brokers in that we operate within the values of a not for profit and focus on the client’s needs above all else. The goal of Solaris is to provide the right advice to suit clients unique situations. Importantly as a broker, Solaris is working for the client, not for an insurance company and we do not charge a broker fee.

This month the team has been able to save some clients thousands, in some cases up to 45%! The team have been finding great savings mostly on Landlord and Home & Contents insurance.

The Solaris team is lead by Racheal Olsen. Racheal has over 20 years experience in the Insurance industry and is a Qualified Practicing Insurance Broker who has her Diploma in Financial Services (Insurance Broking).

As Racheal is a Burdekin local she understands the difficulties and frustration we all face when insuring in North Queensland. Her local knowledge enables her to be able to negotiate with the insurance companies to broker the best deal available for you.

Racheal and the qualified, well trained team are able to promptly provide you with tailored, competitive insurance products and advice on all your Farm, Business, Motor Vehicle and Personal insurances; delivering peace of mind and security. You can trust Solaris to do the price and product comparison shopping for you.

Solaris is the Insurance Broker for everyone and we ask you to consider allowing Rachael or Tanara to provide you with a quote before you renew your next insurance policy. Drop into the office or call Solaris on 4790 3606.
Opinions sought on changes to the availability of the fungicide Shirtan®

QCGO is seeking grower opinion on the proposed phase-down of Shirtan® and has created an online survey that can be accessed here. If interested, please complete the survey by the 10th of February and your view will be expressed to the QCGO Policy Council prior to final submission which is due by 17 March 2017.

In 2015, the Australian Government indicated the phase-out of Shirtan® would occur in 2020. QCGO provided a submission to the Consultation on Australia’s possible ratification of the Minamata Convention in April 2016. CANEGROWERS position, formalised by QCGO’s Policy Council, is that the phase-out of Shirtan® be extended to 2025. A recent report suggests Shirtan® will be phased-out sooner than expected.

The National Phase down of Mercury - Final Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) was released in December 2016. The report provides four Options:

Table 1 - Regulation Impact Statement options pertaining to the phase-out of Shirtan® and corresponding Net $ benefit over 20 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Option 2</th>
<th>Option 3</th>
<th>Option 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cease availability of Shirtan®</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Benefit (Health/Environment)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$145.4m</td>
<td>$148.6m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The report recommends Option 4 which is the accelerated phase-out of Shirtan®. This would see Shirtan® phased-out upon ratification – potentially 2018. Option four is supported in the RIS because it provides the greatest net ($) benefit.

The Department of the Environment and Energy will hold a number of workshops in February 2017. These will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss Exposure Draft Final RIS. There is a workshop being held in Townsville on Monday 20th February 10.30am at the Clarion Hotel, 201 Sturt Street.

Trade push continues despite USA TPP setback

Peak sugarcane farming group CANEGROWERS will keep up the pressure on the Australian Government to push ahead with the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) despite the United States pulling out.

Chairman Paul Schembri said growers were disappointed that US President Donald Trump had chosen to formally withdraw from the 12-nation trade agreement process.

“A significant opportunity for us to gain increased access to one of the most lucrative markets in the world has been lost,” Mr Schembri said. “And US refiners will not have access to more high-quality Australian sugar to meet the country’s production-consumption shortfall.”

“The big prize in the TPP was not an immediate benefit to our industry from accessing the US sugar market. We were initially only going to be able to sell another 80,000 tonnes of sugar into the US, taking our access to 150,000 tonnes.

“The big prize that we have lost is an improved framework for selling sugar in the Asia-Pacific for the foreseeable future and the opportunity of moving towards selling up to 500,000 tonnes to the US in the future.”

CANEGROWERS is urging the Australian Government to continue to work to close the TPP deal with the 11 other Pacific nations involved.

“Trade deals like this only come along once or twice in lifetime,” Mr Schembri said. “It is important to remember that this US decision doesn’t mean the end of our industry or the end of our hopes for an improved trading environment for our export product.

“We have been encouraged by the discussions between Australia and Japan recently and the Prime Minister’s talk of a revised TPP,” he said.

“This US decision puts greater importance on the other avenues Australia is negotiating for improved trade access – a stronger deal with China, the Asia-focused Regional Cooperative Economic Partnership and free trade agreements with the European Union and United Kingdom.”

Canegrowers Directors have an intimate knowledge of local and regional needs.

Canegrowers Directors are growers, just like you, doing demanding work for little monetary return. They understand your needs.
Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has announced the appointment of Dr Frikkie Botha to lead its research division, filling the pivotal role of Executive Manager, Technology, within the industry-owned company.

Dr Botha comes to the role with an extensive Australian and international career in sugarcane research, including more than 35 years’ experience in academic, corporate and entrepreneurial R&D.

SRA CEO Mr Neil Fisher said that Dr Botha had previously been SRA’s Executive Manager, Strategic Initiatives, and he has held previous roles in the Australian sugarcane industry at BSES and the Sugar Research and Development Corporation (SRDC).

He is also a former Managing Director of the South African Sugarcane Research Institute, a Director of the Institute for Plant Biotechnology, and Professor of Plant Biotechnology at the Universities of Kwa-Zulu Natal and Stellenbosch. He is currently an honorary Professor at the University of Queensland and executive member of the International Society of Sugarcane Technologists.

“Dr Botha is well known and respected within the Australian sugarcane industry and has an extensive scientific record,” Mr Fisher said. “His skills as a leader will assist SRA’s scientists to continue to deliver valued solutions for a growing sugarcane industry.”

Dr Botha, who also oversees the SRA Yellow Canopy Syndrome research program, said he looked forward to working with SRA’s researchers to drive profitability and productivity for sugarcane growers and millers.

“The single biggest area of investment for SRA is plant breeding and the development of new sugarcane varieties for the industry,” Dr Botha said. “In addition, SRA research also extends across other critical focus areas including soil health and nutrient management; pest, disease and weed management; farming systems and production management; milling efficiency and technology; knowledge and technology transfer and adoption; and capability development, attraction and retention.”

“There is a vast range of exciting research opportunities on the horizon for sugarcane growers and millers, including big data, robots and automation, molecular plant breeding, plus numerous others.

“SRA is working to ensure that these and other opportunities provide useful value for growers and millers, and to position the industry at the leading edge of innovation.”
CANEGROWERS Queensland … taking up the fight on all issues affecting cane farmers
For the week ending 23 January

Marketing
- QSL and Wilmar representatives had further discussions in Brisbane last week. QSL reports that while a number of substantial issues remain unresolved, progress has been made. In the meantime, growers in the MSF and Tully districts are able to select QSL as their marketer of choice for the 2017 season and beyond, should they wish to do so.
- CANEGROWERS is seeking a meeting with Agriculture Minister Bill Byrne to provide him with CANEGROWERS perspective on implementation issues associated with the amended Sugar Industry Act.

Trade
- The Australian Sugar Industry Alliance (ASA) has appointed Peter Grey to independently review the market access inhibiting the sale of high pol Australian sugar to Japan under the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership and to assess what more can and should be done to resolve the issue ahead of the commencement of the 2017 harvest.
- ASA is responding to safeguards investigation initiated by China into its import of sugar products from a variety of countries, including Australia. A part of the investigation, representatives of China’s Ministry of Commerce are planning a visit to Australia to gain a greater understanding of our sugar industry.

Electricity
- CANEGROWERS has provided comments to Ergon on proposed implementation arrangements for the agricultural electricity trial. Details on how growers can to apply for and participate in the trial will be circulated as soon as it is available.
- CANEGROWERS met with LNP staff to highlight the flaws in Queensland’s electricity pricing processes and stress the importance of implementing electricity policies that ensure growers have access to competitive electricity tariffs for irrigation use that are structured to meet the needs of and enable the growth and development of irrigated sugarcane production (a suite of tariffs for Food and Fibre production).

Transport
- CANEGROWERS met with the Queensland police, Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to discuss the process of travel restrictions during the Christmas curfew. CANEGROWERS thanked the police and TMR for their efforts to process permits in the week before Christmas and clearly established that every effort is made to avoid crushing over the Christmas period. The police reiterated the issue of accountability and that the exemption permits issued in December were not a precedent for the future. Options to provide a more timely information will be explored. Police and TMR expressed their gratitude for the responsible manner in which harvesters were moved with no reported incidents during the curfew period.

Rural Water Use Efficiency (RWUE)
- CANEGROWERS worked with Queensland Farmers Federation to provide a briefing for the Director General of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to continue the RWUE program for another 4 years.

Smacntcane BMP
- Building on the alignment of Smartcane BMP with Bonsucro, we are now in regular discussions with Bonsucro staff on the processes for endorsement and cross-certification. The protocols for these next steps have not yet been developed so progress will depend on finalisation and release of these protocols by Bonsucro. Bonsucro is working with a number of programs like Smartcane BMP in several countries – they refer to these as Local Improvement Programs (LIPs), and they see close collaboration with LIPs as essential for achieving common goals as efficiently as possible.
- The modules within the web-based assessment process are being modified during January so that they:
  - Integrates the changes from the technical review by SRA and others that was finalised in 2016;
  - Includes the additional indicators required for Bonsucro alignment (the indicators are already integrated into the paper-based assessment process)
  - Collects the additional pieces of information required by the Paddock to Reef program, ensuring greater efficiency in delivery of Reef-related programs.
  - The updated assessment process will go ‘live’ once these changes have been checked and road-tested – planning for the 10th of February.
Pricing information

2016 Season Advances & Payments
as at 12 January 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/tonne IPS</th>
<th>% estimated return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>$267</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 August 16*</td>
<td>$326</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 October 16*</td>
<td>$368</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 December 16*</td>
<td>$383</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 January 17</td>
<td>$423</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 February 17</td>
<td>$436</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 March 17</td>
<td>$462</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 April 17</td>
<td>$476</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 May 17</td>
<td>$489</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 June 17</td>
<td>$502</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Payment</td>
<td>$529</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 2016 (the default method). Growers who have forward priced for 2016 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 25 January 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gross</th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>$586</td>
<td>$566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Season</td>
<td>$578</td>
<td>$558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Season</td>
<td>$521</td>
<td>$501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Season</td>
<td>$487</td>
<td>$467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated QSL Pool Prices
As at 13 January 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS GROSS 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
<td>$528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
<td>$561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
<td>$466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
<td>$781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$499</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.

CANEGROWERS
Queensland … taking up the fight continued

✓ The 2016 progress report for the program is being prepared this month, and will include greater emphasis on how participation in the program has influenced the practices of growers. The communication strategy will also integrate findings and insights from the recently completed evaluation of the program.

Shirtan

✓ The exposure draft of the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been released. The Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) has also been released. QCGO will be asking for comment from growers and Districts on the matter and is preparing:
  • a document that outlines the impact of the RIS and CBA on CANEGROWERS members with recommendations of what actions CANEGROWERS could take.
  • An information Update.
  • A survey for members on Shirtan use
  • Communications for the magazine and district newsletter
  • A submission on the RIS and CBA which is due March 2017.

Biosecurity

✓ The Sugarcane Industry Biosecurity Committee (SIBC) met by phone on 18 January 2017. SIBC consists of QCGO, ASMC, SRA, ACFA, Biosecurity Queensland, DAF, NSW Canegrowers and a representative of Cane Productivity Services (CPS) which was MAPS. Key areas for noting were:
  • the request by SRA to move cane material across Biosecurity Zones for Pachymetra Testing as part of their plant breeding program. This was supported.
  • Formalisation of the Regional Variety Committees. A letter from SRA will be send to SRA delegates, CANEGROWERS, ACFA, Mills and CPS.
  • PHA Grower Biosecurity Manual will be distributed to industry.
DATES TO REMEMBER
Sugar Industry Calendar
Click here

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Refer a friend to Queensland Country Health Fund and if they join before 28 February 2017, we’ll say thank you with a gift card!

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4782 2211 | HOME HILL
Soil Moisture Monitoring Tools and Irrigation Scheduling Workshop

Soil moisture monitoring tools can be very useful for irrigation scheduling, but what tools are out there and what is the best option for your farm?

The RAISE-W project will be running a workshop on available tools and how to use them with speakers from AgriTech, BPS, Dalley’s Water Services, NCEA and SRA.

When: Thursday 2 February 2017
Where: Ayr DPI Conference Room (Old Clare Rd)
Time: 9am-12pm, followed by lunch
RSVP: RSVP for catering by 31 January to Marian on 0428 927 070

WHAT’S YOUR FARM SAFETY STORY?
CREATE A VIDEO ABOUT AN ELEMENT OF FARM SAFETY TO HELP CREATE AWARENESS IN AUSTRALIA’S NEW GENERATION OF FARMERS ... AND WIN YOUR SHARE OF $5,000!

ENTER NOW!
2017 FARM SAFETY STUDENT VIDEO COMPETITION

ENTRIES ARE OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY OR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE STUDENTS BETWEEN 13 AND 21 YEARS OLD.
TO ENTER VISIT: WWW.RIRDGC.GOV.AU /PIHSP
ENTRIES CLOSE APRIL 18, 2017

Pest Animal Management and Chemical Training Workshops
Aghflux is pleased to offer Queensland rural landholders a new service that will help you get ahead of the game and access the most up-to-date tools to manage pest animals.
These one-day workshops for landholders will include practical training and information on the latest pest animal control tools specific to your industry and location. Included in these workshops is nationally accredited chemical handling safety training for SITR training, refresher training and storage chemicals.
You will receive:
• Training on new kits and tools, including RWPD bats, Cannikin Pest Ejector with 1000 capsules
• Certificate of Participation
• Eligible experienced participants may qualify for a Statement of Attainment in the following nationally accredited unit(s):
  • AHCOCH004 - Prepare and apply chemicals
  • AHCOCH004 - Transport and store chemicals

Workshop dates and locations available. Register NOW!

Location: CANEGROWERS Hall
68 Tenth Street
Home Hill

Limited places available. Register NOW!

Which of the above workshops locations do you wish to attend?

Name: ___________________________ Enterprise name: ___________________________
Fax: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________
Mobile: ________________________ Address: _________________________________

Please list the first and last names of all attendees:

Dietary requirements:

Are you a rural landholder or manager? Yes ______ No ______

To register visit www.agflux.com.au or complete the form above and return to (07) 3344 3077 or post to Aghflux Projects, GPO Box 70411, Brisbane, QLD 4001. Email: info@agflux.com.au or mail@agflux.com.au

This project is funded by Aghflux Projects with support from the Queensland Farmers Federation and the Queensland Government, funded by the Australian Government, Agphysics and AgResearch.
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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Please direct all advertising enquiries and materials to the above.

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