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Kalamia Sweet Notes

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KCGOL acknowledges and
thanks all contributors.

23 February 2018

Welcome to our 91st edition of our magazine in which we endeavour to keep our members abreast of sugar industry news and scheduled events. A quick thank you to members who recently participated in our magazine & web survey, your feedback was greatly appreciated. You may have noticed some further improvements have been made in the **KCGO Member News** section in our web page with additional tabs added in order to filter information more easily.

Well it has finally happened, some decent rain to give your pumps a breather, was seriously starting to doubt whether the Burdekin was ever going to have a wet season this year. Elders Weather indicates a good chance of some reasonable falls over the coming week, further rain events in the tropics expected 14-18 & 18-22 March as well as above normal rainfall forecast for the month of April. I suppose time will tell and we can only hope for the best, as long as we don't receive a decent blow.

With planting operations set to commence in the coming months, it is a timely reminder for growers to now consider their clean seed cane for 2019 season and convey your requirements to your Burdekin Productivity Services Field Officers in order

for them to finalise planting requirements in distribution plots this year.

Last month I touched on the issue of "sugar tax on sugary drinks" and would appear now from recent research undertaken by University of Melbourne the sugar industry, indirectly, has come under the microscope yet again. Supposedly new research from Uni of Melbourne and the Cancer Council Victoria have found that "people who regularly drink sugary soft drinks are more at risk of several types of cancer irrespective of what size you are. Higher consumption of both sugar-sweetened and artificially sweetened soft drinks is associated with higher waist circumference, but cancer risk is only higher among those who drink more sugar-sweetened soft drinks". On a brighter



note at least I can still enjoy the frequent intake of a fine amber fluid or will this be next on the list?....

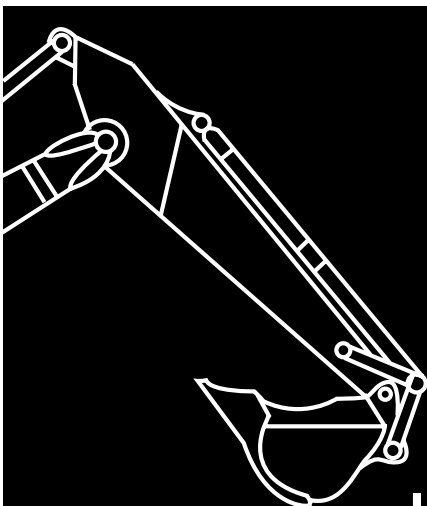
On behalf of the office staff and myself, we would like to pass on our best wishes to your Chairman, Robert Malaponte, for a speedy recovery from his recent dual knee replacement operation.

Finally, I am about to proceed on annual leave and will be out of the office from 23/02/2018 until 25/03/2018. Should members require assistance or have any issues during my absence please do not hesitate to contact the KCGOL office staff.

Will catch up again in April.

Cheers.

Les



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MARK-TO-MARKET AND ADVANCES



*By Bryce Wenham, QSL Finance
Manager – Supplier Relations*

QSL'S ADVANCES PAYMENT SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE CASH FLOW TO QUEENSLAND CANE GROWERS BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE HARVEST SEASON BY PAYING SUPPLIERS IN REGULAR INSTALMENTS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE YEAR.

QSL pays the first Advances Payment instalment when raw sugar is delivered to a bulk sugar terminal. Due to our funding arrangements, this initial payment is subject to an upper limit of 60 per cent of QSL's weighted average forecast final price for all pools, and is usually paid on a Wednesday (or Thursday for Wilmar Growers) for all deliveries up to midnight of the preceding Sunday. Top-up payments are then usually made at monthly intervals based on the results of the prior month. Because pricing of QSL's pools continues until the season finishes in June each year, a portion of each pool usually remains to be sold until May or June. The indicative pool results used to determine advance payments are therefore a combination of the actual pricing that has been secured and an estimate of the value of pricing that remains to be undertaken in the pool

concerned.

For example, at the end of January 2018 the 2017 QSL Harvest Pool was approximately 82% priced, which meant there was still 18% of the pool to be locked in to pricing. When this pricing is undertaken depends on a combination of the pricing guidelines for the pool and when physical sugar sales have been secured (i.e. sales and pricing must be aligned to the relevant ICE 11 contract. You cannot price against the October contract if you are not physically selling that sugar until June). Until 100% of a pool's pricing is complete and the final Shared Pool result secured and applied to all pools, the final result of each pool is unknown. But in order to value the pool for Advance payments, QSL must make an estimate. To achieve an indicative value for each QSL pool, the pricing that has not been

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undertaken is valued at what is known as a **mark to market**. This means that if 18% of the pool is unpriced, this portion of the pool is valued at whatever the spot sugar price is on an assigned day, usually the final day of the month prior to payment. If the market improves, there is a possibility the pricing yet to be undertaken will actually be done at a higher rate, increasing the indicative pool price and its subsequent final result. However, if ICE 11 prices are falling, the pool values can reduce further as the actual pricing achieved may be lower than the mark-to-market estimate. In short, the pool price is variable until the end of the season and all pool marketing and pricing activities are completed. But we need to draw a line in the sand in order to come to a value to base the Advances on – hence the use of “mark to market”.

CURRENT MARKET IMPACT ON ADVANCES

Since December the world raw sugar price has fallen by about \$50 a tonne in Australian-dollar terms, primarily driven by lower ICE 11 prices and a strong Australian dollar. The AUD/USD has moved over 600 points in the past month, while continuing talk of a global sugar surplus saw the ICE 11 fall over 200 points during the same period. Some of the QSL-managed pools' indicative prices have subsequently been revised down and February Advances payments will reflect these new, lower pool values.

As explained above, QSL's pool prices are estimates only until 30 June each year. QSL believes there will be opportunities

to secure improved returns before the end of the season. However, in the interim, the Advances reflect pool valuations calculated using current market prices.

CHANGING ADVANCE PAYMENT RATES

While QSL has the ability to and does adjust Advance rates to try and maintain cash flow to growers, to increase the payment rate in a falling price environment increases the risk of potential overpayment. This issue is just one of the factors the QSL Board considers when it reviews the indicative Advances rates each month. Other considerations when determining the Advance rate include expected cash flow from shipments of raw sugar to customers, expected rates of deliveries from Suppliers to bulk sugar terminals, margin calls QSL may need to pay on forward pricing and QSL's available borrowing facilities.

While QSL aims to provide as much payment as possible as early as possible, it must also manage the risk that growers are not overpaid based on an indicative Advances rate that leaves no room for adjustment, particularly in a falling market. For full details of how much remains to be priced in each QSL Pool and an estimate of how future movements in the ICE 11 and our exchange rate could change the final value of each pool, please refer to the Pool Sensitivities Matrices for your milling region. You can find a link to these on your pool prices page on the QSL website (www.qsl.com.au).

THE CASHFLOW FORECAST TOOL

Wilmar Growers using QSL's Cashflow Forecast Tool are reminded that it uses the latest indicative pool values to create a forecast and so as a result, the cashflow data generated will continue to fluctuate until the pool results are finalised on 30 June each year. For this reason we recommend that Growers using this tool generate a new forecast at least once a month to ensure they are accessing the latest estimate. The cashflow forecast data provided is based on many assumptions and is subject to significant uncertainties, many of which are outside the control of QSL. Growers using this tool should also be mindful that the data provided only details the Grower's Economic Interest in sugar (GEI Sugar) payment portion of their QSL Advance payment and does not include any allowances, deductions or adjustments that may be passed on by the Miller. As such, QSL does not make any representations as to the accuracy of the information derived from the Cashflow Forecast tool, nor does QSL make any guarantees that this outcome will be achieved.

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Wilmar Sugar Update



BURDEKIN MILLS WELCOME NEW APPRENTICES

Wilmar Sugar has welcomed 18 new apprentices to its Burdekin mills.

The new recruits are among 35 first-year apprentices who have just started work across Wilmar Sugar's eight mills and Sarina bioethanol distillery.

Training Superintendent Scott Young said this year's intake was significantly higher than in 2016 and 2017, demonstrating Wilmar's commitment to youth training and employment.

"Wilmar Sugar employs more than 2000 Queenslanders and we're very proud of our track record of providing trade training opportunities for young people in the regions where we operate

our mills," Mr Young said.

"We employed an additional five electrical apprentices this year in response to a business need for more electrical tradespeople.

"We've also signed on new boilermaking, fitting and turning, and diesel fitting apprentices."

Mr Young said all of Wilmar Sugar's new apprentices had completed a two-week safety induction course at the Burdekin TAFE campus prior to starting work.

Wilmar Sugar currently employs a total of 110 apprentices across its four milling regions.



The new Burdekin apprentices are, back from left, Kyle Young, Mitchell Price-Wilson, Adrian Kwong-Garner, Kobi Smith, Aaron McRae, Rowan Derrick, Laine Magatelli, Jesse Thomasson, Jared Giardina and Sam Gayton. At front, from left, are Daniel Roberts, Samuel Gibson, Reece Twigt, Julian Falco, Brodyn Cowan, Joel McKeough, Luke Keller and Nicholas Jenkins.

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Wilmar Sugar Update



UPCOMING MEETINGS FOR WILMAR GROWERS

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING TEAM MEETINGS

Wilmar Sugar is inviting growers to hear directly from the global traders making the sales that influence their cane price.

Wilmar's international marketing team will touch down in the Burdekin on 14 March to share the latest on the sugar market and physical trade.

Members of the team from Singapore, Geneva and Melbourne will provide their unique perspectives on the factors affecting growers' premiums, from the latest market movements and foreign exchange trends to global tariffs and exporter/importer information.

Growers who attended our international sessions in October will recognise some familiar faces, with sugar traders Kel Jin Chua (Singapore) and Adam Oppenheimer (Geneva) returning alongside our Melbourne-based Group Treasury Manager, Greg Bullock.

The meetings are an excellent opportunity for growers to hear from, and ask questions of, the traders pricing the pools and making the end-destination sugar sales that influence their cane price. The team will also provide an overview of our 2018 pricing and payment options ahead of the 30 April Pricing and Advances Nomination Date.

The sessions will run for about an hour, with plenty of time afterwards to raise questions and chat to the team one-on-one.

EDUCATION SERIES

We've had a great start to our Education Series and are looking forward to welcoming growers to our final session in March, Committed Cane Shortfall, washouts and Grower-Managed Production Risk Scheme.

The one-hour session will help growers better understand the options available if they cannot meet their Committed Cane Tonnage. We'll talk growers through our four washout options and what to expect during the washout process. This session will also cover our Grower-Managed Production Risk Scheme, including its benefits, risks and important considerations.

DATE	SESSION TIMES	VENUE
Wednesday 21 March	9:00am 11:30am 2:30pm	Pioneer Mill Boardroom

RSVP

To register your attendance for our International Marketing team meetings or Education Series, contact **James Greenwood** on **0428 195 206**.

DATE	SESSION TIMES	VENUE
Wednesday 14 March	2:30pm 4:30pm	Kalamia Hotel



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MEMBERS INFORMATION

NOTICE BOARD

KCGO Manager on Annual Leave:

Les will be on annual leave from the 26th February returning 26th March. Please contact the office for assistance during this time.

Kalagro Fuel Customers

Kalagro Fuel Prices have been giving great savings to our current customers.

To maintain our special fuel prices, a minimum of 2000 Litres is required to place an order.

Throughout the coming months, Puma (Kalagro's Supplier) will be delivering on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays

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 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, Wilmar makes available a per tonne incentive payment (capped at 25,000 tonne).

Please refer to Collective CSA (Cane Supply Agreement) - Page T7 - T8 for additional 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 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.

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Grouping Applications for 2018

Grouping Applications are now closed and will be assessed and decisions will be known in early March 2018.

On Wednesday, 21st February, Federal Agricultural Minister, the Honourable Mr David Littleproud and LNP Member for Dawson, Mr George Christensen MP travelled to the Burdekin to meet with collective and grower representatives to discuss the continued challenges facing the Sugar Industry and issues of significance to growers in the Burdekin region including the importance of the Code of Conduct.

Acknowledgements were extended to Mr Christensen regarding his continued support and mention was made of the extensive work he carried out in Canberra to assist the Sugar Industry.

Mr Littleproud spoke to the collective and grower representatives where he recognised the importance of Agriculture in Australia and his drive to build up the industry to a 100 billion dollar status.

The KCGO Directors were impressed by Mr Littleproud's passion for the industry and look forward to working with the Federal Agricultural Minister in the near future.



Photo: KCGO Directors, Denis Pozzebon, Robert Zandonadi, Paula Langdon, & Joseph Quagliata with Federal Agricultural Minister, the Honourable Mr David Littleproud and LNP Member for Dawson, Mr George Christensen MP.

Important Information to know.....

DROUGHT RELIEF ASSISTANCE

DEAR GROWER MEMBER

It has come to our attention that a percentage of growers throughout the Burdekin district may not be taking advantage or aware of "Drought Relief Assistance" currently available through Ergon Energy. Information on assistance available and how to apply is set out below. Any growers that require help in completion of application form please do not hesitate to contact KCGOL office.

Any assistance approved by Ergon Energy will be automatically backdated by 12 months from date of application form. Assistance includes waiver of Daily Supply Charge on Tariff's 62, 65 & 66 which currently range between \$0.858033 - \$1.891065 (GST inclusive) per day. Growers using tariffs other than 62, 65 & 66 may still be eligible for assistance and are asked to contact Ergon's dedicated drought assistance hotline, 1800 185 750 to assess eligibility. In the case of Tariff 66 drought assistance also includes waiver of "Capacity Charges" resulting in a daily usage charge of \$0.19338 per kWh. For further information or should you have further enquiries please do not hesitate the Ergon Energy hotline.

Local company, Agritech Solutions, specialises in undertaking energy tariff reviews with growers to ensure they are taking advantage of the most appropriate tariff to suit their farming operations. For more information in relation to this service please contact Steve Attard on 0418 155 844 or steve@agritechsolutions.com.au.

Please contact the Kalamia Cane Growers office for the **Drought Relief Form Ph 07 4783 13 12.**


AGRITECH SOLUTIONS

AgriTech Solutions is a local company specialising in irrigation management and provides services including:

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 Steve: 0418 155 844

 Michael: 0418 698 924

 info@agritechsolutions.com.au

 **WiSA**



Important Information to know.....

ERGON ENERGY

If you're a farmer living in a drought affected area, we may be able to help.
We offer drought relief in the form of waived charges and deferred payments.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR DROUGHT RELIEF?

You can apply to us for drought relief if you:

- » are a customer of Ergon Energy Retail
- » are a farmer of a property that has been individually drought declared or is within a drought declared area
- » have no water to pump or severely restricted access to water
- » complete and submit a **Drought Relief application form**

A declaration of drought must be made under a Queensland Government administrative process.

For more information about drought declarations, visit the **Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website**.

If you're not an Ergon Energy Retail customer, you can apply online through the **Department of Energy and Water Supply**.

WHAT DROUGHT RELIEF IS AVAILABLE?

WAIVED CHARGES

If you are mainly using electricity to pump water for farm or irrigation purposes, we will waive the fixed charges on your account. These include annual fixed charges under Tariff 66, service fees and minimum payments. They don't include minimum demand charges. The waiver will continue until the drought declaration has been revoked.

DEFERRED PAYMENTS

If you are experiencing financial difficulty as a result of the drought, you can defer payments on electricity accounts that are used for farming purposes. The option to defer will continue until the drought declaration has been revoked. When that happens, repayment terms will be arranged on a case-by-case basis.

DEFERRED PAYMENTS

If you are experiencing financial difficulty as a result of the drought, you can defer payments on electricity accounts that are used for farming purposes. The option to defer will continue until the drought declaration has been revoked. When that happens, repayment terms will be arranged on a case-by-case basis.

How to apply for drought relief?

To apply for drought relief you should:

1. **Complete an application Download the drought relief application form. Attach any required supporting documents.**
2. **Submit your request You can apply by email, fax or post using the instructions provided on the application form.**

If you need help completing your application form, please call us on **1800 185 750 (8am - 4.30pm, Mon - Fri)**.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

We will endeavour to post you the outcome of your application within five working days from the date we receive your completed application form. Please note: Due to recent Drought Declaration Announcements we are currently receiving a high volume of Drought Relief Applications and are experiencing some delays with processing. We thank you for your understanding.



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SUGARCANE NITROGEN RATE MATE TOOL LAUNCHED



Canegrowers now have a new online tool at their disposal to help with calculating nitrogen costs.

The 'Sugarcane Nitrogen Rate Mate' has been developed by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) as a step-by-step guide to help growers to calculate nitrogen rates, cost savings and more.

DAF agricultural economist, Samuel Cook

said growers could save money by monitoring their nitrogen use more closely and changing their method of calculating fertiliser rates.

"By using the tool, it will help growers analyse the impact of nitrogen use on farm profitability," Mr Cook said.

"Growers undertake a simple and quick assessment of their nitrogen requirements,

and the tool will estimate the cost savings a farmer can make by reducing their nitrogen rate.

"The step-by-step guide is easy to use and contains graphs showing current costs and potential savings.

"Until now, growers have had to calculate this for themselves by using a worksheet, which can be time consuming and difficult to analyse."

Mr Cook said feedback was welcome from growers about the usability and functionality of this tool.

The Sugarcane Nitrogen Rate Mate is available from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website at <http://bit.ly/NitrogenMate> or call 13 25 23.

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Sweet Industry News

AGRIBUSINESS OUTLOOK 2018: FARM SECTOR TIPPED TO BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED GLOBAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS



Rabobank expects continued growth of Australia's wine industry in 2018

Australian wine and wool are tipped to be the standout commodities in a year of forecasted growth across the agricultural sector.

COMMODITY FORECAST KEY POINTS:

- » Rising Asian incomes increasing demand for Australian crops in foreign markets
- » Agricultural land values tipped for further growth
- » Geopolitical tension and Chinese potential risk factors

Global agri-banker Rabobank's Agribusiness Outlook 2018 report states that improved global markets and increasing Asian incomes will drive the growth. "A key standout for us is the wine industry which we expect to have its best year for many years in 2018," said the report's author, Tim Hunt.

Projected growth in the wine industry comes after the value of wine exports jumped 15 per cent to be worth \$2.56 billion last year.

Growth in the Chinese market increased 63 per cent to be Australia's top export market worth \$848 million last year.

Strong sales to China also drove wool prices to record prices in recent months.

"Wool and lamb we like a lot at the top end of the spectrum," Mr Hunt said.

"It is a year in which we expect the global sugar market to return to surplus after several seasons in deficit and that will inevitably place some downward pressure on international markets."

RABOBANK COMMODITY FORECASTS AGRICULTURAL FORECASTS 2018

COMMODITY	FORECAST
Wheat	Strengthened demand growth in major import markets, erosion of stocks in many regions, and a return to trend yields in the Black Sea region will likely support a small price improvement in global markets in 2018.
Grains and oilseeds	Forecast for the lowest global ending stocks in over 30 years and ongoing strength in Australian livestock markets are set to keep barley prices elevated in 2018.
Dairy	The road to recovery resumes, with trading conditions for dairy farmers to be broadly attractive and processor ownership issues to be resolved.
Beef	Growing global beef (as well as poultry and pork) production, together with increased cattle inventory in Australia, will exert downward pressure on Australian cattle prices in 2018.
Sheepmeat	Strong export markets and limited growth in global lamb production are expected to continue to drive good prices for the lamb industry in 2018.
Sugar	Rabobank expect the global sugar market to return to surplus in the 2017/18 season.
Cotton	Downside risks are developing for prices in the second half of 2018.
Wool	Tight market conditions should continue through the first half of 2018 and help to support high prices.
Wine	The wine industry is riding a wave of positive forces. It is likely to enjoy its best year in a long time in 2018.

Horticulture	Australia's horticulture industry continues to make hard-won gains in offshore markets, enabling it to capitalise on growing demand for high-quality fresh produce offshore.
Fertiliser	Oversupplied markets will continue to hold down prices across the nutrient complex through 2018.
FX	Rabobank expects a range-bound Australian dollar through the first half of 2018, before softening towards USD 0.75 12 months from now.

Source: Rabobank Agribusiness Outlook 2018

Mr Hunt said the growth in Asian markets was reflective of increased incomes within the region.

He said higher earnings encouraged consumers to "trade up" their diets and seek-out more expensive, imported crops from Australia.

"As people get richer in some countries they eat more. But in many of our key markets, including China, the intake of food is stable," Mr Hunt said.

"It's the types of food that change and the quality of foods.

"Australia is still regarded as a high-quality producer of animal protein and dairy so we're benefitting from consumers trading-up to higher quality types of animal protein or dairy."

Rabobank expects improved commodity prices will also drive growth in the value of farm land.

GEOPOLITICS AND CHINESE DEBT CONCERNS

Mr Hunt cited Chinese debt and the US Government withdrawing from trade agreements as two issues that could restrict growth in the farm sector.

"If those risks are triggered, they'll be significant," he said.

Mr Hunt said he expected the Chinese Government would address debt levels in the next five years.

He said that could push up interest rates, slow growth and devalue the local currency within China.

Sweet Industry News

THE LOOPHOLE THAT'S SET TO LET ALCOHOL AVOID A SUGAR TAX (WWW.ACFA.COM.AU)

A labelling loophole for alcoholic beverages has created an uneven playing field in the debate about a tax on sugary drinks, a leading dietician and carbohydrates expert says.

University of Sydney research associate Dr Alan Barclay says soft drinks are not the biggest contributor of liquid calories in our diet.

"The No.1 source of liquid calories is alcohol beverages, not sugar-sweetened drinks, in Australia," he says.

"Yet people don't know that because we don't label [alcoholic drinks] with carbohydrates or kilojoules."

Alcohol, with or without added sugar, is kilojoule-dense. A standard drink with 10 grams of alcohol might contain about 270 kilojoules.



Alcohol can contain a surprising amount of sugar. Photo: Getty

The total number of kilojoules varies depending on the drink, its strength and how it is consumed. Consumer group Choice estimates that one bottle of cider can contain 868 kilojoules, the equivalent of a small McDonald's fries.

Dr Barclay says if a sugar tax is introduced in Australia it should be in conjunction with a review of alcoholic beverage tax and labelling regulations.

The Australian Medical Association is advocating a tax on the sugar content of sugar-sweetened beverages such as soft drinks as a way of combating growing obesity. It has the backing of the Greens but not of either of the major political parties or the industry.

Recently, a British research article suggested a sugar tax might drive up alcohol consumption, thereby offsetting potential health benefits.

Published in the *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*, the study analysed data from 31,919 British households. Researchers found that purchases of diet drink, juices and lager rose when the price of high-sugar content drinks rose.

But purchases of medium-sugar content drinks and spirits fell, the study found.

Professor Robin Room, editor-in-chief of peer-reviewed journal *Drug and Alcohol Review*, says the study raises issues but should not be relied on for policy decisions. He says people often forget alcohol consumption when they consider obesity prevention. He wants alcoholic beverages to carry energy content labels.

"In Australia, this information is on every other drink and food product, but not on alcoholic beverages," he says.

"Changing the policy so the information is on the label would be a good first step in getting us all thinking about the contribution of alcohol drinking to weight gain."

The AMA's 2018 position statement on nutrition also recommended wider use of food-labelling initiatives such as the Health Star Rating for packaged foods and drinks. But it stopped short of similar recommendations for alcoholic beverages.

"The reason why they have chosen soft drinks is that soft drinks are very discreet categories," Professor Tim Gill, from the

University of Sydney's Boden Institute of Obesity, Nutrition, Exercise and Eating Disorders, told the ABC in 2016.

"It is possible to define them fairly easily, to levy that tax on them without too much issue."

Dr Barclay says alcoholic beverages can provide more than twice the discretionary kilojoules of many soft drinks.

According to ABS data, alcoholic beverages contribute most of the energy from discretionary foods (4.8 per cent). Soft drinks and flavoured mineral waters contribute 1.9 per cent.

The World Health Organisation recommends consuming no more than six teaspoons of added sugar a day. The average intake of sugar from sweetened drinks for Australians is about 13 teaspoons, or 54 grams, according to the ABS.

In 2011, an independent review of food labelling recommended that energy content be displayed on the labels of alcoholic beverages, consistent with requirements for other food products.

A subsequent 2015 report compiled for Food Standards Australia New Zealand found that labelling effectiveness can raise awareness and aid recall. There is less conclusive evidence linking labelling to behavioural changes.

A spokesperson for the federal Department of Health says alcoholic beverages are exempt from ingredient labelling because of changes that occur during the fermentation process.

In 2017, Choice called for mandatory kilojoule labelling for alcoholic beverages. It has started a campaign to encourage the government to close the loophole.

Sweet Industry News

WORLD'S FIRST HANDS-FREE CROP PLANTED, GROWN AND HARVESTED IN THE UK

ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural By Brooke Neindorf

Researchers in the United Kingdom have successfully grown the world's first crop of barley using nothing but robot tractors and drones.

The project's aim was to have no operators in the driving seats of the machines or have any agronomists set foot into the 1-hectare paddock.

Researcher Martin Abell said there was a lot of farming already automated, such as GPS steering, but it was rare to grow an entire crop without anyone stepping into the paddock.

Hence the name of the project – Hands Free Hectare.

Mr Abell said the crop was seeded, sprayed, monitored and harvested autonomously, and it is something farmers could be doing soon.

"We have been able to show the public that this is something that isn't too far ahead in the future, and it could be happening now," he said.

"It has also allowed us to raise the perception of agriculture to the public, so they see it as a forward-thinking industry and something that might attract new people to the industry."



Researchers Martin Abell checks the data from the Hands Free Hectare paddock.

"They were essentially our eyes, so we would assess the field using a multi-spectral camera and get imagery from the field showing us where it was strongest and weakest," Mr Abell said.

"We would then send a little ground rover that would collect samples for us that we could conduct agronomy on.

"And this meant we aren't walking out and on the crop as much, therefore protecting the crop a bit more."

To get the tractors to work for seeding and harvest, the researchers used an autopilot from a drone, which Mr Abell said was unconventional for research.

"We only had a year to do this project so we had to pick something that didn't require much development," he said.

"It also brought its problems, because the navigation algorithms within a drone are vastly different from those conventionally used for the auto steers on tractors to drive in straight lines.

"So we had to adapt that system to work like an auto steer system and achieve those straight lines that farmers are familiar with."

MORE TESTING NEEDED TO SCALE UP

After a year of growing, monitoring and harvesting the crop of barley, the researchers were able to show the future of farming could be completely automated.

But there is still plenty of work and testing to be done on a larger scale.

Mr Abell said they were able to prove it could be feasible because part of the project was to do it on a small budget.

"It was roughly \$350,000 we had and that was also to hire three people's time, as well as all the equipment we had to buy.

"I am sure if we can make it happen on that budget they can do it commercially with something that is user-friendly for farmers."



Researchers used drones to check on their hands-free paddock of barley.

DRONE TECHNOLOGY AUTOMATES PROCESSES

Researchers used drone technology to automate small agricultural machines, such as tractors and chaser bins.

They also used drones to monitor and bring samples for agronomists to check.



The barley crop was harvested completely hands-free.



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Soil health is an important aspect of any farming business and provides the foundation for a productive and sustainable farming system.

One part of soil health that is often overlooked and yet is incredibly important, is soil biology, which will be the focus of this masterclass.

About

These classes will be practical, hands on and specific to your regional conditions. Most importantly, what you discover won't stop when you walk out of the masterclass.

A soil health action plan developed as part of the masterclass will act as a stepping stone for you to implement and monitor practical objectives and actions in the paddock.

These masterclasses have been compiled and will be delivered by a team of experts, who offer a range of experiences from the research, extension and grower points of view.

- > Graham Stirling (Biological Crop Protection)
- > Anthony Young (University of Southern Qld)
- > Jay Anderson (University of Qld)
- > Sebastian Garcia-Cuenca (SRA)
- > Simon Mattsson (Mackay grower)
- > Tony Chapman (Bundaberg grower)
- > Ashley Peterson (Hervey Bay grower)

This masterclass will appeal to growers who have already attended soil health training workshops, such as those provided through Smartcane BMP, and who want to take their understanding of soil health to the next level with a specific focus on soil biology.

Dates

Three one-day workshops are being held in each region.

Southern Region - Childers

Tuesday 13 February 2018

Wednesday 14 February 2018

Thursday 15 February 2018

CANEGROWERS Childers, 48 Churchill Street, Childers

7.30 am – 3.30 pm

Far North Region - Mourilyan

Tuesday 6 March 2018

Wednesday 7 March 2018

Thursday 8 March 2018

Sugar Heritage Centre, Bruce Highway, Mourilyan

7.30 am – 3.30 pm

Burdekin Region - Ayr

Tuesday 20 March 2018

Wednesday 21 March 2018

Thursday 22 March 2018

Ayr Showgrounds, Bruce Highway, Ayr

7.30 am – 3.30 pm

Cost: \$150 per person. This assists in partially covering costs, including all materials, catering and a copy of 'Soil health, soil biology, soilborne diseases and sustainable agriculture. A guide.' This practical guide, written for growers and advisors, will be a valuable resource that gives participants a reference point long after the masterclass has been completed.

How to register: Please complete the registration form available from your local productivity services or the SRA website www.sugarresearch.com.au.





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Sweet Time Out

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q. What's a shark's favorite sandwich?

A. Peanut butter and jellyfish!

Q: What did one hat say to another?

A: You stay here, I'll go on a head.

Q: Did you hear about the hungry clock?

A: It went back four seconds.

WORD OF THE MONTH

jannock

adjective [jan-uh-k]

honest; fair; straightforward.

*'A day without laughter
is a day wasted.'*

CHARLIE CHAPLIN



DID YOU KNOW...?

- » Did you know Halley's comet passes the Earth every 76 years (the next time it will return will be 2062)
- » Did you know there are 7 points on the Statue of Liberty's crown
- » Did you know the word 'rhythm' is the longest word without a vowel
- » Did you know men are struck by lightning 7 times more than women



CHOC-CHERRY CHEESECAKE

INGREDIENTS

- » 250g plain chocolate biscuits
- » 125g butter, melted
- » 500g cream cheese, softened
- » 3/4 cup caster sugar
- » 2 eggs
- » 2 tablespoons cocoa powder, sifted
- » 300g sour cream
- » 300g cherries, pitted, halved
- » Cherries, to serve
- » Icing sugar, to serve

METHOD

Step 1

Preheat oven to 160°C/140°C fan-forced. Grease a 5.5cm-deep, 24cm (base) springform pan. Process biscuits until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add butter. Process to combine. Press mixture over base of prepared pan. Cover. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

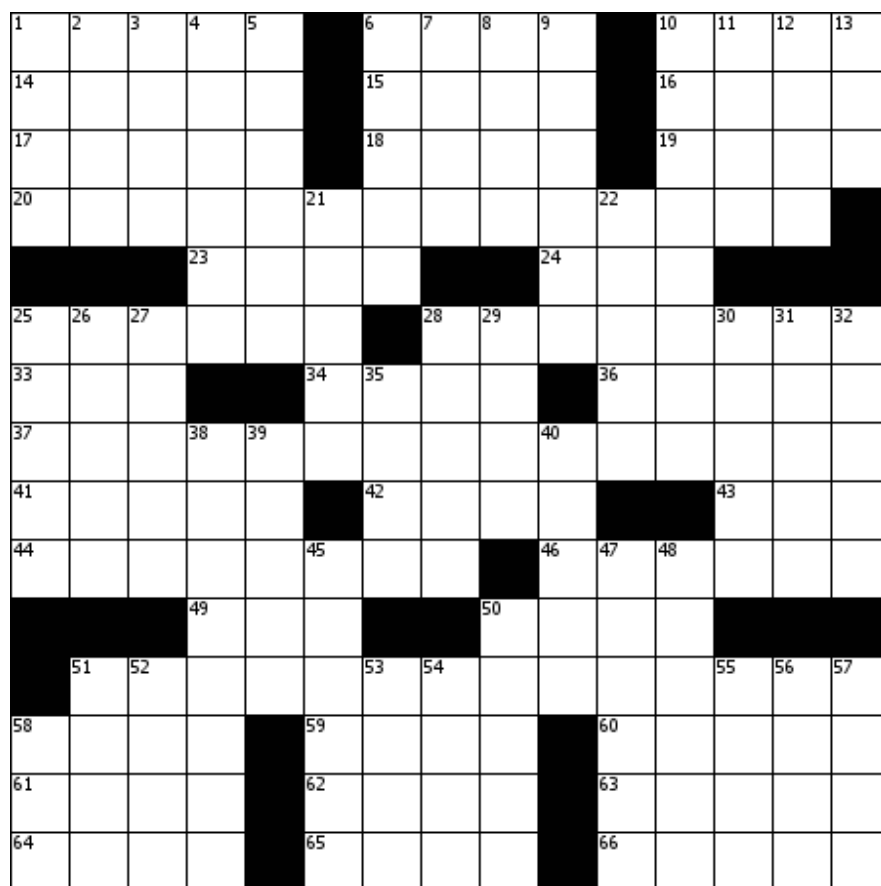
Step 2

Using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating to combine. Beat in cocoa and sour cream until just combined. Fold in cherries. Spread over biscuit mixture.

Step 3

Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until centre is just firm. Turn off oven. Cool in oven for 3 hours with door slightly ajar. Refrigerate overnight. Top with cherries. Dust with icing sugar. Serve.

Sweet Time Out



ACROSS

1. Opposite of deplete
6. Kings or Wizards, e.g.
10. Line-___veto
14. On the up-and-up
15. Beastly sort
16. Implicate
17. Outdated anesthetic
18. Cool one's heels
19. Hardly a libertine
20. "Halt!"
23. Very small amounts
24. Unrealistic potato chip portion
25. "Love Will Keep Us Together" songwriter
28. Port on the Barge Canal
33. Lennon's widow
34. Kin of nah
36. Half of an odd couple
37. "Halt!"
41. Sound of spring, for some
42. Kind of chamber
43. Lend it or bend it
44. Mall tenant needs
46. Parched feeling
49. Animated chihuahua
50. 500, to a stationer

DOWN

51. "Halt!"
58. Type of board
59. Bedfellow
60. Wane (with "out")
61. Toward one side of a ship
62. Melancholy
63. "Granny" Ryan
64. Closing document
65. Sunrise direction, in Sonora
66. They're for the birds
1. Novelist Waugh
2. Parcel (out)
3. Certain foreign leader
4. Naptime in Salamanca
5. Run in the raw
6. Hamlet's relatives
7. "Heavens to Betsy!"
8. Like Death Valley
9. Shower participant?
10. Broken
11. Seamen
12. Give off
13. "Little Women" woman
21. "A Bell for ___"
22. Fly in the ointment
25. Jerks make them

26. Son of Cain
27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer
28. Construction particulars, briefly
29. Part of a Beatles refrain
30. Type A's medical problem, supposedly
31. Fiction's Marnie
32. Exercise, as influence
35. Kaput
38. Best reviewed
39. Displaying listlessness
40. Choral work
45. Infuriate
47. Millinery adjunct, perhaps
48. Arriver's phrase
50. Group three with thee?
51. Tactic of 44-Across
52. Sloth's home
53. Troubles
54. Superabundance
55. Holiday times abroad
56. It may be due on a duplex
57. "___ Tu" ('70s hit)
58. Father, informally

CLASSIFIEDS

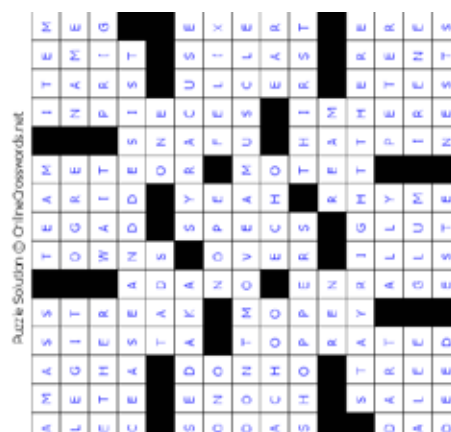
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