

HIGHLIGHTS

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Kalamia Sweet Notes

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thanks all contributors.

My article in last month's magazine touched on reintroduction/trial of a service provided some years ago to growers who had queries in relation to issues around CCS. As well, KCGOL is proactively scrutinising "Edit Lab" reports provided by Wilmar in an effort to identify anomalies and investigating further. Monica Nicholson has been in the role now for just on four weeks and has lodged in excess of 40 queries season to date (Kalamia Mill – 27, Pioneer – 11, Invicta – 3 & Inkerman – 2). Majority of queries that have been responded to were addressed to KCGOL satisfaction, with a few outstanding queries remaining at the time of writing. There has been one successful outcome with a growers CCS having been adjusted from 10.50 to 12.30 as a result of KCGOL challenge.

An issue that we have identified with Edit Lab Reports provided by Wilmar is that information provided within these reports only includes that of growers that have executed a collective CSA. This information is consistent with provision of information as per Schedule 9 of collective CSA however there is no such provision in the individual agreement. KCGOL has approached Wilmar in an effort to have all KCGOL collective members included in Edit Lab Reports and offered to arrange for letter of authorisation signed by individual CSA growers to achieve this outcome. Wilmar's response was:

"In relation to your query below all growers are provided with details of each of their deliveries and are at liberty to make enquiries directly with mill staff or the auditor at the mill in relation to analysis queries. This is the case in all Wilmar regions and we do not wish to compromise what is currently standard reporting platforms."

Unfortunately this will mean KCGOL will not have access to individual CSA growers information to proactively scrutinise results and will be totally reliant upon these growers to contact this office in relation to any

queries identified from "rake deliveries" etc. At our recent AGM an issue was raised by a grower in relation to outcome of RP20 Nitrogen Trials and in particular the positive around improved environmental footprint. Grower enquired as to avenues available to undertake surface water sampling in the Delta to determine individual farm nitrogen impact and to what extent. For any growers interested I have had discussions with BBIFMAC who have provided the following guidelines/procedures.

1. Sample collection: farmers can either take a grab sample of runoff at the end of the row once the water comes through or BBIFMAC sells KP samplers which if set up correctly automatically start taking a sample when the water first comes through and stops when the water stops. This is a more accurate way of taking samples as the amount of nutrient can vary throughout the runoff period however the KP samplers sell for \$550. Farmacist and BPS have purchased several KP samplers from BBIFMAC and use them throughout the Burdekin. The KP samplers do need to be set up correctly and maintained properly and BBIFMAC suggests a trained person deploy them each time.

2. Sample storage: samples are best placed into an appropriate sample bottle (1L from lab supplier), making sure that the bottle is triple rinsed before used, and that gloves are used so that there is no contamination of the bottle neck or lid (the bare skin of fingers/hands can contain quite high levels of Nitrates which will contaminate the sample!). There should be no air gap in the bottle after being filled with the sample and it needs to be refrigerated or frozen immediately after collection (very important!). Samples sitting in the sun or in a hot vehicle will degrade very rapidly.

3. Sample analysis: samples can be sent off to a laboratory for analysis however this is costly (up to \$150 depending on the analysis required plus freight), especially as they need to be transported cold! If just testing for Nitrogen/Nitrate BBIFMAC can analyse the samples for \$30/sample and can provide the appropriate collection bottles. Phosphorus and pesticides will need to be sent away to a lab. BBIFMAC can do this but it will cost upwards of \$150 per sample. NOTE: It is important to note that just taking a once off sample is not going to give an



accurate picture of runoff. It varies depending on the amount of runoff (e.g. irrigation vs rainfall) and the period of time that has lapsed since product application. BBIFMAC recommends at least 6 runoff events are sampled - preferably the first few irrigations following product application (e.g. fertilising, spraying) and also the first few rainfall events after application.

If any growers require any further information or wish to undertake sampling please liaise with BBIFMAC direct.

The 2017 season continues to progress smoothly and no doubt growers breathed a sigh of relief to see that forecast rain event early in August of 30-70mm did not eventuate. Minimal rainfall was received with only area impacted was Inkerman mill that had a wet weather stoppage of approx. of 8 hours on 9th August. Burdekin district 2017 crop forecast has been downgraded from 8.4 to 8.3 million tonnes with Burdekin district CCS as of 12th August standing at 14.37 with 36% of the crop having been harvested.

Cheers until next month.

Article by Dougall Lodge, QSL general manager trading and risk

SUGAR

ICE 11 Contract	Latest Settlement US c/lb	Monthly Change US c/lb	High US c/lb	Low US c/lb
Oct-2017	13.45	-0.65	15.12	12.94
Mar-2018	14.17	-0.67	15.78	13.78
May-2018	14.41	-0.50	15.85	14.03
Jul-2018	14.63	-0.35	15.92	14.30
Oct-2018	14.95	-0.26	16.10	14.92
BRL/USD	3.1472	0.29%	3.2148	3.1087
Ethanol Parity	14.48			

Source: Bloomberg. Current as of 18.8.17.



Dougall Lodge

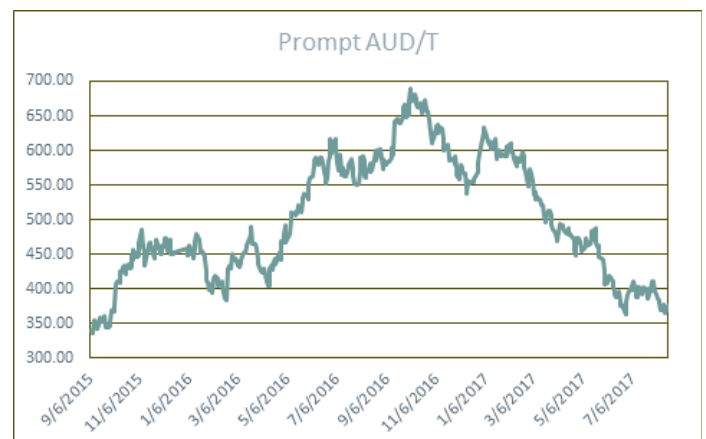
WHAT HAPPENED?

The ICE 11 raw sugar market traded in a relatively tight 13-15 c/lb range for most of the last month, touching lows below 13 c/lb while the AUD/USD defied most analysts' expectations and strengthened to above 0.80. These two features combined to keep AUD returns below A\$400/metric tonne (mt) in the spot position for most of the month.

Thankfully, the forward prices have remained a bit more resilient than the spot prices, and 2018, 2019 and 2020 levels all hit intra-day trading highs above \$450 per mt.

The Brazilian harvest has been progressing very strongly, and the ratio of sugar versus ethanol has been higher than expected. The pace of sugar production is at record highs, and if it continues we expect to see a larger surplus of Brazilian sugar to be delivered to the Oct 17 contract. A delivery to the exchange may be the best home for this sugar as it will then not have to be discounted to compete into traditional North Africa and Middle East markets; as well as China where the additional safeguard tariff is now in place. This surplus is potentially going to be felt by the market in the months to come.

Ethanol prices have been well supported and have been at or above sugar levels for the month. The price disparity does not seem to be impacting production yet. Some milling companies are talking about increasing their production ratios but so far it would appear



that they are going to maximize their sugar for the near term. After buying back around 3 million mt of their sold positions early in the month which helped the sugar market stabilize and reach highs of around 15 clb, the speculators have since piled back in, selling a massive 2.5 million mt back again over the past fortnight. This position may prove to be helpful to supporting prices for a short while in the lead up to the Oct 17 contract expiry, but it may also prolong the pain if speculators bet that sugar prices will remain under pressure and decide to roll their sold positions into the Mar 18 contract and beyond.



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GOING FORWARD

Demand from India is likely to be muted as we are now almost through to their new season, so the market will be focused on supply-related variables coming from Brazil and the speculator position.

While the outlook for Brazil's supply of sugar remains on the high side and we continue to move closer to the new crop supply being sold by producers from Thailand, Europe and India, it is expected commercial buyers will likely try and wait for price lower levels to emerge. Speculators or Brazilian millers buying back their sold positions may be the only support we'll see in the next month, but this volume is fairly considerable. Timings of the producer selling versus the speculator buying will be watched closely.

WHAT COULD CHANGE?

Ethanol parity is higher than sugar now. Any buy-backs of Brazilian millers' sold sugar positions and diversion to ethanol would be supportive for prices. The market is also watching closely to see if Brazil's cane and agricultural yields show any signs of weakening (fingers crossed!)

QSL MARKET COST DRIVERS

MARKET COST DRIVERS	PROMPT (Oct 17) A\$/mt as at 18.8.17	2018 Season A\$/mt as at 18.8.17
Current Market	\$371.33	\$419.26
Sugar Fundamentals - Global exc. Brazil	●	●
Sugar Fundamentals - Brazil	●	●
Macro Issues/ Specs	●	●
AUD/USD	●	●

CURRENCY

	Settlement	Range	High	Low
AUD/USD	0.7929	228 pts	0.8041	0.7813

Current as of 18.8.17.

WHAT HAPPENED?

The Australian Dollar (AUD)/US Dollar (USD) exchange rate continues to remain well supported but this is due more to US weakness and commodity strength rather than the strength of the Australian economy. The Australian Reserve Bank and Treasury remain concerned about the consequences of a continued strong AUD.

The main driver of the AUD/USD strength is that the US economic outlook remains clouded and the outlook shared by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) is being interpreted by the market that there is less likely chance for more interest rate increases in the near term. Most analysts are now expecting only one rate increase at most for the balance of 2017.

Exacerbating this situation is that the hedge fund/speculator position has been selling the USD, and it is now at its highest net-sold level in around five years, despite the equities market being at record high levels in the USA. US Manufacturing indicators were reported lower than expected during the month, and none of the Trump administration's proposed infrastructure and other councils seem to be coming together to be able to resolve some of these structural issues. Confidence is low.

Commodities have been helping provide support to the AUD/USD. Iron ore is back up near \$80 per mt, and metal prices (aluminium, zinc, steel, nickel) are also up on the back of increased Chinese demand. Oil has also recovered to head back up towards \$50 per barrel again.

GOING FORWARD

Structurally, the AUD/USD should be poised for a correction downwards, but bigger forces in the USA are at play and providing support. Any positive change to the USA outlook will provide the catalyst for a break downwards in the AUD, but until then we are seemingly in a new range of around 0.75-0.80 for the near-term.

WHAT COULD CHANGE?

Any developments in USA politics and North Korea/Russian tensions could impact the AUD/USD.

MARK JOINS QSL MARKETING TEAM

Mark Hampson, right, has joined QSL as Executive Manager, Marketing and Risk. Mark comes to QSL from the ANZ Banking Group and brings with him over 15 years' experience in agricultural finance and trading. He has worked extensively across the corporate and institutional finance landscape within the cotton, grains, beef and sugar commodity industries, and is looking forward to working with QSL for the benefit of the Queensland sugar industry. When he's not at work, Mark is an avid golfer who enjoys spending time with his 3-year-old son Henry and wife Jane on their family cattle property.



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Wilmar Crushing Update



FRIDAY, 18 AUGUST 2017

DEAR GROWER

We have now crushed close to 40 per cent of the total crop, with about 6.12 million tonnes of cane crushed across the group as at 8am today.

The drier weather is having a positive impact on CCS levels, with jumps of around half a unit in the Herbert, Plane Creek and Proserpine regions.

The Burdekin mills are on track to crush a total of 370,000 tonnes of cane for the week, which is a reasonable result given there were extended cleaning and maintenance stops at Pioneer and Inkerman mills. As at 8am, the mills had crushed a total of 3.26 million tonnes of cane for the season, or 39 per cent of the total crop. CCS continues to climb and is currently averaging 14.3 units for the week to date. Rising sugar levels mean the pan stage of the factory will now become rate limiting and we can expect to see a slight decrease in crushing rates from next week.

Proserpine Mill has now crushed a total

of 541,000 tonnes of cane, or 34 per cent of the district's crop. We've seen a noticeable improvement in milling train and boiler stability since last week's planned maintenance stop. Minimal downtime this week should see higher-than-budgeted throughput, and the mill remains ahead of budget for the season to date. Average weekly CCS is currently 13.5 units, which is about two units above budget. Plane Creek Mill has reached the 40 per cent mark, with about 477,000 tonnes of cane crushed as at 8am. Average weekly CCS is likely to climb above 14 units for the first time this season. It's currently tracking at 14.1 units – a jump of almost half a unit on last week. We installed the new master turbine gearbox on the shredder last week, which helped lift crushing rates. Issues with the vacuum pans restricted the rate earlier this week, but this has now been resolved following a short cleaning stop yesterday. In the Herbert, CCS levels have jumped half a unit to average 13.5 this week. Factory reliability rates have been high and we're on track to crush a total of 215,000 tonnes of cane for

the week, despite scheduled stops at both Victoria and Macknade mills. As at 8am, the Herbert mills had crushed a total of 1.84 million tonnes of cane or 37 per cent of the district's crop.

From Sunday, about 20 harvesting groups supplying Macknade Mill will be participating in Harvest Optimisation Week. It's part of a three-week trial designed to collect localised data on how harvester operation impacts the amount of sugar ultimately produced. For the whole of next week, all harvesters supplying Macknade Mill will operate at the machine's optimal set-up in order to minimise extraneous matter and sugar loss. Wilmar is playing a key role in this trial by providing field staff to collect information on sugar loss and cane quality. We have also rostered on additional employees to collect more detailed information on cane fibre and sugar quality in the factory.

Best regards

Paul Giordani

General Manager – Cane Supply
and Grower Relations



MEMBERS INFORMATION

NOTICE BOARD

Reminder of Date Claimers - Marketing with QSL

Grower-managed pricing reminder

Willmar Growers with grower-managed pricing in QSL's In-Season Target and/or In-Season Fixed Price Contract products are reminded that they must complete their allocated pricing for the October 2017 contract by 3pm Monday 18 September. Any unfilled pricing against this contract beyond this date will be priced at the next market opportunity.

Reminder to KCGO Members

The daily loadings, sugar price and fuel price is emailed to all members each day for your benefit to keep in touch of the crushing season and Kalagro fuel savings. Kalagro Fuel Prices have been giving great savings to our current customers.

Throughout the Crushing season, Puma (Kalagro's Supplier) will be delivering daily on week days - Monday to Friday.

A reminder that to place orders, please ring: Kalamia Cane Growers office - ph 07 47831312. Kalagro customer's cannot ring direct to Puma and receive the Kalagro discounted rate.

Smartcane Accreditation Information

Smart Cane Accreditation can be completed at Burdekin Productivity Services with local representative, Terry Granshaw - mobile 0437 553 149, email tgranshaw@bps.net.au. Terry regularly holds fortnightly Smartcane BMP self-assessment workshops as an initial introduction as well as one-on-one interaction with a grower for the three required modules to achieve Smartcane BMP accreditation.

Smartcane BMP is funded by the QLD Government with no cost to growers to undertake the course. Bonsucro accreditation requires further modules to be completed in addition to that for Smartcane.

Please Note: As an incentive for Growers to undertake Smartcane BMP adoption and Bonsucro accreditation, Willmar makes available a per tonne incentive payment (capped at 25,000 tonne).

Please refer to Collective CSA (Cane Supply Agreement)
- Page 77 - 78 for additional information.



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Sweet Industry News

SUGAR CODE UNDER ATTACK

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NSW LIBERAL Democratic Senator David Leyonhjelm has introduced a disallowance motion into the Upper House to try and reverse the federal government's sugar marketing code of conduct.

The code of conduct was introduced earlier this year to break the deadlock between sugar cane farmers and foreign owned marketer Wilmar on contractual arrangements for marketing this year's crop.

It was described at the time by Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison as "light touch" regulation, "but at the same time it gets the result": Senator Leyonhjelm said he didn't expect a vote would be held on his new disallowance motion until September, at the earliest.

"I am moving today to disallow the regulations which contain the code - Labor will support me," he said to Fair-fax Agricultural Media.

"Today is the last day we have for introducing the disallowance and we then have 30 sitting days before it has to be decided.

"Scott Morrison said it's a light touch code but I don't think it is."

Senator Leyonhjelm said he needed Labor, the Greens and five of the cross-bench Senators to vote with him, to succeed on the motion.

He said he hadn't done the numbers on the disallowance yet as it was "one step at a time": However, he said the Liberals were ambivalent about it because they didn't want to disappoint their National Party base.

"One Nation wanted them to do it and so did the National Party," he said.

"The Labor party is opposed" Senator Leyonhjelm said other crossbencher Senators like former Liberal Cory Bernardi, Derryn Flinch and the three Nick Xenophon members could be convinced.

Agriculture and Water Resources Minister



Barnaby Joyce played a leading role in the code's implementation, citing escalating frustrations at the inability of producers and Wilmar to strike an agreement without the need for government intervention.

But it also saw a strong stand from Queensland Nationals MP George Christensen where he potentially may have crossed the floor to support a vote backing a code.

Mr Joyce's office has been contacted for comment on the disallowance motion.

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Sweet Industry News

FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS FLOW FOR FARMERS TRIALLING AUTOMATED IRRIGATION

ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural

By Tom Major

Ask any irrigator what they dislike most about their job, and switching over pumps at all hours of the day and night is sure to top many lists.

As well as taking up time, the imprecise way many farmers water their crops could be costing them a lot, with some farmers' power bills doubling in the past six years.

But automating irrigation systems on broad acre farms could see electricity bills slashed and water waste reduced, following trials in North Queensland's Burdekin Delta. Cane grower Denis Pozzebon has received funding from Sugar Research Australia to convert 27 hectares of his 118-hectare property to an automatic system, controlled by radio signals linked to his smartphone or laptop.

Mr Pozzebon said the chance to reduce time spent switching irrigation sets and power bills had been his primary motivation.

"Energy costs are a killer at the moment, and they're going to get worse and worse," he said.

"I've always been interested in some form of automation ... so when this opportunity came up I thought 'I've got to grab it'."

DESIGNING A SYSTEM THAT WORKS

Following consultation with Mr Pozzebon, Malcolm Gillies, from the University of Southern Queensland, set about designing a system incorporating new software and sensors with existing farm irrigation infrastructure.

"We asked what they wanted, what sort of field configurations should we be looking at, all those sorts of things," Dr Gillies said.



Denis Pozzebon, with Malcolm Gillies, says the automation software has improved his life.

Individual fields are serviced by a system of sensors located at points near the end of rows, alerting the system to switch the set over when the field has been irrigated.

Pumps servicing the trial fields are controlled by software maps that Mr Pozzebon can control remotely in real time, or he can design scheduled sets to operate automatically.

"Hit the button, it opens up instantly, it's all shown on my screen," he said.

OUTLAY CAN PAY DIVIDENDS

AgriTech Solutions irrigation agronomist Steve Attard helped install the system across three Burdekin farms, and said the costs varied according to scale.

"If we look at the cost to set up, it's ranged from around \$600 a hectare to \$2,200 a hectare, so there's a big range and it

depends a lot upon the design and layout of your farm," he said.

While the outlay costs were high, Mr Attard said the efficiencies provided by sensors meant cutting power use by over-irrigating fields, resulting in significant savings.

"What we've been able to do on one particular farm is convert from his traditional tariff 66 over to tariff 62, and that's allowed the farmer to reduce his energy bill even further, because we're now using the lowest energy tariff possible," he said.

Adding to the savings for farmers, people living remotely from their properties could cut travel costs.

"One of the farmers lives 30 kilometres from his farm. We've conservatively estimated in 12 months he's saved around 11,000 kilometres of travel," Mr Attard said.

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Sweet Industry News

TRIALS COULD IMPROVE WATER EFFICIENCY

The research team said experiments with different length sets, pulsing sets at higher flow rates, and using sensors at different locations in the field to accurately map farm soil moisture, could prove revolutionary to the way farmers irrigated.

Mr Pozzebon said scheduling sets for times of the day when water use was more efficient could cut pumping times and reduce energy costs.

Soil sensors are helping to save Denis Pozzebon's energy costs by taking the guesswork out of how much water to pump onto cane fields.

"Generally my sets are 12 hours here, but with scheduling, that could turn out to be 10 hours," he said.

And after going through the process of setting up the technology, he has advice for farmers considering automation.

"I think the main thing is, you don't have to do your whole farm," Mr Pozzebon said.

"This part of the farm would be my worst case scenario with sets, row lengths and pump capacity, but I can now leave it for when I'm away or busy with other work."

The opportunity for farmers to relax away from the pressing issue of crop health has been the main benefit of the automation project.

"When we're on full irrigation, the job was 24 hours a day, seven days a week for half the year," Mr Pozzebon said.

"Now I'll be in Sydney this weekend irrigating."



Automation software on smartphones is giving farmers more flexibility to control irrigation sets.



Soil sensors are helping to save Denis Pozzebon's energy costs by taking the guesswork out of how much water to pump onto cane fields.



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Sweet Industry News

PORT OF TOWNSVILLE'S SOUTH-EAST ASIA SHIPPING LINE UPGRADE WELCOMED BY FRESH PRODUCE FARMERS

By Tom Major, ABC Rural –
www.abc.net.au/rural

North Queensland farmers have welcomed a new shipping line's announcement that it will upgrade the frequency of its services from the Port of Townsville.

Global transport giant ANL will run direct services to Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia from the port, offering transit times of as little as 10 days.

A ship will leave from Townsville every 16 days as part of the service.

Mango farmer Peter Manolis from Kelso on Townsville's outskirts said the savings could be enormous if he can bypass the Port of Brisbane.

The majority of his mangoes are exported, with Hong Kong and Singapore receiving much of his fruit.

"It costs us about \$2 a tray to send it to Brisbane. That's quite a lot when you look at 140 trays on a pallet, 20 pallets on a semi-trailer," he said.

"The savings could be astronomical for us considering we may send 50-60,000 trays overseas.

"When you start working out \$2 by 60,000 – that's \$120,000 saved in shipping fruit to Brisbane. That's the cream that you're trying to make."

Mr Manolis said he hoped more competition between freighters would help drive down costs further for exporters.

SHIPPING INCREASE A BOOST LOCALLY

Port of Townsville Trade Development executive Maria James said the move showed confidence in the North Queensland export market and room for greater tonnages out of the port.

She said the locations ANL will ship to

made excellent regional hubs for transshipment and saves up to four days in transit for regional exporters.

"Once you get something to Singapore for example, the proximity to all those south-east Asian nations is immense. So it's not only that quick transit time but also the reach they'll have," she said.

"If people were producing something in say Bowen-Gumlu and sending it out through Brisbane they would lose a couple of days to get it there, then it would sail past us for a couple of days.

"So with this hugely reduced transit time we can get almost any produce to the centre of Asia."

Port authorities believe the additional service to Singapore will interest many producers as the tiny island nation's non-protocol, high-value market for horticulture makes it attractive for exporters.

Ms James said the increasing number of container line services have increased choice for exporters and brought the costs down for producers.

"We've got at least four or five now. The prices between Brisbane and Townsville have never been as close as they are now and I really feel it's because there are three big lines competing against each other," she said.

Peter Manolis' mango trees are experiencing a heavy flower set this season which could lead to a bumper crop – something that's been foreshadowed across the mango industry.

With a potentially massive output this season, making exports more competitive will be a focus for his operation.

"It does bring down the price and it



Increased shipments directly from north Queensland's Port of Townsville to south-east Asia destinations will save time and money.

becomes a buyers' market, so you have to ask for less to stay competitive," he said.

Mr Manolis added that while Malaysia and Indonesia were lower value markets than Hong Kong or Singapore, the potential savings from avoiding transshipping costs out of Brisbane could make it a better option.

"The price of fruit that you send into Malaysia is always a good percentage down ... what you save now from not sending to Brisbane makes up on that shortfall," he said.



Kelso mango grower Peter Manolis is excited by a bumper crop and direct access to south-east Asia.

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Sweet Industry News

OILSEEDS AND CROP STUBBLE TWO AGRIBUSINESS SOLUTIONS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural

By Courtney Fowler, Sarah

Tomlinson, Timothy Jeanes

Running tractors on oilseeds and powering mines with straw are just two innovative agribusiness inventions helping South Australian farmers contribute to sustainable energy alternatives.

In the face of climate change and rising energy prices, never has there been a more important time to find efficient energy sources that are sustainable and reduce global emissions.

One of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions is from burning fossil fuels for electricity, heat, and transportation.

But this year there have been some home-grown initiatives which aim to reduce the strain on farmers' wallets and reduce their carbon footprint.

FUELLING TRACTORS WITH BIO-SEEDS

It's no secret our farmers need fuel and they need lots of it.

It's expensive, vulnerable to supply shortages, and most of it comes from overseas.

But one South Australian company thinks it might have found a solution to these problems.

South Australian Biofuels is turning local seeds into diesel as part of the Community Fuels Project.

Co-founder and engineering manager Morgan Hunter said the project aimed to help farming communities work together to manufacture fuel.

"Basically you grow an oilseed crop, you extract oil by crushing it, the oil comes out and we react the oil and turn it into diesel fuel," he said.

"We are looking at a species called

industrial mustard; it's designed by the government for industrial use for fuels and other applications, so it grows anywhere wheat grows.

"It only needs about 150mm of rain per year, so it's a good crop for dry land farming as well.

"I designed all the equipment, we got local engineering companies to build the bits for us, we assembled it and did all the trials here in South Australia.

"We've been getting between 300–350 litres of fuel per hectare from the mustard seed crop."

Mr Hunter said the bi-product from oil seed crops was one of the highest quality and efficient biodiesels available on the market.

"It's actually a higher quality than your mineral-based diesels that you currently buy at the pumps, [and] it's actually got more power per litre of fuel," he said.

"We designed it so it uses a minimal amount of energy, so our machine converts the oil to fuel using only 14 watts of power per litre of fuel, which is about 10 per cent less of the next biodiesel technology and about 1 per cent of the conventional industrial process.

"Over various production machines, we've come up with this community fuel system that uses an ultrasound, it uses radio waves to cause the fuel to be made from oil which is more efficient than any other technologies on the market.

"And comparing that with normal diesel, you need basically 1.2 litres of diesel to make 1 litre of natural diesel, so it's a very good energy-saving process our machine.

"[And] it doesn't have that toxic smell, it smells like canola oil when you're cooking



The Community Fuels Project aims to help farming communities work together to manufacture fuel using oilseed crops.



SA Biofuels say a mustard seed crop can produce 300-350 litres of fuel per hectare.

your chips."

Mr Hunter said the idea was inspired by frustration over exorbitant petrol prices experienced in regional communities.

"Originally I'd started looking at this for myself, that's when fuel in Adelaide was \$1.50 a litre 10 years ago," he said.

"Then talking to my farmer friends and colleagues they said the rural areas at that time were paying almost \$2 a litre, so it developed to this concept so they can save quite a bit of money on fuel.

"We had a site available that we could use [at Tailm Bend], we were doing trials in the

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Wimmera region just across the Victorian border, [where] it [has] got quite good feed-back because we have a machine on a farm already testing the technology out.

"And we've had some feedback from around the mid-north area saying that might be a goer for them as well."

Mr Hunter said it was his vision to see the Community Fuels Project establish in communities across not only SA but the whole of the country.

"The whole concept behind the Community Fuels Project is we drop off the equipment to the community," he said.

"The farmers supply the seed, they receive fuel and the community manufactures and processes the seed into fuel.

"[Then] they sell the bioproduct from the oil-seed extraction process and profits can be reinvested into local community projects, schools and hospitals."

AN EX-STRAW-DINARY POWER SOURCE

Australia's future energy needs for remote mining projects could be fuelled by straw, under new proposals being evolved and tested in South Australia.

A local company plans to develop a 15MW biomass plant near Ardrossan on the Yorke Peninsula fuelled by the stubble from crops. Yorke Biomass Energy founder Terry Kallis said many new mining ventures – such as those on Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas – were in farming country.

He said both industries could mutually benefit from biomass energy technology.

"When you look at what I'm planning to do on the Yorke Peninsula, we've got a 50km radius [and] we're looking at 90 thousand tonnes of stubble," he said.

"It doesn't have to be good quality – just



Yorke Biomass Energy founder Terry Kallis describes the initiative as a 'win-win' for both farmers and the local mining industry.

stubble that gets bundled [and brought] in to the plant.

"The farmer will be paid \$85 a tonne delivery, then we would burn that, produce power and in an ideal situation deliver it straight into a remote or off-grid mine.

"That way you end up with three benefits: farmers getting a diversified income; the local mining company getting a lower cost of power because it cuts the middlemen along the way; and the local economy gets a lot more business activity."

Mr Kallis said the biomass concept was based on successful models already established in Europe and would require around 90,000 tonnes of straw per annum.

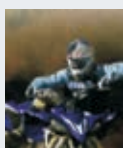
"I've just competed a discussion at the South Australian Resources and Energy Investment Conference talking to a variety

of mining companies who do have developments on the Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas," he said.

"I was encouraging them to come over and have a chat to see if we can't provide them with an alternative to bridge solutions, particularly as competing land use is always a question when mining interests start to impinge on agricultural areas.

"But if you're able to find a way where the broader community gets a benefit, and in this particular case it would be farmers and the local community, then you end up with a nice win-win for both parties."

Mr Kallis said the proposed Ardrossan plant might also have the capacity to supply local domestic customers in the broader Ardrossan footprint.



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HOW A US COMPANY PLANS TO USE AUSTRALIAN SUGAR TO HELP HEAL THE WORLD

By Kallee Buchanan, ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural

Amyris was founded by a group of scientists at UC Berkley in California in 2003, when it was asked by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to make a sustainable replacement for anti-malarial drug artemisinin.

It is now developing sustainable replacements for ingredients that used to come from petroleum or rare animals and plants, and uses milled sugar in the process.

In an exclusive interview with the ABC, investor relations and corporate communications director Peter DeNardo said the company was looking to expand operations into Queensland.

"Much like people have been brewing beer or making wine or bread for thousands of years utilising yeast and some type of feed stock or sugar source, we are in many ways brewing renewable ingredients," he said.

"[It's] for innovative companies that want to create high performance products that are better for consumers and better for the planet.

"Where a partner begins working with us they are trying to solve a supply chain constraint, or they're having difficulty sourcing supply because of sustainability issues or volatility in pricing of that supply."

After starting in pharmaceuticals the company researched biofuels, where it developed a yeast strain called farnesene, which is a flexible hydrocarbon that can be engineered into diesel or jet fuel.

But when the market for biofuels collapsed, the company diversified its focus.

It now hopes to replace ingredients used in specialty chemicals, flavours and fragrances, cosmetics ingredients and pharmaceuticals that are sourced from fossil fuels or rare plants and animals with plant-based, sugar-derived sustainable alternatives.

Using sugar to feed biotech

Essentially, farnesene eats sugar, and Mr DeNardo said Queensland was one of the best places to get it.

"While our organisms could use alternative feed stocks, what we found is that utilising sugar is very cost effective, it's very renewable ... certainly readily available and sustainable," he said.

"We follow a number of sustainable practices in terms of our manufacturing as well, to really sort of walk the walk and talk the talk."

The company's plant at Brotas in Brazil has reached capacity, necessitating the search for a new site.

Mr DeNardo said Queensland emerged as

the leader due to its stable sugar industry and proximity to Asian markets.

"We certainly use up a lot of sugar there [Brazil]. We have more demand than we can meet based on our projected pipeline of business," he said.

"It is imperative that we find some additional manufacturing resources.



Amyris Inc's plant in Brotas, Brazil is operating at capacity and the company wants to expand into Australia.



Joel Cherry is president of research and development in the lab at Amyris, where bio organisms are used to replace unsustainable ingredients.

Sweet Industry News

"We are in a position where if there's a suitable location to produce additional ingredients for our partners cost effectively and with local support, that's what we will need to do."

Unlike other biorefineries that make use of cane by-products such as fibre or bagasse, the Amyris method makes use of milled

sugar.

"The sugar is crushed and pumped as a syrup directly into our factory," Mr DeNardo said.

"Yeast, if you feed it sugar, it's going to create ethanol. What we are doing is altering the bio pathway within that yeast organism to cause it to produce exactly the ingredient

that we desire."

Riding the next industrial wave

Mr DeNardo said the company was now conducting a feasibility study to determine where to build the plant, subject to finance. "Amyris has had a long-term, multi-year relationship with Queensland, originally in bio-fuels," he said.

"There is a moving trend towards creating bio-based ingredients as global populations soar.

"There's a growing middle class in China that have a vast appetite for everything from food to fragrances, and that's really straining resources.

"This is the next industrial wave, what we would call a bio-industrial revolution ... Queensland seems to have some very beneficial properties that might go hand in hand with those plans."



Cane surrounds Amyris Inc's plant in Brotas, Brazil, where sugar syrup is used to feed yeast.



There is growing demand for sustainable replacements for ingredients that used to come from petroleum or rare animals and plants.

The project is supported by the University of Queensland and the Queensland Government through its Biofutures Acceleration Program.

Mr DeNardo said the plant was at least three years away.

He said while the methods were disruptive, the company was committed to improving the health of the planet, and Queensland was shaping up to be a big part of those plans.

"[There are] so many applications from solvents, tyres, health and nutrition, personal care all the way to biopharma and drug discovery," he said.

"That innovation will continue as there are new developments in the business and new opportunities for Amyris to make a positive change on the planet."

Sweet Industry News

ERGON ENERGY WORKING WITH SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY TO IMPROVE SAFETY PRACTICES

With the 2017 cane harvesting underway, Ergon's Customer Delivery Manager Mark Biffanti says community safety advisors will continue to work closely with the sugar cane industry to reduce electrical incidents.

The company says fatigue and entrenched work practices are the underlying cause of electrical incidents leading to poor safety performance during cane harvesting.

"Our aim is to prevent and reduce electrical incidents associated with cane harvesting and educate the industry about the dangers of working around electrical infrastructure.

"However, ultimately, machinery operators need to take personal responsibility for their own safety," he said.

Mr. Biffanti said despite Ergon's safety work with the industry, the number of electrical incidents remains static.

"There has been little change in the number of electrical incidents associated with cane harvesting in regional Queensland in recent years which is concerning.

"The issues are in the field situational awareness of electricity assets, fatigue as harvesting can be a 24 hour a day operation and complacency to their surroundings," he said.

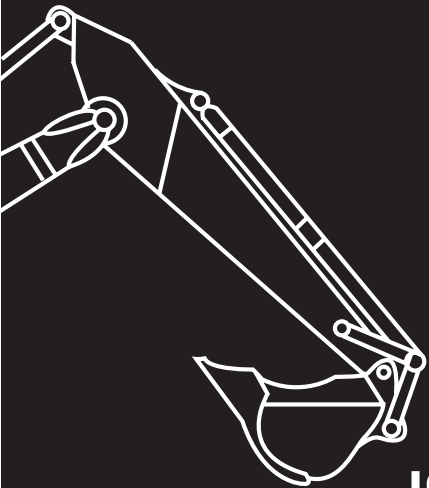
Ergon has renewed its "Look up and Live" campaign encouraging safe and legal work practices near powerlines during cane harvesting.


Mr. Biffanti advises farmers and harvesters to:

- » think through the task and identify all electrical hazards;
- » assess the risks;
- » establish and introduce control measures;
- » clear around power poles and pole stay wires during daylight only;
- » do the job safely and have a safety observer on hand.
- » look out for your mates.
- » keep a safe distance between machinery and powerlines.



"That's because electricity can arc – or jump if conductive material comes close enough and that's why it's vital to stay well away."



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Sweet Time Out

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q: What starts with a P, ends with an E, and has a 1,000 letters?

A: Post office.

Q: Why did the can crusher quit his job?

A: Because it was soda pressing.

Q: Why do hamburgers go to the gym

A: To get better buns!

DID YOU KNOW...?

- » Did you know August has the highest percentage of births
- » Did you know Brazil covers 50% of the South American continent
- » Did you know the Olympic flag was designed in 1913
- » Did you know Buckingham Palace has over 600 rooms

WORD OF THE MONTH

anoesis

noun [an-oh-ee-sis]

a state of mind consisting of pure sensation or emotion without cognitive content.



'Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.'

DR SUESS



CORNFLAKE BISCUITS

INGREDIENTS

- » 125g butter, at room temperature
- » 100g (1/2 cup) caster sugar
- » 1 egg
- » 150g (1 cup) self-raising flour
- » 45g (1/4 cup) currants
- » Pinch salt
- » 60g (2 cups) cornflakes, crushed slightly

METHOD

Step 1

Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan forced.
Line 2 baking trays with baking paper.

Step 2

Use electric beaters to beat the butter and sugar in a bowl until pale and creamy. Beat in the egg. Fold in the flour, currants and salt and mix until well combined.

Step 3

Place the cornflakes in a bowl. Spoon slightly heaped tablespoonfuls of the butter mixture into the cornflakes. Toss the mixture gently in the cornflakes to coat and form balls.

Step 4

Place the balls, 8cm apart to allow room for spreading, on the prepared tray. Bake for 15-18 minutes or until golden. Cool the biscuits for 10 minutes on the trays before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

Sweet Time Out

BRAINBASHERS PUZZLE

Each of the 6-letter words below can be mixed up and then broken down into two common 3-letter words.

For example: NOTIFY = FIN TOY

HELIUM

LATEST

ALMOND

ELDEST

SAFTEY

RADIUM

DESERT

WEALTH

TRICKY

FUNNEL



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- » Fiat 80-66 tractor, 300L Front tank, High clearance 32 inch. \$16,000 neg. Ph 0427 735 305
- » 185 Massey Ferguson Tractor, Good Condition, 600L Front Tank. \$7,000 neg. Ph 0427 735 305
- » 2009 - Ford Falcon XR6 FG Auto 176397 KLM \$10,500. Ph 0428 711 714

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Answer: Helium = Hum + Lie; Latest = Lat + Set; Almond = Old + Man; Eldest = Set + Led; Safety = Set + Yea; Radium = Air + Mud; Desert = Red + Set; Wealth = The + Law; Tricky = Kit + Cry; Funnel = Elf + Nun.



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