



ACFA E-Newsletter

26 March 2021



SUGAR INDUSTRY

Sugar millers focus on worker safety

23 March 2021 | Queensland Country Life

Worker safety heads the agenda at the Australian Sugar Milling Council's biennial safety conference, starting in Mackay today.

ASMC has set the theme for this year's conference as Living and Leading Safety - It Starts with You!

The organisation represents 16 sugar mills in Queensland and NSW that collectively account for around 90 per cent of Australia's raw sugar production.

More than 100 delegates from mills and associated sugar industry organisations will attend the two-day event.

ASMC chair John Pratt said the title emphasised that safety in sugar workplaces was a shared responsibility.

"Sugar mills are dynamic and complex environments but if everyone takes personal responsibility for their safety behaviour, whether it be individually or as part of a team, we're confident we can deliver wider industry results second to none," Mr Pratt said. [More...](#)



[Weekly Update](#)
[Market Update](#)
[Market Snapshot](#)

QSL Pool Prices, Shared Pool Values & Advances:

- [Bundaberg Sugar & Isis](#)
- [Far Northern Milling](#)
- [Mackay Sugar](#)
- [MSF Sugar](#)
- [Tully Sugar](#)
- [Wilmar Sugar](#)

Decision to access disaster recovery assistance after the 2019 floods pays off for Davies family

24 March 2021 | Queensland Country Life

A decision to access disaster recovery assistance after a monsoonal trough wreaked havoc across North Queensland in 2019 has helped one Burdekin farming family get back on its feet.

Cane farms from Ingham to the Burdekin were inundated two years ago, as a monsoon trough brought an unprecedented deluge to the region. [More...](#)

Racecourse Projects delivered 400,000 tonnes of cane to Mackay Sugar and Wilmar Sugar mills

24 March 2021 | Queensland Country Life



The highly successful Mackay district farming operation Racecourse Projects had its foundations in October 2013 and continues to grow from strength to strength.

Over time the company has invested in more than 5000 hectares of cane land in the Mackay/Plane Creek districts. Last year more than 400,000 tonnes of cane were delivered by the company's four harvesting groups to Mackay Sugar and Wilmar Sugar mills.

Racecourse Projects is owned by majority shareholder Proterra Investment Partners, an American private equity company that invests in natural resources - agriculture, food, metals and mining - and owns sugar mills in Brazil. [More...](#)



Irrigation design considerations for sugarcane growers.

Are you a sugarcane grower wanting to better understand opportunities to reduce energy and water costs?

The value of irrigation design to deliver cost efficient irrigation will be discussed.

Delivered by AgriTech Solutions, this locally relevant workshop will explore:

- Tariffs
- Infield management
- Irrigation hardware
- Energy solutions

There is a maximum of 12 attendees at each workshop. Register soon; registrations will close for each workshop once 12 attendees have registered.

Tea and coffee provided.

WHAT

Workshop for sugarcane growers wanting to better understand design considerations.

WHEN

Two workshops available:
Tuesday 13 and Friday 16 April
8:30am to 11:30am.

WHERE

Conference room, DAF Research Facility, 343 Old Clare Road, Ayr QLD 4807

RSVP

Gracie White on 0436 915 662 or email gwhite@sugarresearch.com.au



The Burdekin Irrigation Project is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. These workshops are jointly supported by the Queensland Government Reef Water Quality Program.

AGRICULTURE

Farm safety opportunities

24 March 2021 | QFF

Agriculture is one of the most dangerous sectors to work in due to the combination of hazards including heavy plant and machinery, chemicals, noise, dust, sun and heat exposure, working with animals, alone or in remote locations. Statistics recently compiled and released by AgriFutures Australia and AgHealth showed a total of 58 on-farm deaths were reported by the media during the period 1 January to 31

December, 2020 – 16 of which were in Queensland. Quad bikes and tractors remain the leading agents of fatal injury, while males were involved in 48 of the cases and children under the age of 15 accounted for 8 cases. [More...](#)

QFF calls on state government to consider farm safety opportunities

24 March 2021 | QSL

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) is calling on the state government to implement co-funding opportunities for farmers and other businesses to undertake a range of safety improvements after new statistics showed Queensland had one of the highest numbers of on-farm deaths in the country. [More...](#)



- [Queensland Farmers' Federation demands on-farm safety action](#)

Export Market Insights and Opportunities Webinar

Join Food Innovation Australia Limited and QFF for a virtual event focussing on export market insights and opportunities within the Australian food and agribusiness sector and abroad on Monday 29th March at 12pm. [More...](#)

Under pressure: 30,000 biosecurity risks intercepted in less than a year

24 March 2021 | North Queensland Register

The government has intercepted 30,000 biosecurity risks in less than 12 months and one of the nation's most senior public servants has admitted the system is under pressure

The nation's biosecurity strain was put under the spotlight, as officials from the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment were grilled in a Senate estimates hearing on Tuesday. [More...](#)



More than 50 growers in the queue for Hort360 Reef Certification

25 March 2021 | Queensland Country Life

The rollout of Hort360 Reef Certification is trucking along with more than 55 growers now in the process to obtain the best practice and environmental badge.

Launched in August last year, Hort360 Reef Certification is a key component of the Hort360 Great Barrier Reef Best Management Practice program. [More...](#)

No short cut to boosting soil carbon and nitrogen

25 March 2021 | Queensland Country Life

One of the major problems facing those in continuous cropping systems is the issue of declining soil carbon, which in turn runs down nutrient levels.

A CSIRO expert has said there is no quick fix and farmers cannot rely simply on cranking up nitrogen (N) fertiliser levels to boost fertility. [More...](#)

Helen Haines' bright idea to increase rural ownership of renewables a step closer

26 March 2021 | Farm Weekly

A plan to give farmers and regional communities the opportunity to invest in all nearby renewable energy projects has taken a significant step forward.

The proposal to create a new government agency to fund regional renewables projects and force developers to offer



nearby residents the chance to buy into the project will go before a parliamentary committee to assess its merit. [More...](#)

\$25,000 grants available for cyclone-impacted primary producers in North Queensland

20 March 2021 | QRIDA

Recovery assistance grants of up to \$25,000 are now available to support the recovery of primary producers in North Queensland impacted by Tropical Cyclone Niran.

Assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). [More...](#)

5 things to know about your WHS duties and COVID-19 vaccines

Small business fact sheet – now available

sbs.gov.au/coronavirus

Fact sheet: 5 things to know about your WHS duties and COVID-19 vaccines

Like many small business owners, you have worked hard to manage the risk of exposure to COVID-19 at your workplace and meet your work health and safety (WHS) duties. Here are 5 things you need to know about WHS duties and the COVID-19 vaccines.

1. A COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary and will be available in phases

The Australian Government is committed to providing all Australians with access to free, safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines. Receiving a vaccination is voluntary.

Australia's COVID-19 vaccines will be available in phases starting with older Australians and high-risk industries. The Department of Health can provide you with more information about COVID-19 vaccines and the rollout.

2. Keep doing all the things you have been doing to reduce the


3. Most small businesses won't need to require workers to be vaccinated to meet their WHS duties

For most small businesses, it is unlikely that a requirement to be vaccinated will be reasonably practicable. You can talk to your WHS regulator, employer organisation or other legal service if you are unsure. Don't implement a mandatory vaccination policy without first talking to your workers and seeking advice.


4. Talk to your workers

You and your workers may have questions about the vaccines. Official government sources such as the Department of Health are the best sources for accurate and up-to-date information about COVID-19 vaccines.

Remember you must also consult with your workers and their health and safety representatives before implementing any WHS changes in your workplace.



**Coronavirus:
COVID-19**

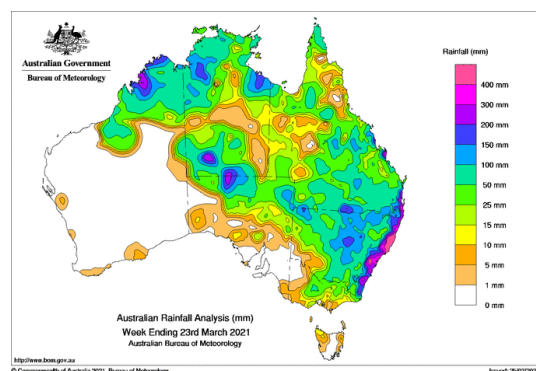


safe work australia

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weekly Rainfall Update

for 7 days to 9 am 23 March 2021



[Weekly Rainfall Update](#)

[MetEye](#) - your eye on the environment

The latest [Drought Statement](#)

[BoM Agricultural Services](#)

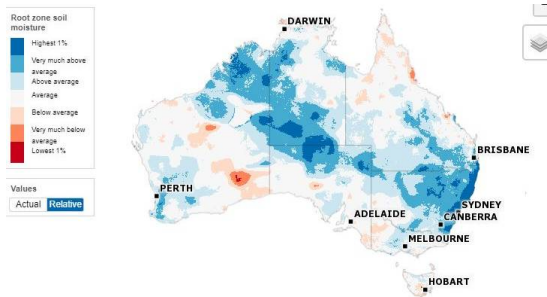
[MyFireWatch](#)

Rainfall Statistics

Week Ending 26 March 2021

Town	Mar	YTD
Mossman	102.8	1077.8
Mareeba	86.4	622.6
Cairns	280.6	1179.0
Gordonvale	280.6	1179.0
Innisfail	204.4	1684.0
Tully	112.8	1684.0
Ingham	334.1	1913.3
Ayr	162.6	727.8
Proserpine	116.8	712.4
Mackay	160.4	587.0

Bundaberg	111.6	192.6
Maryborough	201.6	276.2
Beenleigh	380.8	593.9
Murwillumbah	359.0	832.1
Ballina	410.2	857.8
Yamba	484.2	871.0



Moisture welcomed through NSW cropping regions

24 March 2021 | Queensland Country Life

In contrast to the devastation on the eastern side of the Great Dividing Range, inland NSW is largely welcoming rain that has fallen over the past week. [More...](#)

- [Out in Far West where rain is needed they are celebrating](#) | Farm Online

Rabobank provides flood finance support for ag customers

23 March 2021 | Farm Online

Rabobank has told its agribusiness clients it will offer a range of support measures to farmers and others adversely impacted by floods and torrential rainfall in NSW and Queensland. [More...](#)

Not a dime of \$100m regional bushfire and COVID recovery fund spent

22 March 2021 | Farm Online

Not a single cent has been spent from the \$100-million fund designed to help regional areas bounce back from the economic impacts of the Black Summer Bushfires and COVID-19. [More...](#)



EVENTS

- 29 March 2021 - [Webinar: High-throughput phenotyping to improve clonal selections](#)
- 30 March 2021 - [Regional research seminars in partnership with QUT](#) | Broadwater
- 30 March 2021 - [Herbert Regional Variety Committee RVC 2021](#) | Ingham



Save the date
INGHAM
INVITES YOU TO
RVC 2021
Herbert Regional Variety Committee

Tuesday 30 March

VENUE: TYTO Conference Centre
Jacana Room, 73/75 McIlwraith St,
Ingham QLD 4850

TIME: 9am – 12.30pm
Morning tea and lunch provided

*Please RSVP by 19 March to Casey Venables
for COVID and catering purposes*
E: CVenables@sugarresearch.com.au



Sugar Research
Australia



HCPSL
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