

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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May 2021

Chair's Update

Mark Pressler
Chairman



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It seems like the last season just finished and the next one will begin. The start date is **21 June 2021** with Millaquin to run in continuous mode with an anticipated crush of 48,000 tonnes per week.

We should see a finish around 21 November 2021 including two (2) weeks for wet weather. It will be interesting to see what the CCS does considering the crop is still so green.

April has been a busy month for Bundaberg CANEGROWERS and May looks just as busy.

Since taking on the role of Chairman, I have had many face to face meetings. These have included the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack, our Flynn Electorate member, Ken O'Dowd and Member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt.

I travelled to Canberra recently to attend the Federal Government's Budget Night and whilst we were there, met with Isaac Jeffrey and Joy Thomas from National Irrigators Council and Ash Salardini from National Farmers' Federation to discuss irrigation and energy.



Keith Pitt, Mark Pressler, Dale Holliss in Canberra

The Bundaberg Rates Consortium are still working hard to achieve a fairer outcome for rate payers. Tanya Howard,

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS, Bree Grima, Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers, Angela Williams, CANEGROWERS Isis and Tom Marland, AgForce travelled to Brisbane to meet with Deputy Premier Steven Miles to further pursue a ruling from the State Government and a suitable outcome for all rate payers.

I have written to the Bundaberg Regional Council requesting the following:

'That the Category 9 ratepayers are refunded the rate rises that they suffered from the 2020/2021 budget such that the increase is no more than CPI and that going forward the Council adheres to the 'Guideline on the equity and fairness in rating Queensland local governments'.

Apart from our core business of managing the Cane Supply agreement I have listed the top issues I think we collectively face below:

- Reef Regulations
- Rates and Local Government
- Water access security and pricing
- Affordable electricity supply

We will be holding a series of member only shed meetings on 3 June 2021 to talk about these issues, what we are doing and what you think we could be doing that we are not.

You will receive an invitation with times and the locations within the next couple of weeks to discuss these issues with you.

I am keen to hear your thoughts and ideas and any other issues that you have, see you all there. ■



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter

Phone (07) 4151 2555 Fax: (07) 4153 1986

Email: bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au

Membership Fees

Membership fees have been set for the 2021 Season. In establishing these fees the directors have taken into account the level of services available and the need to set a reasonable fee. It was resolved that a CPI increase of 1.9% would be applied to 2020 fees:

The 2021 season fees (excl GST) are as follows:

Administration:	43.69 cents/t
Crop Insurance:	4.28 cents/t
Cane Analysis:	3.82 cents/t
QCGO:	19.00 cents/t



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICES, AND PROMOTE UNITY IN THE INTEREST OF OUR MEMBERS

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS serving its members ...

- Representation
- Environmental Management
- Cane Analysis & Cane Quality
- Wages Service
- District Newsletter
- Crop Insurance
- General Insurance
- Training
- Local Area Negotiations
- Water Supply Issues
- Electricity Issues
- Industry Planning & Promotion



Brian Gordon

Ph: 07 4151 5870

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Mob: 0415 457 497

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Call Ray today **0418 891 783**



CANEGROWERS Insurance is a Corporate Authorised Representative (CAR No 429264) for Community Broker Network ABN 60 96 916 184 AFSL 233750

Visit our website: www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au

2021 Allowances

The Mill will be running in continuous crushing mode this year.

As such the Continuous Crushing Allowance (19.3 (a) and (b)) will apply:

19.3 Allowances

(a) Continuous Crushing Allowance

The Mill Owner will pay a Continuous Crushing Allowance for cane harvested on a weekend for supply to each Mill operating in continuous mode based on the following principles:

- \$0.70/tonne
- the allowance will be shared equally (cents/tonne) across all cane delivered by all growers to Mills while they are operating in continuous mode
- the allowance will be included with the final pay
- the allowance increases or decreases in proportion to movements in the sugar price above and below \$330 per tonne

(b) Harvesting Allowance

When a Mill is operating in a continuous mode the Mill Owner will pay Growers supplying a Mill in continuous mode a Harvesting Allowance for cane harvested on a weekend based on the following principles:

- the allowance is \$0.80 per tonne for cane harvested on weekends
- the allowance will be included with the delivery pay, except where a Grower has given authorisation, the allowance will be paid to the particular harvesting contractor on a weekly basis
- the allowance will be adjusted on 1 April according to the movement in the minimum weekly wage rate for a cane harvesting employee (Level 1) under the Sugar Industry Award 2010 for the previous twelve (12) months

The adjusted Harvesting Allowance for the 2021 season will be \$1.14 per tonne for cane harvested on weekends.

Base CCS

Base CCS has not yet been agreed however, for the past four (4) seasons we have started at 13.3 and adjusted as necessary, when necessary.

Haulage Allowance

The Haulage Allowance is increased by CPI each year. The All Groups CPI Index weighted average of eight (8) capital cities is 1.1% for the year. The 1.1% increase on last year's allowances is shown in the following table.

CPI adjustment		1.10%	
Distance (metres) From - To		\$/tonne 2021	Variation to last season
0	1,000	0.00	0.00
1,000	2,000	0.58	0.01
2,000	3,000	0.87	0.01
3,000	4,000	1.15	0.01
4,000	5,000	1.44	0.02
5,000	6,000	1.73	0.02
6,000	7,000	2.02	0.02
7,000	8,000	2.30	0.03
8,000	9,000	2.60	0.03
9,000	10,000	2.88	0.03
10,000	Plus	3.17	0.03



CANEGROWERS

Representation on Your Behalf

The Chairman, Elected Members and Staff of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS represented cane growers on a number of occasions. Executive members also attended many Branch meetings and other engagements in their own time.

DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
12.04.2021	Meeting with Deb Frecklington at Paradise Dam	To advise requirements	Dale Holliss Mark Pressler
12.04.2021	Dinner with David Crisafulli MP & David Janetzki MP	To represent Members	Tanya Howard Michael Cavallaro
19.04.2021 - 21.04.2021	BMRG Regional Environmental Account Kick - Off	To get updates	Matthew Leighton Courtney Moar
20.04.2021	Meeting with Minister Steven Miles	To represent Members	Tanya Howard
04.05.2021	Dinner with Deputy Prime Minister McCormack and Ken O'Dowd	To represent Members	Dale Holliss Mark Pressler
10.05.2021 - 12.05.2021	Budget - Canberra	To represent Members	Dale Holliss Mark Pressler
11.05.2021 - 12.05.2021	SRA & USQ Irrigation Workshop	To receive training	Courtney Moar Caitlyn Killick
11.05.2021	Meeting with Ash Salardini National Farmers Federation	To discuss requirements	Dale Holliss Mark Pressler
11.05.2021	National Irrigators Council Meeting	To receive updates on Energy Policy	Dale Holliss Mark Pressler
14.05.2021	CPA Bundaberg Budget Breakfast	To represent Members	Michael Cavallaro
20.05.2021	Energy Consumers Australia Reference Committee	To represent Members	Dale Holliss Mark Pressler
24.05.2021	CANEGROWERS Leadership Forum - Cairns	To represent Members	Allan Dingle Anna Attard Dean Cayley Michael Cavallaro

2020 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 30 April 2021

Advance Dates	Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS)		FPFC Advance Rates
Payment Date	Increase	To	
Initial		\$284.00	\$284.00
16-Oct-20	\$16.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
20-Nov-20	\$20.00	\$320.00	\$320.00
18-Dec-20	\$7.00	\$327.00	\$327.00
22-Jan-21	\$11.00	\$338.00	80.0%
19-Feb-21	\$11.00	\$349.00	82.5%
19-Mar-21	\$23.00	\$372.00	87.5%
16-Apr-21	\$13.00	\$385.00	90.0%
14-May-21	\$12.00	\$397.00	92.5%
18-Jun-21	\$11.00	\$408.00	95.0%
Final	\$21.00	\$429.00	100.0%

Notes:

- The program above represents indicative advances payable by QSL to Bundaberg Sugar based on estimated pool returns, the marketing plan and forecast cash flows at the time. These indicative amounts will be reviewed on a regular basis and updated for changes in forecasts. **Advances highlighted in bold in the table above have been approved by the QSL Board.**
- This program is indicative only and should not be taken as a commitment by Queensland Sugar (or Bundaberg Sugar) with regard to the estimated pool return, advance rate or date of increase. The program may change during the season depending on movements in a number of factors including the marketing plan, sugar price and currency movements and timing of cash flows.
- The advance rates are GST exclusive.
- The net adjustment, for the estimated US Quota and QSL premiums & costs, to be added /(subtracted) to / (from) to ICE No.11 and Foreign Exchange pricing results for the Committed Pools (e.g. Fixed Price Forward Contract FPFC) is **\$38.60**.

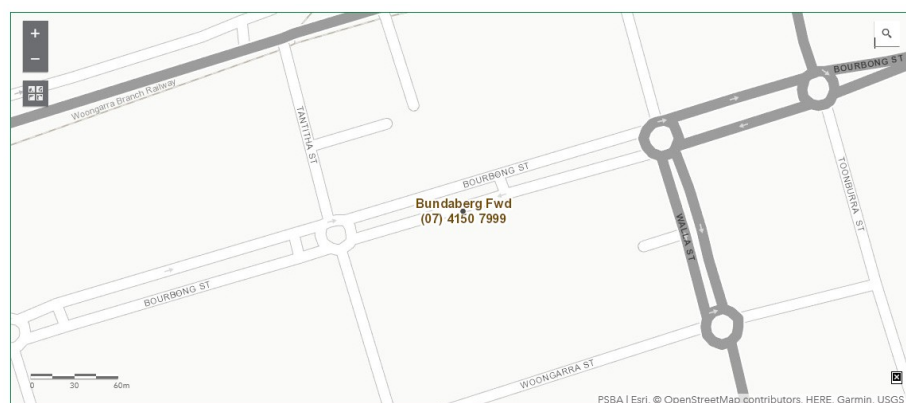
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Fire warden finder

Visit www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/Pages/fw_finder.aspx to find the Fire Warden in your area.

Search for your address, then click the map to display the Fire Warden details.

Example address - 32 Bourbong Street, Bundaberg. ■



Cane Fire Notice for burning tops and trash

Before growers burn cane or trash this season they need to ensure they are following the conditions of the Cane Burning Notice or the conditions on their permit before any cane or trash is burnt. Failure to do this leaves growers exposed to legal action.

To burn cane or trash under the Notice, all conditions of the Notice need to be met. This includes notifying neighbours, number of people in attendance and the types of equipment in attendance. Also to use the Notice with the property neighbouring a road, the road must be a local road according to the QFES Fire Warden Finder mapping service. If a fire is to occur on a farm that borders a main road, according to the Fire Warden Finder mapping service, any fire on that farm requires a permit not just those blocks against the road.

If growers are unsure if they can comply with the Notice and to avoid any confusion growers should apply for a permit from their fire warden for any cane or trash fires. Information about the Notice and all the relevant links including a fact sheet can be found at https://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/Using_Fire_Outdoors/Pages/Cane-Burning-Notification.aspx

The weather conditions and smoke hazard signs do go together as no burning is to be conducted if the smoke is to become a hazard on local and main roads as well as highways. A smoke hazard sign is to be erected if the area to be burnt adjoins or is within 100m of a road of any description. Smoke Hazard signs are available from some of the wardens as well as the QFES Rural Fire Bundaberg office. Due to COVID-19 restrictions it would be best to make initial contact by phone on (07) 4154 6120 to make arrangements to collect the signs.

Growers need to contact Firecom on 1800 354 621 before any fire is lit, whether it is under the Notice or a permit to assist QFES with calls from the public and identifying uncontrolled fires.

Neighbours are to be notified of growers' intention to burn at the beginning of the season and again prior to the burn so they can make preparations to minimise the impact of smoke and ash. Bundaberg Area Director Bruce Thompson has offered the resources of QFES Rural Fire Division to assist with keeping the community informed, especially for

those who have an urban or peri-urban group of neighbours.

Contact with the QFES Rural Fire Bundaberg office can be made via (07) 4154 6120 and a request for a community message can be posted indicating an approximate time for burning and any potential issues such as smoke across a road. In situations where farms neighbour a large number of residences, provided there is enough notice, the Bundaberg Rural Fire Brigade may be able to use its' community resource to notify the neighbours. Sample letters of an intention to apply for a fire permit and intention to burn are available at reception of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS.

If growers are unable to comply with the Notice they are still able to get a permit to burn from their local warden and follow the conditions of the permit to burn cane, trash and tops. ■

How to check your employee's drivers licence status

Did you know that you can check if a Queensland driver licence is current by using the Queensland Transport online service found at <https://www.service.transport.qld.gov.au/checkdriverlicencestatus>

To check the status of a licence you will

need the:

- Driver licence number
- Licence holder's first and last name
- Licence holder's date of birth

The service is intended for use by the licence holder, or persons who have been provided the driver licence as

evidence of the licence holder's authority to drive.

The service only checks the status of a driver licence. It will not check the driver licence class or type, or any special conditions imposed on the licence. ■

Member Only Crop Insurance

All Bundaberg CANEGROWERS members have crop insurance cover as part of their membership fee. This year the cover is set at \$40 per tonne with a fifty (50) tonne excess and covers growers for:

- total crop loss from unharvested cane after a fire,
- partial crop loss from reduced yield of a harvested crop after a fire and
- the loss of a trash blanket and the

costs of re-establishing the crop after the fire in the trash blanket.

Growers are able to apply to "Top Up" their insurance beyond \$40 per tonne **with the payment of additional premium.**

This option may be used if growers have some significantly higher priced forward pricing locked in for this year. Before applying for the Top Up insurance growers also need to be aware that the underwriters liability under the Fire

Perils Crop Insurance policy is the maximum value of indemnity selected or 90% of the value of the cane at the mill, whichever is the lesser amount.

Top Up insurance can be applied for by contacting Bundaberg CANEGROWERS on (07) 4151 2555, completing the Top Up Insurance document and paying the additional premium. Growers are also able to reduce the fifty (50) tonne excess by paying an additional premium. ■

Reimbursement of Burnt Cane Deduction

The Collective Agreement has a clause, which enables reimbursement of the burnt cane penalty, i.e.

10.5 Where the Grower makes a written application to the Mill Owner for reimbursement of the burnt cane deduction and it is the Mill Owner's opinion that the cane was burnt in order to improve cane quality or increase

productivity, the Mill Owner shall reimburse the burnt cane deduction of 9.8 cents to the grower for cane delivered on or before the second day after burning.

If you wish to claim reimbursement you need to apply to Bundaberg Sugar in writing.

You may wish to use the pro forma shown or collect one from reception.

If you have applied for reimbursement in previous seasons you are not required to do so again.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' members can contact Matt Leighton or Dale Holliss on (07) 4151 2555 for assistance. ■

Cane Supply Superintendent
Bundaberg Sugar
PO Box 500
Bundaberg
Fax 4150 8572
Email: mfcurtis@bundysugar.com.au

Dear Sir,

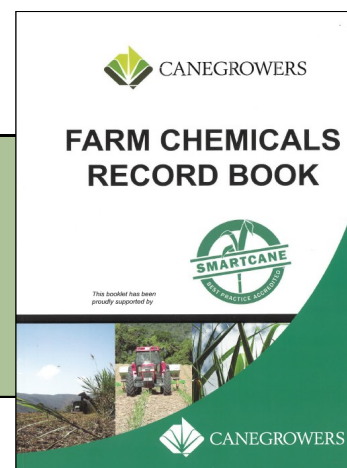
I/ We wish to be reimbursed burnt cane deductions for blocks on farm number/s because (Reason eg trash causes water logging and rots the stool)

Signed

.....

Completing this book assists growers to meet their record keeping obligations as part of the Reef Regulations.

To collect a record keeping book call into the office or contact us on 4151 2555 or bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au



Safety near powerlines

Growers are reminded that powerlines have a general three (3) metre exclusion zone around the wires and the safest way to operate around the wires is to have a trained safety observer watching the operation of the machinery and the wires. The exclusion zone can be reduced if a trained observer (completed Safe Working Near Exposed Live Parts course or similar) is used at the site where equipment may encroach the three (3) metre exclusion zone.

What to do if contact occurs with powerlines

If equipment touches a powerline growers are to stay inside the cab of the vehicle. The only reason to leave is if the vehicle is on fire. If forced to leave the cab, the best thing to do is to jump as far away from the vehicle as possible, landing with your two (2) feet close together to prevent creating a circuit with your legs. Then continue to hop away keeping your feet together.

Another option is to shuffle away keeping your feet together, constant contact with the ground, and get at least 8-10 metres away from the vehicle.

By having your feet apart you've got one foot on the 9,000 volt line and the other foot on the 8,000 volt line, the electricity will flow through your body causing electric shock and possible injury or death. ■

1 STAY
in the car

CALL
000

WAIT
for help

2 If there's an immediate danger, like fire, and evacuation is **ABSOLUTELY** necessary, assess your escape route and check for fallen powerlines.

3 Exit the vehicle by jumping – make sure to land with both feet together.

4 When jumping, **don't touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.**

5 Once landed with both feet together (careful not to stumble or fall), jump or shuffle with your feet together away from the vehicle.

6 Move in this way until you are at least 10 metres away from the vehicle. **DO NOT go back.**

What to do if your vehicle brings down powerlines

Queensland Government

ERGON ENERGY NETWORK
Part of the Energy Queensland Group
13 16 70

energex
13 19 62

EGE19030

Farm Safety during the harvest

With the crushing beginning shortly, growers are reminded of the need to provide a safe place to work for themselves, employees, family members and the harvesting crews who operate on their farm.

It is easy to get complacent, especially as growers live and work on the farm each day and may have had the same harvesting crew for 20 years or more. Each year growers need to take stock of what is on the farm, what has changed and does this impact the harvesting crews who will be working on the farm.

For example a new lateral move irrigator may mean new hydrant locations as well as the parking of the

irrigator in a paddock or on a headland where a harvester or haulout may encounter it in the early morning.

As part of providing a safe place to work, it is recommended that growers complete an induction for the harvesting crew and any regular visitors such as chemical and fertiliser delivery drivers.

For the harvesting crew, items such as hydrants, power poles, powerlines, tram lines, and parked equipment are vitally important to be identified as part of the induction process. The delivery drivers need to be inducted to the hazards around the sheds or delivery points such as access points/doorways to buildings, powerlines, and contact details if no one

is at the shed. The important thing is that these are updated if there are any changes (e.g. if the lateral move irrigator has been moved so that the remainder of the farm can be harvested).

The Managing Sugarcane Farm Safety manual is available from Bundaberg CANEGROWERS reception. The workbook has a checklist that enables growers to identify hazards and provide a risk assessment that enables plans to be made that provide a safe place to live and work on the farm. Completing the relevant sections is the first step to demonstrating a commitment to workplace safety, which is especially important if there is a workplace incident on the farm. ■

Casuals - Recent Fair Work Changes



As part of the changes made to the Fair Work Act on 27 March 2021, the Fair Work Ombudsman has published the first version of the **Casual Employment Information Statement (CEIS)**.

You should already be familiar with the **Fair Work Information Statement (FWIS)**, which, as per Section 125 of the Fair Work Act, an employer must give each employee the Fair Work Information Statement before, or as soon as practicable after, the employee starts employment.

The changes to the Fair Work Act that passed late in March 2021 add to this Section and creates a second Information Statement, one that is specifically for Casuals. This Casual Employment Information Statement must be given to casual employees in addition to them receiving the Fair Work Information Statement.

Effective from 27 March 2021:

1. You should ensure that this paperwork is included as part of your onboarding procedures, ensuring that:

- **All Employees** must receive the Fair Work Information Statement upon commencing work with an employer or as soon as practicable after starting.
- **All Casual Employees** must receive both the Fair Work Information Statement and the Casual Employment Information Statement upon commencing or as soon as practicable after starting.

2. For existing casual staff within your business: **Small business employers (with under 15 staff) are required to provide casual employees with a copy of this Casual Employment**

Information Statement now, and other businesses are encouraged to provide a copy now, but required to provide a copy **by no later than 27 September 2021.**

Further information on the definition of casual employees, how they can become permanent employees and how employers can make and respond to offers and requests to transfer from casual employee to permanent employee can be found here: <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/website-news/reforms>

If you would like a copy of the Information Statements or have any further questions please contact Kate Odgaard on 4151 2555. ■

Loading of cane bins

Growers are reminded to ensure that the harvesting contractors fulfil their obligations relating to the securing of their load during the harvesting and upcoming planting season. With significantly more cane travelling along the road network this year growers and harvester contractors will need to be vigilant to ensure the cane bins are not overloaded.

By law, the person in control of the vehicle must ensure that the load is not placed in a way that makes the vehicle unstable or unsafe; it must be secured so it is unlikely to fall or be dislodged from the vehicle and an appropriate method must be used to restrain the load. Fines do apply for breaches.

The practicalities of the sugar cane harvest mean that sensible solutions need to occur so that billets are not spilt on the road. These practicalities lead to the adoption of specific guidelines for

operation on or near the road network, based on the premise of minimising the spilling of billets onto the road. These guidelines "2013 Guidelines for Loading of Sugar Industry Cane Haulage Units for Travel on Public Roads" must be adhered to by cane operators, including the loader (harvester driver) to ensure that bins are correctly and appropriately filled.

Under the Chain of Responsibility legislation, it is not only the driver of the haulout/ multilift vehicle that spills the billets who is liable if spillage occurs and there is a risk to another motorist, it may also include the harvester driver, the owner of the bin used to haul cane as well as anyone else who has influence over the work that lead to the billets being spilt.

The "2013 Guidelines for Loading of Sugar Industry Cane Haulage Units for Travel on Public Roads" publication is

available through the Bundaberg C A N E G R O W E R S website www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au on the Fact Sheet page under News & Media tab heading. This publication outlines the requirements for the loading of cane bins including that freeboard room is sufficient so that any settlement is contained within the bin and that any spillages on or near the road are cleaned up by the operators of the vehicle. This document will be updated shortly and will have a few minor changes. Please keep a watch out for the updated version to make sure everyone is following the latest guidelines.

If you have any questions regarding the guidelines, please phone Matt Leighton on 4151 2555. ■

New small business grants coming soon

The Queensland Government has announced three (3) new small business grants programs worth \$25 million over two (2) years.

The Business Basics, Business Boost and Business Growth Fund grants will target specific groups within the sector and continue to deliver on the Government's election commitments to small business.

The grants are being rolled out based on direct feedback received from small business owners through the Small Business Roadshow and online survey which showed support programs are needed to assist Queensland businesses at different stages of the business lifecycle.

- **Business Basics grants of up to \$5,000** each support new and emerging businesses to increase core capabilities and adopt current best practice. Applications to open on 31 May 2021.
- **Business Boost grants of up to \$15,000** will help small businesses to improve their efficiency and productivity through organisational development and upgrades through automated software and CRM systems. Grants can be used for website development and upgrades, strategic marketing, training and coaching, advisory services and planning for business continuity and succession. Applications to open late July 2021.
- **Business Growth Fund grants of up to \$50,000** will allow businesses to buy highly specialised equipment to seize and accelerate growth opportunities. Applications to open 11 May 2021, with Guidelines available from 1 May.

Small business operators should visit the Business Queensland website to access the grants schedule as well as guidelines and eligibility information for the Business Growth Fund to get ready to apply.

If you require assistance applying for any of the grants above please contact Bundaberg CANEGROWERS on 4151 2555. ■

Queensland ChemClear collections

Growers are reminded to register for the upcoming ChemClear muster to remove deregistered or unwanted chemicals from their chemical storage shed.

This is especially relevant for anyone with Shirlan left in their chemical storage as it is now deregistered and will become illegal to have in your possession after 26 May. I believe if it is registered for collection using Chemclear you will be covered until the collection date.

There will be a fee for the disposal of some chemicals while others will be free. The easiest way to determine this is to register the chemicals online and it will tell you if any fees apply.

If you have any further questions, please call Matt Leighton on 4151 2555. ■



Keep Qld Clean

Register your UNWANTED, OUT OF DATE, UNUSABLE Ag & Vet Chemicals for the upcoming QLD Chemclear Collection.

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE: JUNE 13.

Only pre registered chemical will be collected.

Check your shed NOW! (Following collection in 2023)

Register your chemicals at ChemClear:

chemclear.org.au/register-your-chemical
 1800 008 182 or Colin Hoey. Mob: 0428 964 576.



SUGAR SERVICES NEWS

Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD)

... by Michael Turner, Field Officer

Ratoon stunting disease is still one of the major diseases affecting the industry and can cause yield losses from 5-60% depending on variety susceptibility and weather conditions. Average yield losses can be around the 15-20% mark.

Over the past couple of seasons we have seen a marked increase in the number of positive samples in plant sources compared to blocks tested in the district survey which include both plant and ratoon blocks.

There are a few things contributing to this increase, poor hygiene practices, plant sources not checked, using other sources (eg. Older ratoons).

Over the next couple of weeks we will be commencing a district survey testing blocks for the presence of RSD and running through to the end of crushing season. During this testing period we will also be testing blocks/sources of planting material you would likely use for the upcoming spring planting season. RSD can be managed by good hygiene measures (disinfecting all harvesting and planting equipment) and using clean approved seed cane that has been tested.

For recommended management practices, see page 11 for more information. ■

One-Eye sett propagation

Over the past two (2) years (2019-2020) Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd have invested in setting up and refining the One-Eye sett propagation system to supply growers with another option for purchasing approved seed cane along with the current system of tissue culture or whole-stalk cane.

Since the inception of this alternate approved seed cane option some 93,528 seedlings have been propagated and purchased by growers over this period. Grower feedback on seedling quality has been positive.

Orders can be placed at any time throughout the year and once orders have been received they can be ready for planting in eight (8) weeks.

Bundaberg Sugar Services now have a water wheel planter available which growers can borrow to plant their seedlings. To date ten (10) growers have taken up the option of using the planter and the interest in its use is increasing.

Please contact Michael Turner on 0427 130 467 to book the planter. ■



Schedule 4 Approved Variety List 2021 Season

SRA 29

SRA 20 [Ⓛ]

SRA 19 [Ⓛ]

SRA 4 [Ⓛ]

SRA 2 [Ⓛ]

Q252 [Ⓛ]

Q247 [Ⓛ]

Q245 [Ⓛ]

Q242 [Ⓛ]

Q240 [Ⓛ]

Q238 [Ⓛ]

Q235 [Ⓛ]

Q232 [Ⓛ]

KQ228 [Ⓛ]

Q208 [Ⓛ]

Q200 [Ⓛ]

Q188 [Ⓛ]

Q183 [Ⓛ]

Q151

Q124

Q138



SUGAR SERVICES NEWS

Ratoon Stunting Disease Management (RSD) Recommended Farm Hygiene Practices

Planting

- Have all planting material inspected by Sugar Services staff before cutting plants.
- Sterilise all cutting equipment including cane knives, plant cutters, chainsaws, topping knives, plants harvester, tipper bins.
- Check that all plants coming onto the farm have also been inspected.
- Thoroughly sterilise the cutting gear and shutes of the planter before planting. The most effective method is to wash thoroughly and then apply a sterilising agent (Mirrol, cane knife steriliser) the day before planting commences.
- Sterilise the planter especially before planting kilogram and nucleus plants. If you are planting kilogram/nucleus plants and other plants, plant the kilogram/nucleus plants first.
- If you make a major variety change, when planting a block with two or more commercial varieties, sterilise between varieties.
- Should you run out of clean plants before completing a block, do not finish off with 'anything handy'. Check out another reliable source with a good history of hot water treatment.
- When billet planting, thoroughly clean and sterilise the cane harvester and tipper bins before use.

Harvesting

- Insist the harvester is sterilised when it comes onto your farm. The base-cutters, butt-lifters, chopper blades and box, and extractors should be thoroughly cleaned (preferably with a pressure cleaner) and a sterilant applied. Best way – do it yourself.
- Sterilise also between blocks, especially when moving from an old ratoon to plant cane or first ratoon.
- Take special care to sterilise when moving from a known diseased block or one suspected of having RSD.
- Spray or sluice the more accessible parts of the harvester (basecutter, buttlifters, feed train chopper blades etc) with a sterilising agent after harvest each day.

Extras

- Destroy all volunteer stools during the fallow as they may harbour disease.
- Wash down and sterilise implements used to 'take out' a diseased block eg bumper disc, rotary hoe.
- If employing a planting contractor, check each point of hygiene before planting commences.

Sterilising solution

Cane Knife steriliser – 1% solution (100mls/10ltrs water).

Oreco Manufacturing Facility Tour

On Friday 30 April at Agro-Trends growers were able to jump on board a bus and head over to the Oreco manufacturing site in Childers for a tour of the facility and enjoy some afternoon tea.

The tour was well received and the growers feed back was positive.

Thank you to Oreco for allowing our members to attend the facility and showing them around. ■



Information Notices and Updates

Oreco - Sugarcane Trash Bailing

The pre-season sign-on has now closed, however, should you still wish to supply under a three (3) year term, the price will be \$40 + GST per tonne compared to the previous price of \$36.20 + GST. Contact the office to arrange contracts for signing if you haven't already.

Chain of Responsibility

Growers are reminded that under the Chain of Responsibility Laws for Heavy Vehicles, that any person who has influence along the supply chain may be responsible for any laws that are breached. The best way to discharge or lower the level of responsibility is for easy-to-understand contracts to be in place which state who is responsible for what roles in the operation. These include but are not limited to fatigue management, overloading and vehicle dimension. Copies are available upon request at reception.

SunWater Carryover by 24 June

A reminder to all SunWater customers to submit their carryover requests by 24 June. We have some forms at the counter or you can download one from here: https://www.sunwater.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Home/Customer/Forms/Application_Carryover_of_Announced_Allocation_-_Bundaberg_WSS_Customer_Form.pdf

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

4080 Chamberlain Tractor with John Deere Engine and Cane Multiplier, TOFT 9 ton High Lift Track Transporter. Ph: 0428 937 164

FOR SALE

LG 6 tonne tipper bin \$5,750, Same laser 110 tractor \$28,000, Trailco water winch \$3,750. Ph: 0419 577 110

CLASSIFIED & JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

As a free service to financial members, small suitable classified and employment advertisements of up to 30 words only will be printed.

Advertisements will be accepted from non-members, charged at \$11 per 7-word line or part thereof.

Contact:
Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Office
on telephone 4151 2555 or fax 4153 1986. or email bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

If undeliverable return to:



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BUNDABERG QLD 4670

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