



SRA enewsletter 8th February 2019

SRA committed to soldier fly management

By Dr Andrew Ward, Executive Manager, Biosecurity and Production

SRA recently met with growers in the Central Region to provide an update on research into the soldier fly pest.

The meeting discussed the preliminary results from current trials looking at management of larvae using a range of chemical treatments. Recent trials have shown some chemical treatments reduced larval populations by up to 50 percent, although there was still a large population of larvae in these treatments. Work is continuing to analyse different chemical treatments in regards to their efficacy and potential cost.

The meeting also discussed current investment from SRA at the University of Queensland led by Dr Kayvan Etebari, where he is examining the relationship between larvae and cane plants. This research is showing some promising results and is identifying a number of venom-like proteins that may be having an impact on the cane.

Variety trials in both the Central Region and Southern Region are also ongoing.

At the meeting, growers also expressed an interest in spray options for managing adult soldier fly populations. In response, SRA will explore with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) a permit to enable this research.

SRA remains committed to developing management strategies for soldier fly.

Growers in the southern region will be provided an update at the SRA Southern Region grower update on 26 February.

CaneClip: SCHLOT Live

In this CaneClip, we talk with Stuart Norris from Norris ECT about SCHLOT Live. SCHLOT (Sugarcane Harvest Logistics Optimisation Tool) Live uses sensors and a database of previous trial results to present this information to an in-cab monitor to give real-time feedback on yield and harvest losses. Previous work by Norris ECT has seen them develop the predecessor to SCHLOT Live, which is an online version called SCHLOT (or 'SCHLOT classic').

This new version, through the Rural R&D for Profit program (funded by SRA and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources), takes that work to another level for the industry by putting the information inside the cab and giving operators real-time feedback.

More profit from nitrogen

What do the cotton, dairy, sugar, mango and cherry industries have in common? We're all looking for ways to improve our nitrogen use to help reduce impact on the environment while increasing profitability. That's where the More Profit from Nitrogen Program comes in – a research collaboration between these industries involving ten cutting-edge research projects across 35 trial sites from Darwin to Hobart. This short video at the link explains some of the work occurring within this program. This program is funded by SRA (and other RDCs) and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of the Rural R&D for Profit program.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YkkCjeVzA4>

Cane Capitva

Keep an eye on the road for the Cane Captiva as Gerard Puglisi makes his way from Mossman down to Grafton in coming weeks. This annual trip is part of the work of the NextGen work, supported by SRA and other industry partners.

Events

Pathology course – March 12 and 13

SRA is offering a two-day course in sugarcane pathology that will give you a thorough understanding of diseases of Australian sugarcane. This course is targeted at advisors, and is on site at SRA's Woodford pathology research station, where you will have the chance to see these diseases in the field and learn from SRA's pathology team. Learn [more](#).

Grower research updates

We invite investors and stakeholders to join SRA researchers, technicians and adoption team staff to share the latest research developments.

You will have the opportunity to speak directly with the people conducting the research, as well as those who have implemented outcomes of research in their farming operations.

Coming research updates are:

[Bundaberg: February 26, 2019](#)

[Ingham: April 2, 2019](#)

[Tully: April 3, 2019](#)

[Cairns: April 4, 2019](#)

[Proserpine: April 18, 2019](#)