Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants extended

The Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants have been extended to 30 June 2020.

Grants up to a maximum of $75,000 are available to assist eligible primary producers to assist with clean-up and reinstatement costs.

More information is available here.
Burdekin members are invited to a Sugar Marketing & Pricing Workshop

Marketing is such a critical part of your business and to do well with marketing you need relevant information upon which to base your decisions.

A critical date for growers and marketers is the upcoming Pricing Declaration Date of 30 April 2020 by which time you have to make your pool choices for the 2020 season. To help our members in this regard, CANEGROWERS Burdekin is pleased to advise that Mr Dougall Lodge, who is a veteran of the sugar marketing industry, will be in the Burdekin from hosting a number of events where you are invited to attend a workshop that focuses on building the knowledge of how cane prices are set by the global sugar price, and how various in-season and forward pricing options can respond to different sugar market situations.

Workshops sessions will be conducted at CANEGROWERS Burdekin, 141 Young Street on the following times:

⇒ Monday 23rd March – 3.30pm
⇒ Tuesday 24th March – 10.00am

As places are limited for the workshops, reservations will be accepted on a first come first placed basis. To reserve a place at the workshop please phone Michelle or Tiffany on 4790 3600.

Smartcane BMP reaches milestone

The industry’s best management program recently celebrated a significant milestone with now over 500 growers being Smartcane BMP accredited.

Two of these 500 growers were CBL Directors Owen Menkens and Steve Pilla who were presented with an award at the QCGO Policy Council meeting this week in Brisbane.

Growers accreditations are steadily increasing and Smartcane BMP is an important program in demonstrating the ability of the industry and growers to embrace best management practices.

Please contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitators Terry Granshaw (0437 553 149) and Jasmine Connolly (0438 934 601) should you wish to find out more about the program.

Steven Pilla and Owen Menkens part of the 500 accredited growers recognised for their participation in Smartcane BMP

Reef regs and compliance

Find out how Bio Dunder® meets the new standards at our
2020 SEASON LAUNCH

Dinner's on us!

BURDEKIN
Wednesday 1 April | 5.30pm
Queens Hotel, 103 Queen Street, Ayr

RSVP 25 March
(07) 4940 9822 agservices@wilmar.com.au

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE
Tickets and accommodation to a COWBOYS GAME at the new Queensland Country Bank Stadium
New grants for Queensland exporters hit by coronavirus

The Queensland Government has opened applications for a $500,000 industry grants package to support Queensland agribusiness exporters directly affected by coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner said the new Market Diversification and Resilience Grants Program is part of the Queensland Government’s $27.25 million coronavirus industry recovery package.

“Queensland’s agribusiness exporters support thousands of jobs and we are doing everything we can to help them through this difficult time,” Mr Furner said.

“Priority will be given to those businesses directly impacted by the coronavirus outbreak.

“Grants will be available to support agriculture, food and fishing exporters, their critical supply chain partners and industry organisations to build resilience by diversifying into new markets.

“They can be used to assist with purchasing new equipment including refrigerators, freezers or filleting machines and for larger projects such as market evaluation studies, market visits and staff training.

“These grants will help exporters in the live coral trout and tropical rock lobster industries who have lost their traditional markets in China and Hong Kong, to readjust and find alternative markets in Australia and overseas.”

Mr Furner said the grants were in addition to support and assistance already put in place to support directly-impacted fisheries businesses, especially the live coral trout and tropical rock lobster fisheries.

The first round funding for the new Market Diversification and Resilience Grants Program opened today (Thursday March 12) and applications close on Monday April 20.

Mr Furner said applicants seeking funding for new equipment up to the value of $10,000 will have their applications assessed as soon as they apply. Applicants businesses must contribute 25 per cent of total equipment costs.

“Applicants will be notified within days as to whether they have been successful,” he said.

“The project-based grants will provide funding of up to $50,000. Applicants must co-invest at least 50 per cent of total project funds and successful applicants will be notified by 1 May 2020.”

Exporters who would like to know more can contact the grants team at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23, email MDRG@daf.qld.gov.au or visit www.daf.qld.gov.au
Executive
✓ Responding to queries regarding Fall Armyworm.
✓ Attended QFF CEOs update meeting to discuss, in particular, the water pricing policy and early development of the state election material.
✓ Attended Rural Press Club lunch, the topic was “What is QLD’s water future” and profiled a discussion around state water planning policy and challenges around future proofing irrigation schemes.
✓ Further discussions with Sugar Milling Council and Sugar Research Australia to discuss whole of industry strategy.
✓ Attended sugar industry groups roundtable in Sydney. Participants included Australian Food & Grocery Council, Australian Beverages Council, Australian Industry Group, Australian Association of Convenience Stores, Milling Council, Sugar Australia & New Zealand and Australian Association of National Advertisers. The focus of the day was to discuss the online national conversation around health and nutrition.
✓ Attended Australasian Society of Association Executives networking event to compare perspectives on the work of associations and maintain key contacts within the sector.
✓ Interviews and ongoing consultation regarding Fall Armyworm, in particular as part of the national management group formed by Biosecurity Qld to monitor the response plan.

International Agricultural Trade Industry Roundtable
✓ Participated in the trade roundtable convened by the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (AWE) which provided opportunity to discuss key agricultural trade issues, including the Indian market and trade issues relevant to achieving the $100 billion Agriculture 2030 goal. Highlighting Australia’s current WTO sugar subsidy dispute, the importance of maintaining pressure on India to comply with international trade obligations was reinforced both as a trade issue and as an impediment to the sugar industry’s contribution to achieving the $100 billion goal by 2030.

ABARES Outlook 2020
✓ Participated in ABARES Outlook conference. In his opening remarks, Agriculture Minister David Littleproud, set the tone for the meeting focusing on:
  ➞ The NFF vision of achieving $100 billion value of agriculture by 2030, which now has been taken up by the federal government.
  ➞ The federal government’s prospective fund to support on farm biodiversity.
  ➞ His desire to modernise Australia’s agricultural innovation system.
  ➞ The increasing need for sustainable supply chains.

Electricity
✓ With a rapidly changing electricity generation mix, a key challenge facing the energy market is connecting new generation at the lowest cost possible. CANEGROWERS participated in AEMC’s workshop on the consumer impacts of its proposed pricing reforms to support coordination of generation and transmission investment.

Code of Conduct
✓ Briefed the offices of the Minister for Agriculture, Treasurer and Prime Minister on developments in the challenge against the validity of the Sugar Code initiated in the Supreme Court by Tully Sugar.

Reef regulations
✓ The Office of the Great Barrier Reef has invited public consultation on the proposed standard conditions for new or expanded commercial cropping and horticulture activities from 1 June 2020 under the Reef protection regulations. The standard conditions aim to achieve ‘no net decline’ in water quality by preventing and minimising nutrient and sediment run-off. They relate to the way the land (or features of the land) and farming infrastructure are designed, implemented and maintained, and relate mainly to soil and erosion control measures and irrigation requirements.
✓ These standard conditions will apply to new or expanded commercial cropping and horticultural activities between five and 100 hectares that do not have a cropping history. Under the regulations, a cropping history is when cropping or horticultural activities have occurred during three out of the last 10 years (with at least one of the years being in the last five years).
✓ Once finalised, the standard conditions will apply across the Cape York, Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary Reef regions.
✓ Written submissions must be submitted to the OGBR by Tuesday, 7 April 2020
✓ CANEGROWERS will prepare a submission and will integrate any concerns or suggestions provided by the district organisations.
Pricing information

2019 Season Advances Schedule
As at 28 February 2020

WILMAR

The program above is indicative only in its entirety and should not be taken as a commitment by QSL with regard to either the advance rate or date of increase. The program may change during the season depending on movements in the marketing and shipping plans, sugar price and currency movements and timing of cash flows. Suppliers’ positions in relation to any pricing elections may also impact the timing and size of advance payments.

 Wilmar Indicative Future Sugar Prices
as at 13 March 2020

Crop Year | Indicative Price
---|---
2020 Season | 417.95
2021 Season | 426.56
2022 Season | 434.09

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

Refer to [https://www.wilmarsugarmills.com.au](https://www.wilmarsugarmills.com.au) for additional Pricing Information and trends

Estimated Wilmar 2019 Pool Prices
As at 28 February 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net pool price ($/Tonne IPS)</th>
<th>Percentage Priced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilmar Production Risk Pool</td>
<td>$424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmar Managed Pool</td>
<td>$408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmar US Quota Pool</td>
<td>$711</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

1. Wilmar has contributed economic interest sugar from its farms to this pool, to provide added tonnage. 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.

Estimated QSL 2019 Pool Prices
As at 28 February 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net pool price ($/Tonne IPS)</th>
<th>Percentage Priced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
<td>$402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
<td>$385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Early Start Actively Managed Pool</td>
<td>$385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
<td>$384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
<td>$599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$386</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.
1. QFF has welcomed funding to deliver an agricultural preparedness project to provide primary producers with the right tools and resources to better prepare for a flood. Read QFF’s media statement HERE.

2. Generally, across Queensland there has been increased sales activity in rural markets despite recent devastating fires, heavy rains and flooding, a continuing drought and the seasonal threat of cyclones. Read QFF’s Queensland Country Life column HERE.

3. Thanks to the Agricultural Extension Work Placement Program, 26-year-old environmental science graduate Mika Rowston has been driving a four-wheeler around flooded cane paddocks to collect water samples in North Queensland. Read about his experiences HERE.

4. QFF has partnered with the Queensland Government to deliver workshops in Bundaberg, Gatton and Mackay to help landholders apply for the Queensland Government’s Land Restoration Fund. For more information and to register, click HERE.

5. QFF industry member CANEGROWERS is urging the Queensland Government to step in and freeze water prices for farmers pending a review and resolution of significant issues not addressed in a recent report. Read their media statement HERE.

6. Cotton Australia is pleased to announce applications are now open for the 2020 Australian Future Cotton Leaders Program! The program is open to those committed to the future of the cotton industry, and you must work across the Australian cotton industry supply chain. Applications close 3 April 2020. More HERE.

7. If your farm business suffered direct damage as a result of the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough last year, Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants up to a maximum of $75,000 are available through QRIDA to assist with clean-up and reinstatement costs. Applications have been extended until 30 June 2020. Details HERE.

8. More detections of the invasive moth pest fall armyworm have been made in Far North Queensland. Confirmed detections at South Johnstone, Tolga and Lakeland follow recent discoveries on two Torres Strait Islands, at Bamaga and in the north-west Gulf country. More information HERE.

9. University of Queensland researchers have led a project assembling experts from across Australia to bring together the latest groundwater research on the Great Artesian Basin for publication in the Hydrogeology Journal freely accessible until 31 March 2020. See the full papers HERE.

10. Join James Cook University and Australian National University for their Climate Update 2020 on March 26 in Townsville. Industry experts, including QFF’s CEO Dr Georgina Davis, will present an overview of how our climate is changing, and how we can respond to these changes. Register HERE.

Smartcane BMP self-assessment workshops
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).

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.
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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