



WELCOME TO 2024 ISSUE # 2 OF 'CANE NEWS'



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Info, new video & new PDFs to download & read

Members can access current and previous updates by logging into the member services section at www.canegrowers.com.au, using your CANEGROWERS membership number.

If you do not have your member number, please contact the CANEGROWERS Proserpine office on 4945 1844.

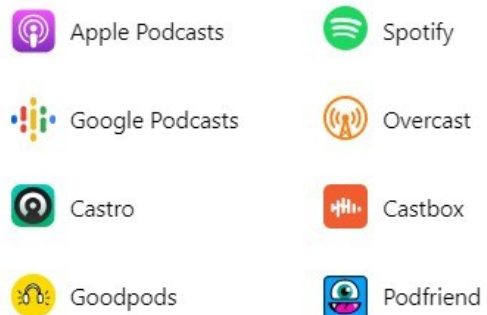


Are you looking for something interesting to listen to while you're in the tractor or car?

New CANEGROWERS podcasts are now available.

Podcasts can be heard by clicking the link below, or on any of these platforms:

Listen to this podcast on



2024 SHOW CANE EXHIBIT



It's almost show time!

CANEGROWERS Proserpine is excited to once again be hosting our annual Show Cane competition at this year's Show Whitsunday. We already have fantastic local sponsors on board, with some exciting prizes on offer. Keep your eye on your email inbox and the CANEGROWERS Proserpine facebook page, as this year's schedule will soon be emailed to all members. Reminders of entry dates will be posted on our facebook page.

Please take note of the entry dates and times for each section, as they have changed from last year:

Sections 8 to 10 All entries are to be taken to the Proserpine Showgrounds on ***Tuesday 18th June, between 9am and 4pm.***

Sections 1 to 7 All entries are to be taken to the Proserpine Showgrounds on ***Thursday 20th June, between 10am and 5pm.*** All entries must be in position on the exhibit display stand prior to 5pm, with entry paperwork completed and all tags fixed to entries. Late entries for any section will not be accepted.

The 2024 competition has a new section! We're very pleased to announce a new section for this year's competition; Section 13 – CANEGROWERS Kids Cane – Under 18's. To participate in this section, entrants must be children of families who supply Proserpine mill, aged 5 to 18.

We encourage all members to join us for Friday's presentation afternoon, which will commence at 2pm. Come and see the exhibit, support your fellow members and enjoy a great afternoon.

Printed copies of this year's schedule are available from the CANEGROWERS Proserpine and SSP offices. If you would like a schedule emailed to you, please contact our office on 4945 1844 or at prp@canegrowers.com.au. The 2024 schedule will also be available on the Show Whitsunday website.

If you have any questions about this year's competition, please contact the CANEGROWERS Proserpine office or Stacey Corrie.

SUPPORT THE MOSSMAN GROWER PETITION

We as CANEGROWERS Proserpine would like to encourage all members to extend support to fellow Mossman Growers. Please can you sign the petition through the following link to "keep the Mossman Mill operational and/or harvest the current crop for the 2024 season."

To sign the Petition visit <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/Petition-Details?id=4064>



CANEGROWERS
PROSERPINE



2024 PRE-SEASON MEETING AND PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS

TUESDAY 14TH MAY - 5PM TO 6.30PM

PROSERPINE RSL

5PM

**WELCOME BY CANEGROWERS PROSERPINE
(CHAIRMAN GLENN CLARKE)**

**QUEENSLAND CANEGROWERS ORGANISATION LTD
(QCGO) UPDATE
(CEO DAN GALLIGAN)**

**WILMAR SUGAR MILL & CST UPDATE
(CORY O'SHEA & LUIS RODRIGUEZ)**

6PM

**SSP PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS
(STACEY CORRIE)**

FOLLOWED BY FOOD AND DRINKS

RSVP IS NOT ESSENTIAL BUT WOULD BE APPRECIATED prp@canegrowers.com.au

LOOKING FOR WORKERS THIS COMING SEASON?



WHAT IS THE LOYALTY BONUS COSTING YOU?

The numbers speak for themselves

Make a better marketing choice for the 2025 season. Choose Wilmar.

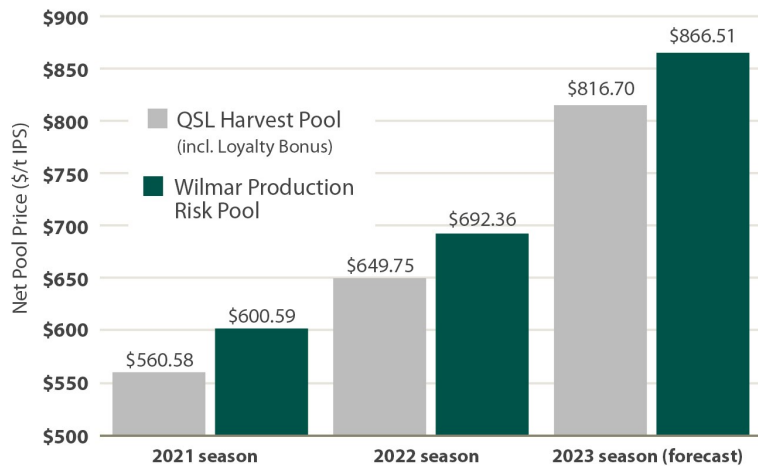
Nominations close 31 October 2024.



Get in touch

SHIRLEY NORRIS
OFFICE PROSERPINE MILL
PHONE 0437 803 019

Wilmar Production Risk Pool and QSL Harvest Pool
(Forecast as at 29 March 2024)



wilmar
Sugar and Renewables

WILMAR GROWER UPDATE



Proserpine Cane Supply Manager, Jed Page has confirmed Proserpine Mill will commence the 2024 production season on **Tuesday 11th June**.

The planned start date is based on the pre-season Proserpine crop estimate of 1.7 million tonnes.

SUGAR SERVICES PROSERPINE UPDATE

Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD) causes significant yield losses, with factors such as pest and other disease pressures, such as nematodes and pachymetra and weather conditions, with yield losses notably higher when the cane is under moisture stress. While potential yield losses have been suggested to be as high as 60%, the average yield loss is around 15-20%. When considering strategies to lessen the impact of RSD infection in crop, Management Control has been an effective method of control in most districts of the Australian sugarcane industry. The main keys with controlling the disease are by planting disease-free (approved) seed, avoiding plough out replant where possible, controlling volunteers in fallow and through disinfecting planting and harvesting equipment.

While most are aware of RSD, there are still several frequently asked questions about the disease:

- **Does RSD live in the soil and, if so, how long can it survive without sugar cane as a host?**
It doesn't survive in the soil apart from being in living sugarcane tissues. If the cane is dead, so the bacterium can't survive either
- **Is it possible to have differing levels of severity of the disease i.e. does a "mild" infection still affect the crop?**
Severity is largely governed by the susceptibility of the variety, so mild infections will tend to be in varieties that are more resistant. Just like other diseases, we think that in general, more resistant varieties will suffer lower losses (but not always).
- **Is it possible that RSD can be spread by floodwater?**
There is no indication of spread by floodwater.
- **Is RSD controlled by fungicide dips on planter. Is it possible to add a bactericide to the dip?**
The fungicide dip will have no effect on RSD; bactericide dips have no effect.
- **Does planter tipper bin need to be sterilised between farms or blocks?**
If there is a high level of disease around, then reducing all risks will be a good strategy – just depends how high the risk is.
- **Can RSD spread through the roots to infect adjacent plants?**
There is no evidence of transmission through the roots.

With conditions finally becoming favourable for planting, SSP has been carrying out xylem collection for testing for growers. If you are looking to have your plant source material tested for RSD, please give either Stacey 0488 777 657 or Frank 0419 679 427 a call.



Extracting xylem from sugarcane billet.

PROSERPINE QSL UPDATE



2024-Season pricing options reminder

QSL Growers have until 30 April 2024 to nominate which pricing options they would like to use for the coming season. In addition to their share of the highly lucrative US Quota Pool, growers can choose from a combination of QSL-managed and grower-managed pricing options.

QSL Direct growers can nominate GEI Sugar tonnes to these products via the QSL App or portal. Any GEI Sugar tonnes not nominated to a pricing option after 30 April 2024 will default to QSL's Harvest Pool.

Changes to your farm structure or third-party payments?

It's important for QSL Direct growers who are planning any changes to their farm's operating structure to inform their local QSL team as soon as possible. This includes changes to ABNs and farm ownership.

Growers are also reminded that all third-party payment arrangements they have in place for the 2023 Season with QSL will automatically roll into the 2024 Season. If there has been any change to your third-party payment arrangements, including extension or expiration of lease and share farming agreements, please let us know.

QSL App – Access your personalised Advances schedule

Not sure what your Advances payment will look like next month?

Head to the QSL App to check out your Advances schedule and expected payment values based on your own Weighted Average Price result.

Click on the 2023 Season in the QSL Direct section of the QSL App, then select 'More' to access.

Need help? Get in touch with your local team.

CEO Roadshow

Great to see so many growers at the QSL CEO Roadshow held at the Proserpine Showgrounds.



Mick Patullo and Steven Cantamessa



QSLs Mark Hampson with Mark Blair



Marc Faletti, Maurice Faletti, Gary Raiteri



Rob Wilson with QSLs Karen Vloedmans



Russell Biggs and QSLs Cathy Kelly



Michael Cantamessa, Peter Quod and QSLs CEO Greg Beashel



QSLs Elliott Apel, Dale Holcombe, Barry Holcombe, QSLs Adam Viertel, Paul Camm, Max & Dawn McFarlane with grand-daughter, Cash.

Planned system maintenance

Due to planned maintenance, some features of the QSL App and QSL Direct portal may be intermittently unavailable on Saturday 27 April. QSL apologises for any inconvenience this may cause.

Key Dates 2024

30 April - Last day to nominate tonnage to QSL's 2024-Season Actively Managed Pool, Individual Futures Contract and Target Price Contract.

Central Region



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Grower Relationship Officer
Karen Vloedmans
0429 804 876
karen.vloedmans@qsl.com.au



Grower Relationship Officer
Brad Dunn
0418 978 120
brad.dunn@qsl.com.au

Disclaimer: The information in this document does not constitute financial advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms in full (available at www.qsl.com.au) before making any pricing and pool selection decisions. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this document.



We'd love to share how our members are filling their days, new technologies or methods being used, photos of our beautiful area and any feel good or funny situations that you find yourselves in, but we need your help!

If you have something to share on the CANEGROWERS Proserpine facebook page – Proserpine Director, Bessie Orr, wants to hear from you!

Need a little help taking some photos to share or putting together your story – no trouble – we'd love to help.



Email your stories, photos etc to Bessie at: proscgmedia@gmail.com or phone Bessie: 0437 538 044.

NHVR LOAD RESTRAINT'S – CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROSERPINE GROWERS AND CONTRACTORS

Heavy vehicle regulations that have been in place since 2014, are now being overseen by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) as of the 20th of April 2024. This has brought the requirements of this law back into the spotlight, including the issue of load restraint.

The Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) sets out that loading requirements in schedule 7 of the Heavy Vehicle National Regulation must be followed. That is that:

- A Load must not be placed on a heavy vehicle in a way that makes it unstable or unsafe
- A Load must be secured so it is unlikely to fall or be dislodged from a vehicle
- An appropriate method must be used to restrain the load



Queensland Cane Growers Organisation (QCGO) has been working hard on behalf of members on how to deal with the issue of 'load restraint'. They continue to lead an industry task group which has met with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR). They have to-date presented industry information to demonstrate the complexity faced by harvesting groups in dealing with the HVNL. **Following consultation with the task group, NHVR has made it clear that if a vehicle carting cane is not covered and not spilling cane then there will be no enforcement action for load restraint.** However, if a vehicle carting cane is spilling cane, then the load restraint is inadequate, and they will take enforcement action.

What does this mean for Proserpine growers and contractors?

This makes it clear, that the correct loading of haulout vehicles is critical for our region should we want to avoid haulout vehicles becoming a focus point for enforcement officers. From earlier presentations given by the NHVR to the QCGO Policy Council in March 2024, certain regions were mentioned by name where incidents had already been reported (e.g., of billets falling off trucks and hitting moving vehicles). **We will need to avoid such incidents to the best of our ability given our position within the Whitsunday Region.**

At this time NHVR has indicated that there is no intention to instigate a sudden blitz of enforcement, however, if there is a substantiated complaint or evidence of cane spillage then NHVR may instigate increased enforcement action. It has been encouraged that initial education should be a starting point before infringement notices are issued, so there could be some first warnings, but this is not guaranteed!

Where do we need to be particularly careful?

Our highest risk areas in Proserpine include all public roads but more within high traffic flow areas such as the Bruce H/Way, Shute-Harbor Road, Crystal Brook Road and Gregory-Cannon Valley Road. If a single billet is observed to be 'unsecured' and falls off on a public road, that vehicle could be liable for a fine. What is not clear is how trash blowing off a vehicle will be treated for compliance, and it is up to industry to reduce this to a minimum if it cannot be eliminated. This will be part of discussions between the task group and regulator going forward.

So, what should harvesting groups do?

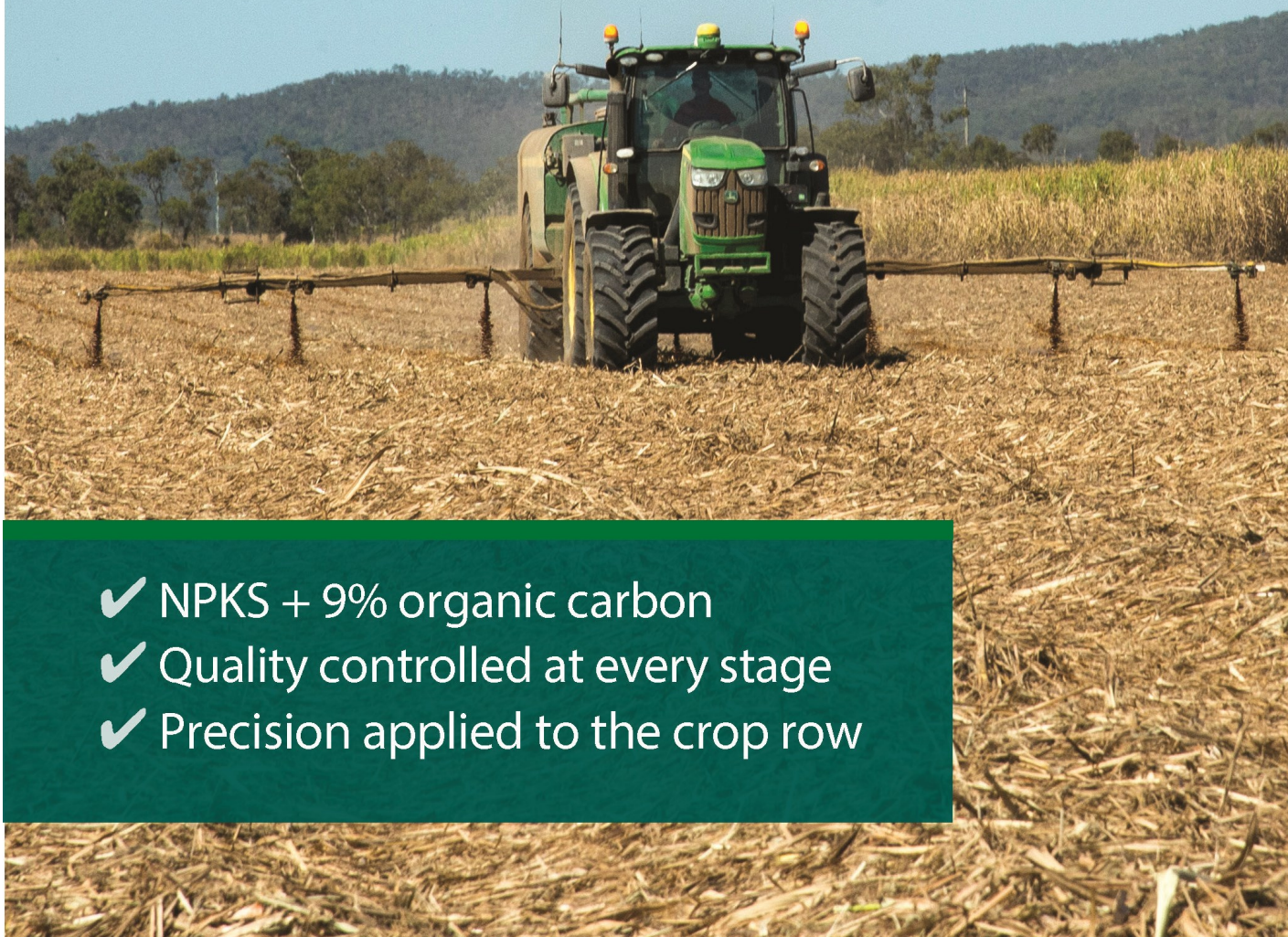
NHVR does not regulate the "appropriate method". The question for each contractor will be, what is the appropriate method to ensure there is no spillage of cane? As an example this may be:

- In accordance with the NHVR Load Restraint Guide 2018 which recommends that loose bulk loads, like sugarcane, be contained or covered. This may be the most appropriate method for vehicles travelling at higher speed over longer distances.
- Continue with the current method of balancing free board and speed to ensure that the cane does not spill. So long as there is no spillage, we believe this should be appropriate for haulouts traveling at lower speeds without a cover.

Lastly, it should be noted that the 'chain of responsibility' rule applies, which means the grower, contractor and miller are all responsible parties to the process. However, not all parties would be automatically liable for the failures of compliance by others. You will find more information in the latest Australian Cane Grower (April 2024 edition). It is encouraged to reference page 8 where the NHVR summarises compliance requirements. QCGO also makes further comment on page 9.

Thank you to Burn Ashburner of QCGO for the significant input on this article.
Brendon Nothard (Manager)

Fertiliser you can bank on



- ✓ NPKS + 9% organic carbon
- ✓ Quality controlled at every stage
- ✓ Precision applied to the crop row

Get in touch:

E: agservices@wilmar.com.au

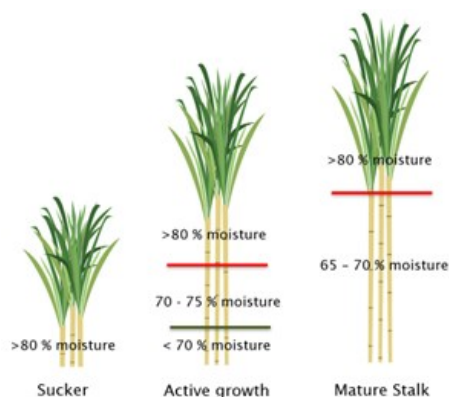
P: 1800 881 957



SRA CENTRAL DISTRICT - CROP RIPENER DEMONSTRATIONS

What did we do:

- Selected two sites which had actively growing cane.
- Measured the cane to confirm that the average moisture in the stalk was above 70% (see the photo).
- This confirms that the cane is still actively growing.
- Applied Potus (250 g/L Trinexapac-ethyl) in May and harvested in June.



The aim was to artificially increase the maturity of the cane. We expected to see an increase in CCS and a reduction in cane yield at harvest.

What did we find:

- The CCS in the Potus treated crop increased by around **0.8 to 0.9 units**
- The yield of cane reduced by around 1 to 2 tonnes.
- The ripener acted as expected.
- The increase in sugar per hectare was greater than the cost of application.
- In the two trials it was in the range of **\$312 to \$440/ha** benefit to the grower after the application and chemical costs were deducted.

What are the learnings

- Identify which crops will benefit from the application of a ripener by testing moisture in the stalk. They must be actively growing and be harvested in 5 to 8 weeks after application.

Trial design

- The two demonstration sites were established in May, with harvest completed in the first 10% harvest round of the crushing season.
- Both demonstration sites prior to the treatment had an average moisture content of the stalk was >70% (measured with the SRA maturity trailer). That means both sites still had actively growing cane and would respond to Potus.
- Both demonstrations consisted of a control treatment and a Potus treatment (250 g/L Trinexapac-ethyl). Replicated strips were randomised across the paddock.
- Potus was applied as per label recommendation of 800mL/ha and within the recommended window to harvest (5 to 8 weeks).
- The cost of product at time of application was \$48 per ha, plus application cost.

The treatments were applied through a drone due to the small, randomised treatments. In a commercial application, local helicopter contractors would offer a lower application cost ~\$80/ha, for gross margin calculations, \$130/ha for treatment (product + application).

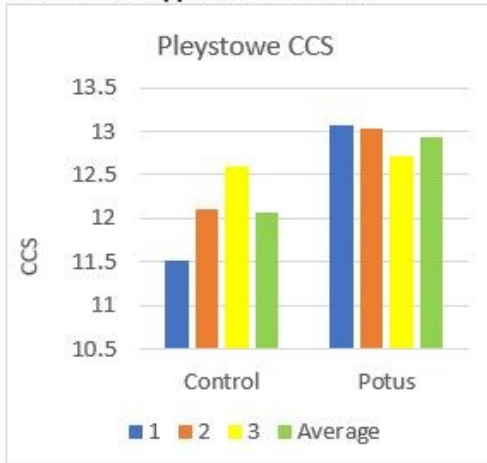
SRA CENTRAL DISTRICT - CROP RIPENER DEMONSTRATIONS

If you are interested in using a crop ripener on your farm, please give us a call:

Dylan Wedel, District Manager – Central, 0490 029 387, dwedel@sugarresearch.com.au
 Kerryn Davison, District Delivery Officer, 0407 961 117, kdavison@sugarresearch.com.au
 Steph Duncan, District Delivery Officer, is currently on parental leave.

Pleystowe

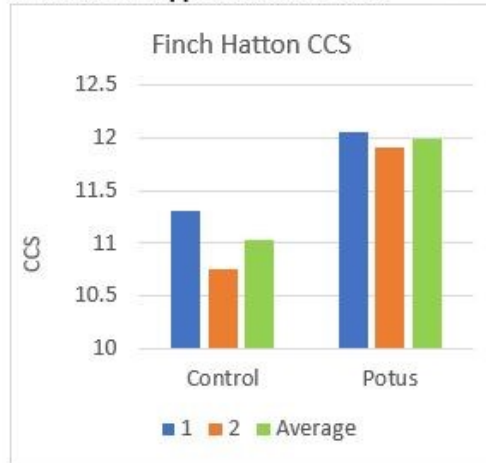
Application Date: 5th May 2022
Crop Moisture at Time of Application: 75.21%
Harvest Date: 23rd June 2022
Variety: Q208
Area per Treatment: 0.8ha, **Total area:** 4.8ha
3 replicated strips of control and treatment
7 weeks from application to harvest



Average Results	CCS	t/ha	TSH
Control	12.07	88.60	10.69
Potus	12.93	86.71	11.21

Finch Hatton

Application Date: 27th May 2022
Crop Moisture at Time of Application: 73.15%
Harvest Date: 30th June 2022
Variety: Q183 Plant
Area per Treatment: 0.45ha, **Total area:** 1.82 ha
2 replicated strips of control and treatment
5 weeks from application to harvest



Average Results	CCS	t/ha	TSH
Control	11.04	101.14	11.16
Potus	11.99	99.99	11.98

Gross Margin Equation: $((\$550/t * 0.009 * (CCS - 4) + 1.12) * t/ha) - t/ha * \$10/t(\text{harvesting}) - \$130/ha(\text{treatment})$



THE 2023 PRICING SEASON: A ROLLERCOASTER RIDE

Simon Hood

Wilmar Manager Grower Marketing

As the close of the 2023 pricing season nears, it's an opportune time to reflect on the journey it has been.

Opening in July 2020 with an indicative forward price of \$350/t, the trajectory since then has been nothing short of remarkable, with the price steadily climbing to a peak of \$950/t towards the end of 2023.

Describing the past 12 months as tumultuous would be an understatement.

At the beginning of 2023 pricing started at \$550/t, steadily growing to \$840/t, before dropping to \$725/t in July. By late October, prices soared and we witnessed the peak of \$950/t, only for it to drop once more to around \$650/t by the start of 2024. This year we have seen prices fluctuate back up to \$810/t, ultimately closing the season at around \$675/t.

Comparing the average price of \$550/t over the past three years with the \$750/t average of the past 12 months, shows the volatility experienced.

Reflecting on Wilmar Sugar and Renewables' performance in managing pools throughout this period, the primary pool used by growers was the Production Risk Pool, equivalent to QSL's Harvest Pool. These pools are managed over a seasonal timeframe and prices may not be directly comparable to the average prices achieved by growers pricing on the forward market over a three-year period.

Despite the fluctuations, Wilmar remains dedicated to maximising returns for growers through informed pool pricing decisions. The graph below shows that growers who price under the Wilmar Production Risk Pool are consistently better off over a three-year period, than those who market with QSL's Harvest Pool. With the 2023 season ending, significant changes to pool prices are unlikely with the expiry of the May #11 contract.

Over the past month, Wilmar's Grower Marketing team has been bolstered by the addition of two new staff members, and some changes to increase the support for growers across all milling regions. Owen Richards will support Fiona Villis and Meghan Wilson in the Burdekin region with grower pricing. He will also be exploring new avenues to enhance profitability for growers across all regions through new products and services.

Similarly, Angus McKerrow will now split his time between the Plane Creek and Herbert regions to facilitate Wilmar's growing presence.

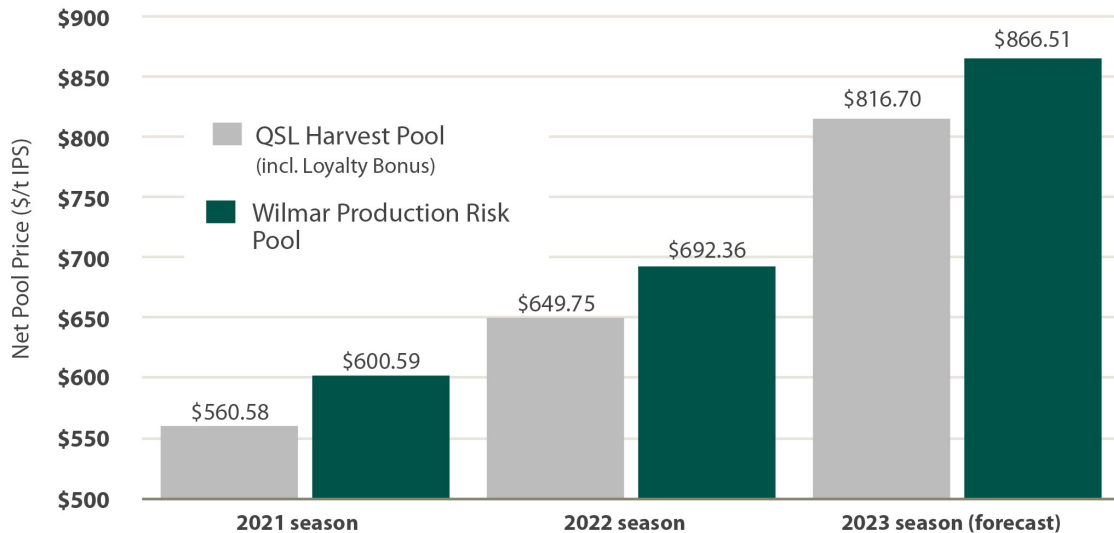
In Townsville, Megan Hawke will oversee the administration by providing support to Wilmar's growers and field team. Megan will work on enhancing grower relationships through updated communications and the development of pricing systems and tools.

Be sure to stay tuned for the upcoming quarterly analysis of pool performance and comparative outcomes. This report is a valuable resource for growers when evaluating their marketing strategies.

Additionally, Wilmar Sugar and Renewables will release an annual 2023 season pricing analysis to combine the results from all products and regions. It will provide a basis for growers to assess their current pricing strategies, and will be a reference point for the Grower Marketing team and how they will assist in GEI sugar pricing decisions, for the 2024 season and beyond.

Wilmar Production Risk Pool and QSL Harvest Pool

(Forecast as at 29 March 2024)



Wilmar's Production Risk Pool has outperformed QSL's Harvest Pool for three consecutive years.

WHITSUNDAY REGION VALUATION OBJECTION – MAY 2024 DEADLINE!

Growers are reminded that any objection to their recent State Valuation, would need to be submitted prior to the 27th of May 2024 (please check your Land Valuation Notice to confirm this deadline as it may be different for some properties).

In interactions with various growers, the higher-than-average valuation increases have been largely for smaller properties and those located closer to the Cannon Valley corridor, however, many larger commercial property valuations have well exceeded 70% (this being close to the average increase for commercial cane land in our area as per Council input).

CANEGROWERS Proserpine are continuing to meet with the Whitsunday Regional Council to ensure the cents in the \$ are adjusted to account for these high valuation increases. However, there remains concern for growers who faced higher than average increases (i.e., over 70%), as this will likely translate into above average increases in the overall rates paid.

The Department of Resources website (www.resources.qld.gov.au) contains useful information about the valuation process undertaken by it.



SMARTCANE BMP

If you are yet to be accredited in the Smartcane BMP program, now is the time to start. With 43% of Queensland's sugarcane area now accredited, the program is being recognised by marketers, investors, and financial institutions as the industry benchmark for sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Any size farm is eligible to be Smartcane BMP certified, with accredited farm sizes ranging from 5ha to over 3,000ha. Give Jess a call on 4945 1844 today to find out how to get started or email jess_harrison@canegrowers.com.au

YOUR FARM, YOUR WAY

You know your farm and what you want to achieve.

Smartcane BMP recognises how you farm and supports improvements you want to make.

Talk with Jess about how she can help you.



Bill and William, Proserpine

Contact Jess to find out more.

CLASSIFIEDS & NOTICES

CANEGROWERS Proserpine Job Board

Looking for workers? We currently have lots of personnel looking for tractor driving positions on the job board in the office. Come in and have a look or give the office a call to request details.

Closing date for classified advertisements is the close of business of the second week of each month.

Classifieds are free to CANEGROWERS members.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine does not necessarily endorse products or services advertised in, or associated with the newsletter.

Articles appearing in 'Cane News' do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS .