



WELCOME TO AUGUST 2024 ISSUE # 6 OF 'CANE NEWS'



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Be sure to 'like' our page to keep up to date with Proserpine cane industry news, events & information



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.



CANEGROWERS Podcast

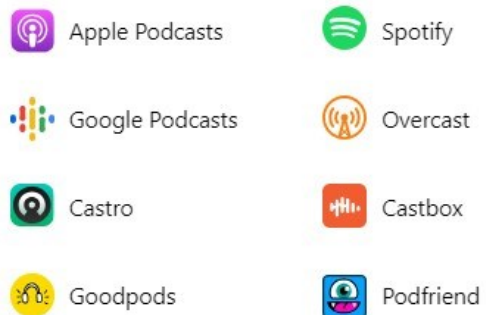
CANEGROWERS advocates on behalf of sugarcane growers in Australia. This podcast series examines some key issues and challenges and celebrates the successes.

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



BBQ & BEERS INFORMATION SESSION



SSP and CANEGROWERS Proserpine held a BBQ and Beers information session and get together during the month. The aim was to bring growers and resellers together to discuss the importance of having correct records for chemical and fertiliser application.

With DAF & DES conducting on farm audits, it is a timely reminder for all growers to contact their preferred adviser and make sure that correct records are being kept and maintained.

SSP and CANEGROWERS Proserpine are happy to help with Nutrient Management Plans, chemical record books and the Smartcane BMP program.



Russell Biggs, Gary Raiteri, Ed McDonald



Liam Davies, Adam Linneweber, Dale Holcombe



Danny Swift, Dwayne Guthrie (Nutrien)

SRA - 2024/2025 VARIETY GUIDES



Sugar Research
Australia

Have you received your SRA Central Variety Guide this year?

The latest SRA Central Variety guides were delivered to mailboxes during July.

If you didn't receive a copy, please contact Dylan Wedel at SRA to ensure your contact details are correct.

Mob: 0490 029 387 Email: DWedel@sugarresearch.com.au

HERE FOR YOU



We're proud to be the marketer of choice for the majority of Proserpine growers.

It's not too late to choose Wilmar as your GEI Marketer for the 2025 season and beyond.

Contact Shirley Norris to find out more about our personalised service, strong performance and on-farm support.

Remember, you can make or change your GEI nomination for the 2025 season up to **31 October**.

Get in touch



SHIRLEY NORRIS
0437 803 019

wilmar
Sugar and Renewables

A MESSAGE FROM QUEENSLAND CANEGROWERS (QCGO) CHAIRMAN



Owen Menkens
Chairman, QCGO

There has been a lot happening at the organisation in the last month. We had a great opportunity to interact with thousands of people at our Ekka stall last week. The staff in Brisbane along with SRA and QFF worked hard to man the stall to answer questions about the industry.

This process is part of our overall education strategy which includes providing teaching material to schools about the industry.

The continuing industrial action is frustrating growers in Wilmar districts. I have been communicating with both sides to get the deal done as soon as possible. Also we have publicly asked the unions to stop these strikes as it costs the whole community.

We had our graduation of Next Ratoon mentoring program which has been a great success for those involved and something we will continue to do into the future.

PROSERPINE STATE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER EXPO

CANEGROWERS Proserpine and Sugar Services Proserpine attended Proserpine State High School's Career Expo!

Showcasing our NEW Virtual Reality Goggles, sharing 360' videos of harvesting, irrigation and even a tour of the Sunshine Sugar Mill.

It was great to meet many inquisitive students, with a some even interested in a career in the Agriculture Industry.



IMPORTANT NOTICE!

On the 30th of July 2024, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) released their proposed regulatory decision for the chemical reconsideration of both Paraquat and Diquat based on what they term 'unacceptable environmental risks'.

What this means is that the use of both products could be highly restricted for most crops in future, including sugarcane. Any final decision by the APVMA will likely not occur until early next year.



The industry has 3-months to respond to the proposal. SRA are currently reviewing the basis for the AVPMA's decision. Along with CANEGROWERS (QCGO), NFF and Syngenta, industry will be submitting a response with other locally based companies expressing interest to support such a response. Members will be kept informed of progress in this regard.

Stacey Corrie
Manager
Sugar Services Proserpine Limited

Brendon Nothard
Manager
CANEGROWERS Proserpine

QSL Proserpine Update

19 August 2024



Proserpine Market Updates

All growers in the Proserpine region are invited to join QSL Assistant Manager Trading and Risk Elliott Apel for a QSL information and market update later this month.

Come along to learn about:

- Factors driving the ICE 11 raw sugar and currency markets
- The pricing outlook
- Global sugar production forecasts for major sugar producers.

Wednesday 28 August

9:30am | Mt Ossa Rural (Zarby's Café)

12pm | Tony Jeppesen's shed (Bloomsbury)

4pm | Kelsey Creek Hall

RSVP to Karen Vloedmans on 0429 804 876.

2024-Season pricing commitments

Concerned about meeting your pricing commitments? QSL has a range of mechanisms available to help address overcommitment, including washing out positions or rolling pricing forward into the next season.

Growers who are worried about delivering enough sugar to satisfy their 2024-Season orders can contact their local QSL team to discuss the options available. More information about QSL's non-delivery options is available at www.qsl.com.au.

Key Dates

20 September | Any unpriced tonnage allocated to the ICE 11 October 2024 contract through the Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest Contract that is not rolled by this date will be priced by QSL at the next market opportunity.

20 September | Any 2024-Season Target Price Contract tonnage not priced by this date will automatically have its pricing window extended, and roll costs may apply.

Central Region



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James Formosa
0437 645 342
james.formosa@qsl.com.au



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



Stop by the QSL Proserpine office for a chat.
88 Main Street, Proserpine Qld 4800

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.

MILL AUDIT

Did you know that CANEGROWERS Proserpine does a weekly Mill Audit?

Most growers may be aware that CANEGROWERS goes into the mill every week of the crush to conduct audits on behalf of growers. But what is audited every week and how does it help to ensure that growers are getting paid correctly?

The CANEGROWERS Proserpine audit process has a number of key objectives:

1. Ensure the weighbridge and grower bin weights are accurate.
2. Ensure sample (i.e., juice and fibre) and lab processes and procedures are followed.
3. Ensure sample and NIR (near Infrared) spectroscopy results follow similar trends.
4. Ensure equipment (pump pressure, etc.) is regularly tested and issues such as missed and low pH samples correctly accounted for.
5. General cleanliness and conditions are maintained from the weighbridge, through No.1 mill, to the lab so that samples are not contaminated.

If the above is done correctly, the chance of getting sample results wrong for growers is significantly reduced. However, this doesn't always guarantee a perfect outcome, and growers are encouraged to monitor their bin weight and CCS results on an ongoing basis.

Wilmar's laboratory team is required to remain neutral and are accountable to both Wilmar Management and CANEGROWERS in how final weights and CCS results are determined. This is also governed by our CAP (Cane Analysis Program) which is an agreement between growers and the mill on how the laboratory needs to be run and what processes need to be adhered to for determining bin weights, CCS and fibre results.

Who does the Audit?

Both a member of CANEGROWERS Proserpine Board and the Manager are required to conduct the audit with the on-duty Laboratory Coordinator. Currently four Board members are rotated for the audits.

What can I do if I believe my results are wrong?

You can either call the mill laboratory directly (07 4945 9745) or CANEGROWERS Proserpine Office as members. If it is identified that an error has been made, the mill will correct these within the weekly cycle before payments are run. If there is no obvious reason for the result, it can take a bit more time to assess whether problematic results are a laboratory error or something that occurred in the paddock. This could be an agronomic or harvesting process issue. Whatever the outcome, CANEGROWERS Proserpine is there to help where we can.

A more in-depth Mill Audit is also done by a third-party expert every year. They will do similar checks but go into more detail on staff performance and wider milling issues. Both results and recommendations are presented to the CANEGROWERS Proserpine Board who will request changes to the Cane Testing Process if required.



CANEGROWERS John Casey inspecting the weighbridge



Members of the Audit Team (L-R): Brendon Nothard (CANEGROWERS Manager), Joshua Page (Wilmar Laboratory Coordinator), John

CANEGROWERS SHOWCASES THE INDUSTRY AT THE EKKA



Matt Kealley
Senior Manager Membership Engagement & Innovation

The Royal Queensland Show or the Ekka as it's better known, is done and dusted for another year.

CANEGROWERS was at the Ekka on our stand in the Agricultural Hall that proudly showcased the Australian sugarcane industry to families and show-goers. The display included sugarcane plants and varieties from Rocky Point, baled and packaged mulch, different types of sugar including low-GI from Sunshine Sugar in NSW, products that can be made from bagass as well as tissue-culture plants and information on breeding from SRA.

The Ekka attracted more than 340,000 people over the nine days (10 to 18 August), and like much of the industry this year, it was also affected by wet weather. However, that didn't stop the enthusiastic staff from Brisbane handing out 5000 showbags and booklets about the sugarcane growing and the industry to parents, school children and the interested public.

The specially published booklet called Sugarcane: One Plant, Many Products is a resource aimed to educate people about the entire sugarcane supply chain, from growing cane right through to harvesting, processing, refining, packing, exporting, and everything in between.

But the highlight for most was a turn on the Virtual Reality (VR) headsets that played an interactive video of the journey of sugar from the paddock to the plate.

As Queensland's second largest agricultural export, sugarcane plays an important role in this economic growth, contributing around \$4 billion to the economy annually and supporting almost 20,000 jobs, both directly and indirectly. However, many people in the city don't know much about our industry and surprisingly, there is also a lack of awareness across the state about its size, value and career opportunities.

Over the nine days, CANEGROWERS staff were joined by staff from SRA, Sunshine Sugar and Queensland Farmers Federation. The QCGO board directors came in for an afternoon as did some of our mentees from the Next Ratoon mentoring program.

The value of being at the Ekka is huge for agriculture. There is a constant stream of kids, parents, politicians and dignitaries visiting the stall which always results in a comment from someone who has fond memories of the industry, how their grandfather cut cane, or how they remember chewing on sticks of cane as a kid.

The Ekka takes a lot of work, but it is a great event to talk to people about our industry and maybe teach a few of our city folk where sugar comes from, how it is grown and its importance to Queensland.

Bio Dunder[®] delivers your complete *fertiliser solution*

- ✓ NPKS + 9% organic carbon
- ✓ Independently tested and quality assured
- ✓ Trusted by generations of cane farmers

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✉ agservices@wilmar.com.au ☎ 1800 881 957





BUSY MONTH FOR GROWER MARKETING

Simon Hood Wilmar Manager Grower Marketing

Following a jam-packed July that was dominated by our international sugar trader roadshow, the Grower Marketing team has been busy compiling the first edition of our new grower newsletter – The Sugar Brief.

In this new communication offering, we collate the range of activities we engage in that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Wilmar Sugar and Renewables sponsors dozens of events within our sugar milling regions that are linked to cane growing, local schools, sporting clubs and community activities.

Through July and August the Grower Marketing team sponsored the Ingham Tractor Pull Championship held at the Ingham Show and the Young Farmers section at the 2024 Proserpine Show cane exhibit.

As part of Wilmar's corporate sponsorship of the North Queensland Cowboys, we are able to entertain growers at some of the local games. Unfortunately, the most recent of these corporate box events coincided with the Broncos bringing their A game to the Townsville stadium.

Port tours and school education events are a regular activity for our team in the field, and we hope to get some mill tours under way once the season is more progressed. We also intermittently hold shed meetings for interested parties, especially those who missed out on the trader roadshow.

On the Pricing and Pooling front, Wilmar's results continue to outperform the competition.

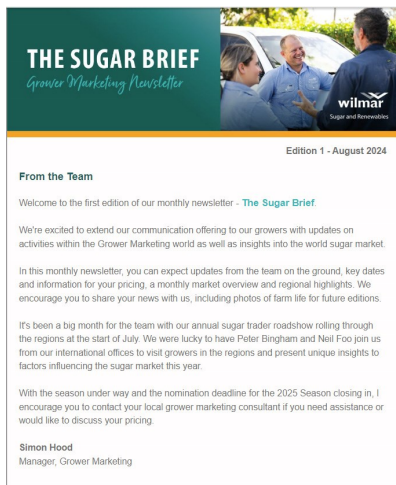
Our Production Risk Pool is tracking well ahead of QSL's Harvest Pool as is our Managed Pool and US Quota Pool.

The all-important Allocation Account is currently forecast at approximately \$42/t Actual which is effectively twice as much as the QSL shared Pool.

Obviously it is very early in the 2024 season and forecast prices will move around with the market. However the established trend of the Pool and Allocation continuing to add significant value to growers who choose to market with Willmar looks to be repeating.

Remember you have until 31 October 2024 to finalise your 2025 season GEI marketing nomination. Even if you have already nominated, you are able to change your GEI marketer up until that date.

Feel free to contact one of our team members to talk about your marketing options.



A snip from our new grower newsletter, The Sugar Brief.



Proserpine Grower Marketing Consultant Shirley Norris with the Valmadre family who placed second in the Young Farmers section at the Proserpine Show.



We were proud sponsors of the Tractor Pull Championship held at the Ingham Show.



Port tours are a regular activity for our team in the field. Owen Richards (right) is pictured with growers at the Port of Townsville.

DAF UPDATE - USING AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS NEAR A WATERCOURSE



It is important to know about watercourses when using agriculture chemicals. Individual labels of chemicals may refer to use around a waterway or natural aquatic area, including non-wind buffers and downwind buffers.

What is a water body

According to the *Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Regulation 2017* a water body can be:

- a natural channel, whether or not containing water, such as a creek river or stream
- an artificial channel, other than an irrigation channel or interrow furrow, whether or not containing water
- an area in which water is or can be contained by a dam or weir at full supply level
- a wetland.

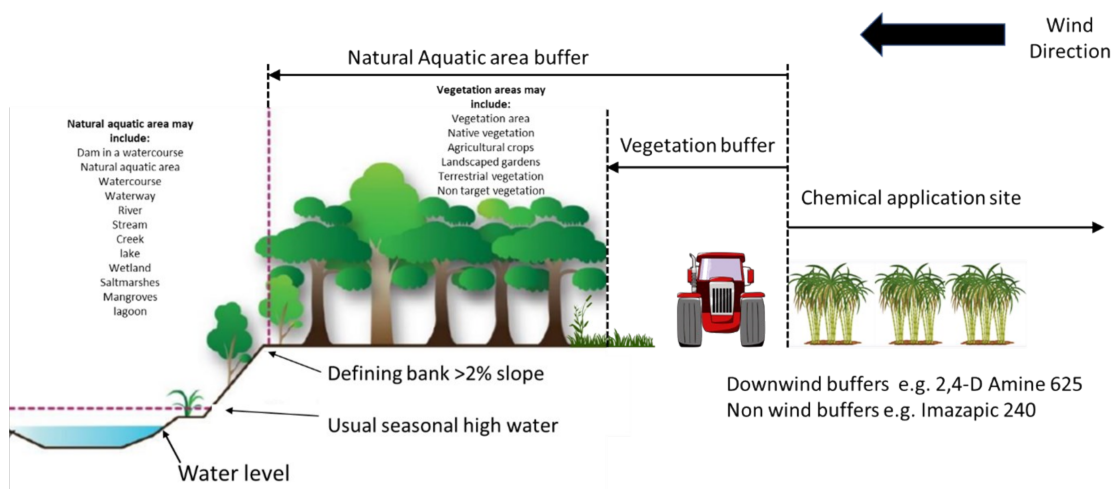
Also, to remove any doubt, it is declared that if there is more than 1 natural channel within the outer limits of a water body, each channel is a water body.

What is the edge of a water body

The **edge** of a water body is the place at which the bank of the water body meets the adjacent flood zone. However, if there is no obvious place, the **edge** of the water body is the part of the bank of the water body where the downward slope toward the bed of the water body is more than 2%.

Aquatic Buffer zones

Some products may have a buffer zone that prevents application within a certain distance from a watercourse. Not all buffer zones are the same, but information on if a buffer zone applies to a product, and how to apply it, can be found on your product label.



For more information search for “using agricultural chemicals” at business.qld.gov.au or scan the QR code.



INSURANCE

Did you know that once you are over the age of 75 you must have a medical certificate for motor vehicle driver form (F3712) with you at all times when driving?

These medical certificates are valid for a maximum of 13 months from the issue date.

For more information visit www.qld.gov.au/seniors/transport/senior-drivers/safe-driving

The image shows a sample of the Queensland Government Medical Certificate for Motor Vehicle Driver form (F3712). The form is titled "Queensland Government Medical Certificate for Motor Vehicle Driver". It includes the following sections and fields:

- Top Left:** "TR8 Form Area F3712 V01 Nov 2012" and a vertical note: "This tear-off medical certificate must be carried when driving."
- Top Right:** "Licence number (if known)" with a grid for input.
- Center:** "Name of driver (please print)", "To be completed by the treating doctor if the driver is 75 years or older of question 9b or Form 2 has been completed)", and "Name of driver (please print)".
- Medical Certificate Dates:** "Medical Certificate issue date" and "Review/expiry date" (with a note: "provide details from question 5").
- Licence Class:** "Licence class/es (provide details from question 6)".
- Licence Conditions:** "Licence Conditions/Restrictions (provide details from question 6b)".
- Bottom Right:** "Doctor's details" section including "Signature", "Name (please print)", and "Address and contact telephone number (office stamp)".

example

RURAL PLANT CODE OF PRACTICE 2024

Following public consultation, the Rural plant Code of Practice 2024 (the Code) will commence as an approved code of practice on 23 September 2024.

The purpose of the Code is to help reduce the risk of injuries and fatalities by providing guidance on working safely with rural plant. Updates to the Code are expected to have significant positive impacts on work health and safety outcomes on Queensland farms.

The Code will also support the agricultural industry to meet its work health and safety legislative obligations.

The Code will replace the Rural plant Code of Practice 2004 and the Safe design and operation of tractors Code of Practice 2005.

As tractors are rural plant and a common source of fatalities and serious injuries on farms, they are now comprehensively covered under the new Code.

Other key updates to the Code include:

- guidance on technology including the use of drones, quad bikes and side by side vehicles
- modernised content to remove outdated information (such as references to discontinued Australian Standards) and to include new diagrams and pictures
- guidance on
 - how to consult, cooperate and coordinate activities with other duty holders
 - requirements for high risk work licences for certain plant.

The new Code reflects the latest in safety best practices tailored specifically for Queensland's agricultural industry.

For a copy of the Code contact the office on (07) 4945 1844 or email prp@canegrowers.com.au

SSP—TESTING

A reminder that as a service to members, Sugar Services Proserpine (SSP) offer soil, plant tissue and water testing, as well as CCS, RSD and pachymetra testing. Detailed recommendations are provided, and nutrient management plans (NMP) are also available upon request.

The service offered is basic sugarcane soil testing, at a cost to the grower of \$125.00 per test including GST and postage.

Please contact Stacey or Frank if you would like any samples collected.

CLASSIFIEDS & NOTICES

FOR SALE by expressions of interest.



Liugong S935TA Cane Harvester

This harvester comes at 385 HP / 288 KW Cummins CSM 11. 850hrs on the clock, 150hrs on elevator, 6 blade 15" chop. Close copy of CASE 8810 hydraulics. Including Eaton transmission, 2 speed tracks, larger P365 / 90 gal pumps on basecutter and choppers. Same electric solenoids as CASE. Oversize track rollers, CASE interchangeable elevator parts.

Ph 0429 881 967 Fred

Ph 0450 916 686 Matthew

For the interested buyer, Mechanic will also accompany the harvester for the first month FREE OF CHARGE.



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.

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 .