Biofutures in the Burdekin

Representatives from Mercurius Biorefining, Queensland Renewable Fuels Association and the Department of State Development attended the CANEGROWERS Burdekin monthly board meeting last week.

In what has been described as a very progressive meeting Michael Vevera CFO of Mercurius Biorefining provided a presentation and overview of the Mercurius Australia, biorefining project model and the direction that Mercurius envision that cane growers can play with production of renewable fuels.

He said that the Mercurius Biorefining options for producing drop in diesel and jet fuel from the whole cane plant and/or bagasse as a feedstock and wanted cane growers to benefit as part of the value chain.

Mercurius are looking to start a pilot plant in Mackay.

Lukey Moves Up

Long term milling employee Peter Luke has been appointed to the Wilmar Burdekin Cane Supply Manager position replacing Steve Postma who is moving to a Townsville based position.

Peter (who previously held the position of Cane Transport Manager) will be meeting with grower representatives next Thursday to discuss the district estimate, crush parameters and season start date for the 2018 season.
STL agrees three-year storage and handling agreements with raw sugar marketers

Sugar Terminals Limited (STL, NSX:SUG) has signed three-year storage and handling agreements with five of its customers. The contracts will become effective from 1 July 2018.

STL Chairman Mark Gray said the outcome was a result of consistent and effective engagement with customers.

“This is a major milestone for STL. The five agreements executed with MSF Marketing, Wilmar Sugar, Tully Sugar, Queensland Commodity Services and Bundaberg Sugar account for the majority of the raw sugar that STL handles each year,” he said.

STL began a six-month program of engagement with raw sugar marketers in October 2017 to put in place longer term storage and handling agreements that would provide a stable platform for future industry growth.

Mr Gray said the extensive consultation process provided customers with the opportunity to address issues and agree on terms for storage and handling services at the Company’s six bulk sugar terminals.

“We have extended agreements from an initial term of 12 months to three years, providing ongoing certainty and stability for the industry. We are very pleased with the results to date and look forward to continuing to work with our customers over the next three years,” Mr Gray said.

Mr Gray said a Customer Working Group, which was held in early 2018, revealed broad support for the new operating model and STL’s transition to the role of infrastructure services provider in the new competitive, multi-marketer environment.

“Only a handful of operational issues were raised at the meeting, all of which will be resolved before the start of the 2018 crushing season,” he said.

STL is working with its remaining customer, Queensland Sugar Limited, to finalise residual issues and have a contract in place prior to the commencement of the 2018 crushing season.

STL will advise the market of any further developments in line with its disclosure obligations.

Grower group disappointed at illegal chemical claim

Sugarcane growers’ organisation CANEGROWERS has expressed surprise and disappointment at an allegation made to The Prince of Wales during his Queensland visit that some farmers were using chemicals banned decades ago and allowing them to run to the Great Barrier Reef.

Chairman Paul Schembri said he would welcome the opportunity to show Prince Charles around a modern Australian sugarcane farm.

“The sale and use of herbicides and pesticides on cane farms in the Reef catchment is highly regulated,” Mr Schembri said.

“CANEGROWERS has no knowledge of any continuing use of banned chemicals and if allegations have been voiced to a Royal visitor to that effect, they should also be raised with the appropriate authorities.

“The Reef is in our backyard – cane growers work, live and play beside it and in it and have no desire to do it harm.

“Almost three quarters of the cane farming area of Queensland has been voluntarily enrolled in our industry best management practices program, Smartcane BMP, by growers who are committed to farming for sustainability as well as productivity and profitability.

“Our members are also actively engaged with local Natural Resource Management and other catchment organisations and government-led Reef programs.

“As an industry we are committed to playing our part to secure the future of the Reef.

“This commitment has led us on a decades-long journey of innovation and technological and farming practice change and I would be very happy to show Prince Charles around my farm and explain it to him first hand.”

CANEGROWERS is appreciative of the support of the Prince’s Trust Australia for the Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership – Reef Sustainability Award which recognises an individual or group’s exemplary efforts above and beyond the call of duty to raise awareness, foster knowledge-sharing, and engage local communities in sustainable natural resource management to protect and preserve the Reef.

The Award winner in 2017 was Innisfail banana growers Frank and Dianne Sciaccia with Mackay cane grower Tony Bugeja the runner-up.

Cane growers protecting and respecting our reef ... the greatest reef in the world
**Have your say on the Queensland Solar Farm Guidelines**

The development of solar farms in some sugar cane growing regions has been of concern with the possible use of good agricultural land and other consequences such as drainage.

The Queensland Government has recently released draft Queensland Solar Farm Planning Guidelines for comment.

The guidelines are intended to support local councils in planning for and assessing solar projects under the Queensland Planning Framework and educate local communities and project developers about good standards of development practice.

This is a positive step which has been welcomed by the Queensland Farmers’ Federation with a media release (click [here](#)).

The draft guidelines can be found [here](#).

Consultation closes on 11 May 2018 and there are also a number of community forums available for growers to attend. The Townsville community forum will be held on Thursday 3rd May, 6 pm at the Surf Club, 80 The Strand. To register for the forum click [here](#).

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**Important survey for sugarcane industry on the use of agricultural machinery on public roads**

The sugarcane industry is under constant pressure to obtain safe and reasonable legal access to public roads. The agricultural vehicles are getting larger and the traffic flow on the roads is increasing.

The National Farmers’ Federation has commissioned James Cook University Associate Professor Richard Franklin to carry out research across Australian agriculture. The aim is to explore the use of large agriculture vehicles on roads, the attitudes and challenges associated with vehicle movements and approaches to road sharing, awareness raising and road safety.

We need to make sure the sugarcane industry is well represented in this and use the opportunity to provide good data for the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Transport and Main Roads, regional councils and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.

Thus, you are urged to take part in the survey and encourage other growers and contractors who access public roads with agricultural machinery in the sugarcane industry to do the same.

To complete the survey click [here](#).

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**Field Day 2018**

**20th & 21st April**

**FREE ENTRY**

4TO FM Live Broadcast Saturday

Gates open 8am to 5pm

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“Join me and make the change to one of Queensland’s fastest growing health funds today!”

Lauren Geary

QLD Country Health Fund and Queensland Country Health Fund Planner

**ENCED BY**

Email: health@countryhealth.com.au

Website: www.countryhealth.com.au

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**Queensland Country Health Fund**

Queensland Country Health Fund is a registered charity. ABN: 57 073 894 957
At Liquaforce we are excited to bring the full suite of liquid fertilizer products to the Burdekin region during the 2018 cane season.

We have engaged Luke Hargreaves as our sales and business development officer covering the Burdekin/Whitsunday regions and Luke brings a wealth of experience from the horticultural sector in agronomy and Best Management Practices. Formally with Growcom delivering extension services to the horticulture sector under Reef Trust Luke will assist in the development of our customer compliance requirements under Six Easy Steps and bring his passion and experience with soil health to our clients.

At Liquaforce we believe in supporting local business and from this we have developed strong contractor relationships across the Wet Tropics and Far North Sugar regions, our goal now is to develop those relationships within the Dry Tropics and Whitsunday regions.

Planting and fertilizer contractors are encouraged to contact us now to discover the advantages of operating with Liquaforce products and customer services.

Luke will be working constantly in the Burdekin region over the coming months to contact growers and contractors so if you see him on the road in the Liquaforce ute then pull over and say hello or use the contacts below to arrange a one on one presentation of our products and the Ezy3 Nutrient Management Systems.

Contact Luke on 0459 954 002 or email to luke@liquaforce.com.au

THIS IS A PAID ADVERTORIAL
LIQUID PLANT STARTER
LIQUID IS...THE FUTURE IN FERTILISING

99% faster strike rate* - 52% greater shoot length* - Plant more area per day - No heavy bag lifters or machinery

The unique mix of nitrogen, phosphorous, zinc and growth hormones, synthetic and organic, are the key to the success of PlantStarter. It is these nutrients at this critical early stage of growth that provide just the right conditions for growth, delivering a 98% faster strike rate* and 52% greater shoot length*.

In fact, growers who have compared traditional granular fertiliser with PlantStarter report that liquid fertiliser speeds germination and root growth, helping the plant grow at a faster rate. These findings have been scientifically proven during a 12-month trial in Ingham by the National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture (NCEA) in conjunction with the University of Southern Queensland. The trial found improved emergence with the liquid fertiliser formulation at planting was observed at the three test sites, while shoot initiation and emergence was delayed with the granular formulation not reaching the shoot count until after 40 days.

- The efficiency of application allows contractors to plant more area per day, significantly enhancing their bottom line
- The contractors found the ease of application without using one tonne bags and bag lifters saved time and improved safety aspects
- Easy placement onto cane sets at planting

Liquaforce is a liquid fertiliser manufacturing company focused on assisting the sugar industry to achieve the best return and farming practices. Liquaforce recognises that innovation is the key to success and its Centre for Innovation is committed to research, product development and improving levels of customer service.

For more information contact the Liquaforce team.

*Refer to research summary "Liquid is the future in fertilising" by Liddle and Sons.

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Emergence is faster at the GMO block if the Plant Starter Liquid formulation is used. Mean emergence for Liquid treatments was 24.8 plants, and for granular treatments 12.8 plants (one way ANOVA p<0.019)

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Added synthetic and organic growth stimulant.
Leasing of Sugar Cane Farms
By Chris Cooper, CANEGROWERS legal adviser

What is a lease
A lease of a cane farm is an agreement between the owner of the cane farming land (called the lessor or landlord) and the person who takes on the lease (called the lessee or tenant). Leases are enforceable legal rights and arrangements which allow the lessee the use and occupation and possession of the lessor’s land on terms and conditions contained in the lease agreement and/or as provided for in government legislation.

Considerations for lessor
Some of the possible benefits for a lessor in leasing the farm owned by the lessor maybe as follows:

a. The lessor may wish to continue to own the farm but has lost interest in working it;
b. The lessor may see a more stable income from rent received depending on how the rent is calculated without the lessor having to work the farm.
c. No labour or working capital is required.
d. With land ownership remaining with the lessor the opportunity for capital gain continues, and particularly if the lessee is a good farmer and improves the farm overall.

Some of the possible risks for a lessor in leasing the farm owned by the lessor maybe be as follows:

a. The value of the farm might be negatively affected if the lessee is not a good farmer. Soil health, weeds and general farm maintenance can deteriorate with an incompetent lessee.
b. Income from rent can depend on the financial viability and management competence of the lessee.
c. The lessor loses day to day control of the farm and loses control of the farm for the period of the lease.
d. The lessor may have difficulty in selling the farm to a 3rd party during the term of the lease because usually buyer of the farm will still be bound by the lease to the lessee.
e. The Australian Taxation Office will likely regard a lessor as not being a primary producer for tax purposes.
f. Disputes with the lessee.

Considerations for the lessee
Some of possible benefits for a lessee in leasing a farm owned by the lessor maybe as follows:

a. A means of getting into cane farming or business expansion for existing farmers without the need for upfront debt/land purchase costs and servicing.
b. Increased economies of scale for existing farmers and potential reduction in costs of production through more efficient operations.
c. Expansion allows investment in more efficient equipment.
d. Improved profitability.

Some of the risks for a lessee in leasing a farm owned by the lessor maybe as follows:

a. Without ownership the lessee will not participate in any increase in capital gain from improved value of the farm.
b. When the lease expires at the end of the term the lessor may not extend the lease.
c. Investments by the lessee in farm improvements and machinery may not be realised if the term of the lease is not long enough.
d. Disputes with the lessor.

Key terms in a lease
A farm lease should contain all the relevant terms and conditions which apply to the lessor and lessee. The following are some of the items that are usually provided for in a farm lease:

a. The names and addresses of the lessor and lease.
b. A description of the land being leased by reference to a lot on plan description or a map or survey plan.
c. The length or term of the lease.
d. An option to renew or extend the lease and how that is exercised.

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Chris Cooper
Leasing of Sugar Cane Farms continued

e. The rent to be paid by the lessee to the lessor and how it is calculated.

f. Any rent review arrangements for adjustment to the rent.

g. Any restrictions on the use of the property, such as land clearing or farm layout changes.

h. Provisions that apply in the event either the lessee or lessor breaches the lease.

i. What happens when the lease expires.

j. Farm management, production and maintenance obligations.

k. Insurance obligations.

l. Payment responsibility for rates, taxes and charges.

m. Dispute resolution process

Industry considerations

Leasing of cane farms is quite common in the sugar industry and generally have been a positive experience for lessors and lessees. CANEGROWERS provides to grower members a basic, standard farm lease agreement for consideration by potential lessors and lessees which is suitable for minor, short term (3 year) leasing transactions. Mills and sugar marketing companies will accept a lease of land as sufficient to support a cane supply agreement and sugar marketing arrangements. Financial institutions will also recognise leases as providing sufficient land tenure security for certain funding purposes, depending on the length of the lease.

Professional advice

Entering a lease is an important financial and commercial decision and should not be undertaken lightly. A farm lease arrangement can provide good opportunities for expansion and efficiency and improved economies of scale for the lessee and an income for the lessor without the lessor having to work the farm. Important legal rights and obligations are imposed by leases of land and those considering entering into a lease will need to consider taking appropriate financial, commercial and legal advice because there are risks for the lessor and lessee under lease arrangements.

New Spray Drone - Demonstration Day

Where: Wongaloo Wetlands - Cromarty Siding 40 Km south Townsville

When: 1pm Tuesday 1st May 2018

RSVP: Friday 27th April

Contact: 07 4401 5751 or sales@orbituav.com.au

Orbit UAV, the leading supplier of Joyance Spray Drones is excited to announce the much anticipated demonstration of their newest and most unique drones. The company, which prides itself in providing a variety of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, has recently expanded their interest to Spray Drones, Splash Drones and Underwater Drones. This demonstration will showcase spray drones, while providing an introduction to other drones of interest.

Closing the gap on pesticide run off in sugarcane

By Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), together with industry partners, is developing ways of reducing runoff of imidacloprid, a key pesticide used to control grubs in the sugarcane industry, and also dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN).

Double disc opener applicators are commonly used for applying both imidacloprid and urea based fertilisers in sugarcane ratoon crops. DAF Senior Agronomist John Hughes identified that proper closure of the open slot behind double disc openers was critical in reducing runoff of the pesticide and nitrogen into waterways.

“Closing the slot behind double disc openers helps to minimise sunlight degradation and runoff of imidacloprid, as well as nitrogen losses through runoff and volatilisation,” explained DAF project leader John Hughes.

In 2016, DAF provided $110,000 in funding for the design, fabrication and testing of a prototype assembly that would fix the open slot issue to improve the efficacy and retention of pesticide and nutrient inputs.

EHS Manufacturing was commissioned to develop a practical ‘slot closing wheel’ for the sugar industry. The apparatus – now dubbed ‘StoolZippa’ – has been developed and field tested in a range of soil types and crop conditions.

Rainfall simulation trials to determine variations in runoff with and without the new StoolZippa have been conducted. Results to date have been very positive with improved retention of these key inputs with effective closing of the applicator slot.

There has been considerable interest in the project with significant in-kind extension and project support received from Mackay Area Productivity Services, Bayer, EHS Manufacturing, IncitecPivot, Reef Catchments and Sugar Research Australia.

Bayer is leading trials to determine the improvements in insecticide efficacy when using the newly developed StoolZippa, compared to treatment without.

Three StoolZippas manufactured by EHS, and funded by Bayer, have been showcased to selected grower groups at the NextGen Conference in Mackay. Growers will test out the StoolZippas and provide feedback on their performance across variable cane production environments.

DAF’s arrangements with EHS Manufacturing to design and fabricate the closing wheel ensures the design/blueprints will be freely available to the sugar industry.

View the StoolZippa here.
Executive Comment

✓ Attended a meeting, organised by NFF, with the Australian Conservation Foundation, Rice Growers Association and Cotton Australia. The meeting was designed to scope out the interests ACF is taking in agricultural / environmental policy, particularly with the review of the EPBC Act.

✓ Attended Sugar Nutrition Roundtable in Melbourne with a range of other industry supply chain stakeholders to discuss the sugar and nutrition debate.

✓ Engagement workshop with ASMC and FutureEye to ignite work on the social licence to operate strategy.

✓ Attended QDAF biosecurity funding meeting to work through a process to fund Red Witch Weed eradication.

✓ Chairman and CEO attended a “meet and greet” meeting with Minister Leeann Enoch MP. Progress with BMP, positions on reef science, vegetation and reef regulations were all discussed.

✓ Trade Research funding meeting with Sugar Research Australia and Australian Sugar Milling Council. SRA have been approached by the Aust Sugar Alliance to assist in funding of a trade model to assist the industry prioritise actions and develop a refined strategy on trade and market access advocacy efforts.

✓ Participated in the AER Consumer Reference Group reviewing its Rate of Return guideline.

✓ Participated in a teleconference with Tate & Lyle Sugars in preparation for Australia’s trade agreement negotiations with the EU and the UK, following Brexit.

✓ Provided advice to DFAT in relation to Pakistani export subsidies and the threat of Indian export subsidies.

✓ Convened a teleconference with industry colleagues in Brazil and Thailand to promote coordinated action in response to the export subsidies.

✓ Options are being canvassed for a mid-year Global Sugar Alliance meeting.

Smartcan BMP

✓ Work continues on the new project plan for delivering Smartcane BMP from 2018-2022. This includes development of district plans to help meet project objectives. We will spend the time necessary to ensure both the overall project plan and the individual district plans enable us to achieve the BMP program goals.

✓ The current set of goals (outcomes) for Smartcane BMP during 2018-22 are:

  ⇒ Growers value and utilise Smartcane BMP for setting the record straight, for exploring options to improve farm performance, and for meeting sustainability requirements of sugarcane products.

  ⇒ Practice data from Smartcane BMP has a major influence on research, extension, incentive and monitoring programs.

  ⇒ Smartcane BMP is a widely-accepted pathway for meeting the on-farm sustainability requirements for products of the sugarcane industry.

  ⇒ Smartcane BMP growers are widely recognised for environmental stewardship.

  ⇒ The Smartcane BMP program’s tools, web-based platform and certification procedures are best practice.

Electricity

✓ Participated in the AER Consumer Review Committee (CRG) meeting contributing to and reviewing the CRG’s input to the Rate of Return Guideline review.

✓ Responded to the QCA draft electricity price determination 2018-19. Key points included:

  ⇒ requiring the energy costs in Regional Queensland to be based on Ergon’s expected lower energy costs, not those of Energex.

  ⇒ requiring the retail cost allowance to be reduced, in light of the preliminary ACCC finding that retail costs are excessive.

  ⇒ requiring a reduction in electricity prices for agriculture in line with those for small business.

  ⇒ seek data on the actual large-scale generation certificate prices before reviewing current methodology.


✓ Participated in the AER Consumer Reference Group reviewing its Rate of Return guideline.

✓ Attended QCA’s briefing on its proposed electricity prices for 2018-19 and a separate QCA customer advisory meeting. In both meetings raised concerns about electricity pricing issues faced by irrigators.

✓ Participated in further meetings of the AER Rate of Return Customer Reference Group, providing direction to the consultants.

✓ Provided further information to the ACCC on electricity affordability.

✓ Progress report to Electricity Consumers of Australia (ECA) on the empowering irrigators project.

ACCC

✓ Provided feedback to the ACCC, ahead of its public consultation, on its proposal to create a ‘class exemption’ to give some small businesses legal protection to collectively bargain with customers or suppliers without having to apply for authorisation or lodge a notification with the ACCC.

✓ This new process should make it easier for CANEGROWERS authorisation for collective bargaining to be continued following expiration of the current authorisation.
Workplace Health and Safety
✓ CANEGROWERS liaised with Safe Ag Systems to ensure suitable information to make their system available through the CANEGROWERS website.
✓ An introductory video for their system is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5iljvkgwzM&feature=youtu.be
✓ CANEGROWERS met with representatives from Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) Injury Prevention and Management program (IPaM) to explore options for grower education opportunities. IPaM are not the regulators arm of WHSQ.

EEF60
✓ Plans are being made to have a Technical Steering Group and various Regional Working Group meetings for the EEF60 project. The biomass sampling is in progress but there are difficulties with lodged and flooded cane in some places.

Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society
✓ Presented on Smartcane BMP and sustainable sugar at the Risk Management in Australian Agriculture Workshop.
✓ The workshop was part of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society mini-symposium on risk management in Australian agriculture with a focus on insurance.
✓ Other presenters were Rural Bank of SA who discussed finance and risk management models for the Australian farmer with a focus on Asia; University of Guelph Ontario Canada who outlined the Canadian experience with farm insurance schemes; and CSIRO discussing how insurance may play a role in the solution to nitrogen and the Great Barrier Reef.

National Environmental Science Program Tropical Water Hub
✓ Attended the NESP committee meeting in Cairns to discuss program progress, the hub annual report and phase 5 science project funding.
✓ The meeting heard an update from JCU on evaluating the costs and benefits of agricultural land conversion to wetlands. This may offer some opportunity to growers with marginal cane land in the future.

Biofutures
✓ CANEGROWERS met with Mercurius Biorefining, Queensland Renewable Fuels Association and the Department of State Development.
✓ The CFO of Mercurius Biorefining provided a presentation on options for producing drop in diesel and jet fuel from the whole cane plant and/or bagasse as a feedstock. He reiterated that Mercurius Biorefining wanted cane growers, if they provide the feedstock (including bagasse via the mill), to benefit as part of the value chain. They are looking to start a pilot plant in Mackay.

Case IH StepUp Conference
✓ Attended the Case IH StepUp Conference in Mackay, as part of a CANEGROWERS team presenting at the event. This conference is run by ACFA and supports their Next Gen young farmers program.
✓ The two-day conference was a mix of science, technology and ideas. It showcased the future of cane farming and encouraged a younger generation of growers to get involved and help drive the technological and sustainable development of our industry.
✓ A number of existing and emerging technologies were featured and attendees also learned about biofutures (including biofuels and plastics), block chain technology, and the challenges we face with data ownership and management as our farming systems become more technologically advanced and interlinked.
✓ Matt presented an update on the growing global demand for sustainably produced sugar and on the activities that CANEGROWERS is undertaking to ensure Smartcane BMP can provide a pathway that enables growers to meet this demand.

Water
✓ Participated in a meeting of the NFF water taskforce.
✓ Raised concerns with DNRME in relation to the development of terms of reference for the government’s forthcoming referral to the QCA in relation to the treatment of several costs, including those associated with dam safety and upgrades, the fact that prices found to be above upper bound cannot be reduced in nominal terms and the plan to charge water users for the costs QCA incurs in the course of its inquiry.

Transport
✓ Subsequent to the various meetings members of National Farmer Federation (NFF) held with the relevant state road authorities, NFF are providing a combined proposal to the Commonwealth Minister for Transport and Infrastructure to seek agreement from all jurisdictions to discuss the National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Notice at the next Transport and Infrastructure Council (TIC) meeting on 18 May 2018.
1. The Queensland Government should consider the recent Grattan Institute Report recommendations and provide price relief for farmers struggling to pay their electricity bills. Read QFF’s QCL column HERE.

2. Project Cane Changer is helping to set the record straight as part of an initiative that recognises sugarcane growers for their positive farming practices and contribution to protecting the Great Barrier Reef. Details HERE.

3. A farmer’s work is never done but if you have a chance, be sure to visit IFarmWell. It’s a wonderful tool kit to help farmers grow their wellbeing, cope with life’s challenges and get the most out of every day! Learn more about the program HERE.

4. Primary producers can apply now for the 2019 Nuffield Farming Scholarships which support overseas travel and study to help develop current, emerging and future agricultural leaders. Apply now HERE.

5. Minister for Agricultural Industry Development Mark Furner last week announced the release of the Palaszczuk Government’s five-year plan to build the framework for Queensland’s future biosecurity system. Read more HERE.

6. Queensland Agricultural Workforce Network (QAWN) and Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance (RJSA) are collecting data on the training and skills needs in the Sugarcane Industry. We’re looking for farmers to complete a brief survey online HERE.

7. If you, or someone you know, deserves recognition for sustainable agricultural practices on their property then they may be eligible for the 2018 Healthy Land and Water Sustainable Agriculture Award. Details on how to apply HERE.

8. Are you Ride Ready? Take WorkCover Queensland’s quick challenge to find out how ride ready you are and be in the running to win one of five Shark helmets HERE.

9. The Federal Ministers for Agriculture and Environment are working together to weed out unnecessary red tape for farmers with an independent review. Read more about the review into the interaction between environmental law and the agriculture sector HERE.

10. Public hearings occurred around the Queensland for the proposed Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 last week. Read Queensland Country Life’s summary of the feeling on the ground HERE.

Smartcane BMP self-assessment workshops

BMP self-assessment workshops will be held fortnightly on Monday mornings (9 –11 am) with the next meeting scheduled 23rd April.

The self-assessment is the first step towards BMP accreditation. Growers who have completed the self-assessment and would like to continue on to accreditation should also contact Terry or Jasmine.

Please RSVP to:
Terry Granshaw - 0437 553 149
Jasmine Connolly - 0438 934 601

IrrigWeb workshops

IrrigWeb workshops will be held fortnightly on Thursday mornings (9 - 11 am) with the next meeting scheduled 26th April.

Workshops will cover: setting up a farm and paddocks; determining the irrigation point; and entering irrigation information.

You will need an internet capable laptop or tablet. Phones are suitable for recording irrigation events but their screens are too small for the initial setup. If you don’t have a laptop or tablet please let us know so we can organise one.

Please RSVP to Marian Davis - 0428 927 079.
### Pricing information

#### 2017 Season Advances Schedule

**As at 29 March 2018**

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<td>15 Feb 18</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td></td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Mar 18</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Apr 18</td>
<td>92.50%</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 May 18</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Jun 18</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul -18</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Applicable from**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forward Pricing</th>
<th>Default Pools % Rate</th>
<th>Default Pricing Indicative price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Aug 17</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Oct 17</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Dec 17</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Jan 18</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Feb 18</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Mar 18</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Apr 18</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 May 18</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Jun 18</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percentage rate approved by QSL Board**

Advance Rates are based on a grower’s individual estimated final sugar price.

For more information growers can access Wilmar’s monthly Pool Reports, Allocation Account Amount Reports, their applicable Advance Finance Charge via the reporting page of the Pricing and Payments section of the GrowerWeb. The cashflow forecast tool is also available in the Pricing & Payments section.

#### Wilmar Indicative Future Sugar Prices

**as at 18 April 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Year</th>
<th>Indicative Price</th>
<th>Movement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018 Season</td>
<td>356.32</td>
<td>-7.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Season</td>
<td>390.84</td>
<td>-5.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Season</td>
<td>409.43</td>
<td>-4.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Calculation using ICE Closing Prices or equivalent Bank Swap Rates and prevailing AUD/USD exchange rates.


#### Estimated Wilmar Pool Prices

**As at 29 March 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wilmar Production Risk Pool</th>
<th>Net pool price ($/Tonne IPS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilmar Managed Pool</td>
<td>$412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmar US Quota Pool</td>
<td>$644</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wilmar Production Risk Pool**

Wilmar has contributed economic interest sugar from its farms to this pool, to provide added tonnage to the pool and also to align the interests of growers and Wilmar to maximise the pool price outcome. Wilmar economic interest sugar in this pool will receive the same price as growers. The pool is priced on a 1:2:2:1 basis.

As of 29 December Wilmar has sufficient tonnage delivered to the Bulk Sugar Terminals to cover all previously priced and physically sold tonnage and has now begun pricing the Production Risk Pool.

Gross Pool Prices are an estimate based on the tonnes hedged and current market price (as at the last business day of the month) for unhedged tonnage. Allocation Account Amounts begin the season as estimates and are reviewed and updated on a monthly basis as actual premiums and costs are known.

The monthly pool price report is available on the Wilmar grower web.

#### Estimated QSL Pool Prices

**As at 30 March 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QSL Harvest Pool</th>
<th>Net pool price ($/Tonne IPS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
<td>$369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
<td>$577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$506</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Growers can monitor QSL pool performance via the Price Pool Matrices published on the QSL website ([www.qsl.com.au](http://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 Indicative ICE 11 prices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICE 11 US c/lb</td>
<td>11.98</td>
<td>17-Apr-18</td>
<td>0.7781</td>
<td>AUD/mt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Pool Price</td>
<td>364.33</td>
<td>398.20</td>
<td>415.95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Futures Contract Pool</td>
<td>342.45</td>
<td>386.11</td>
<td>408.98</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>349.06</td>
<td>391.06</td>
<td>413.19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>380.44</td>
<td>406.87</td>
<td>420.32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>337.40</td>
<td>384.12</td>
<td>407.22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>419.31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The figures quoted above are indicative of available ICE 11 prices as at the current date and reflect the weighted average AUD/mt price. The prices have been adjusted to include Over-the-Counter (OTC) margin fees charged by banking institutions and, therefore, may differ from daily prices quoted by the ICE #11 Exchange and/or other Marketers of Growers Economic Interest in Sugar (GEI Sugar). Values also do not account for any adjustments resulting from local grower-miller pricing arrangements. For more information, view the latest QSL Market Snapshot here.
Time running out to finalise QSL pool choices

QSL’s 2018-Season Pricing Declaration Date is almost upon us, with nominations for this season’s pools closing on 30 April 2018. While this new, later Pricing Declaration Date applies to most growers, those growers supplying Isis Central Sugar Mill, Bundaberg Sugar and Mossman Mill should note that they must finalise their nominations prior to this date and will be notified of their local deadline by their Miller.

Growers can change their QSL pool nominations at any time up to their Pricing Declaration Date, including moving unfilled 2018-Season Target Price Pool pricing to other QSL-managed pools. Unfilled pricing for 2018-Season Individual Futures Contract Pool can also be moved prior to the Pricing Declaration Date, if no portion of the nominated tonnage has been priced.

For the 2018 Season, growers using QSL’s marketing services can choose either the QSL Harvest Pool or the QSL Harvest Pool in combination with one or more of the following QSL pools and pricing products. Please note that the descriptions below provide a high-level summary only and growers should read the full Pricing Pool Terms (available by clicking here) and seek their own independent financial advice before committing to any QSL product.

QSL-MANAGED POOLS

2018 QSL Harvest Pool: A QSL-managed pool designed to manage a limited amount of production variation throughout a season. All Growers who nominate QSL as their GEI Sugar Marketer must allocate to this pool 35% of their expected GEI Sugar for which QSL is to be the marketer. Growers are only paid for the final sugar delivered into this pool. If QSL Growers make no other pool allocation their GEI Sugar defaults into this pool.

2018 QSL Actively Managed Pool: A committed-tonnage pool that targets the best return over the Season by pricing more frequently as short-term market opportunities arise.

2018 QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool: A committed-tonnage pool that provides a guaranteed minimum return with the potential for higher returns across the Season. Growers using this option receive an Accelerated Advances program (up to 90% of the value of their completed pricing by the end of crushing).

2019 QSL 2-Season Actively Managed Pool (previously known as the 2-Season Forward Pool): A committed tonnage pool for the 2019 Season, with pricing undertaken across the 2018 and 2019 Seasons. This pool aims to target the best return, with some pre-set price triggers. It has been designed for Growers who seek exposure across multiple seasons.

QSL US Quota Pool: Participation in this pool is automatic, with a mandatory tonnage allocation of up to 5%.

GROWER-MANAGED POOLS

QSL Target Price Pool: Enables Growers to price their Grower’s Economic Interest in sugar (GEI Sugar) during the current season and up to three seasons ahead. Features rolling of unfilled orders until 19 April (15 January for MSF Growers) in the year after crushing commences for the relevant season. Growers using this option can choose an Accelerated Advances program (up to 90% of the value of their completed pricing by the end of crushing) or the standard QSL Advances program once they have completed their pricing for the season.

QSL Individual Futures Contract Pool: Enables growers to price their GEI Sugar incrementally during the current season and up to three seasons ahead, with separate pricing decisions for each individual futures position. Pricing is to be completed by 16 April in the year after crushing commences.
WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY
21 APRIL (8:30am-12pm)
(tree planting starts 8:30am)
Opposite Kalamia State School, Lilliesmere Rd

Click here for registration form

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You’re Invited | Brandon Field Day

Sunrice is hosting a field day to provide North Queensland growers and industry support services with an update about the ongoing development of Northern Australia’s rice industry, including the progression of promising research and development.

Attendees will also hear about Sunrice’s mungbean processing and packing operations and new alignment with large pulse traders to improve market access for local growers.

Date and Time:
Thursday, 19 April 2018
7:00am - 10:00am

Location:
Brandon Mill
75 Colovale Rd, Brandon

RSVP:
Please RSVP by Friday, 13 April 2018, Sunrice Office
07 4784 1410

Please note all attendees must wear enclosed shoes.

Program:
Breakfast 7:00am to 7:30 am
• SunRice Strategic Update
• Northern Australia Research Update
• Variety Breeding and Development Update
• Agronomic Trials and Grower Update
• Mungbean Processing Update
• Mill and Operation Update
Conclusion 10am

www.sunrice.com.au