

MEMBERS CIRCULAR

RE: RATOON STUNTING DISEASE- OPENING OF THE P&K PLOT

In relation to the further testing of the RSD infection in the P&K Farming Plot, Burdekin Productivity Services (BPS) has advised as follows:

1. A further sample has been taken from KQ228 first ratoon (which previously returned a positive result) which has now returned a negative result;
2. After further intensive sampling a positive result has been obtained in the KQ228 plant block, a sample taken from this block has previously tested negative;
3. The variance in these tests is due to the sensitivity and destructive nature of the test (the inability to retest the initial samples);
4. Both positive tests were classed as a 'low' positive – which experts advise means there is a very low level of the RSD bacteria present.

P&K Farming have elected to:

1. Quarantine the KQ228 plant and first ratoon. All cane in these two blocks will be sent to the Mill;
2. There will be no cane classed as "approved seed cane" available from the P&K plot;
3. The balance of the cane on the plot which has tested negative in all sampling will be available for purchase as commercial cane. P&K will not provide any guarantee in relation to the quality of the commercial cane;
4. Any party wishing to purchase commercial cane from the P&K plot will be required to sign a Waiver, releasing and indemnifying P&K Farming from any loss or consequential loss arising from the distribution of the commercial cane.

This election by P&K Farming has been made on the advice from Robert Magarey (SRA-principal research scientist) and Rob Milla (BPS). BPS have advised that the rebate offered by BPS will still be available on the commercial cane (\$10 per tonne).

We note that the plot is currently wet but weather permitting the plot will be opened at the end of this week.

If there are any questions please contact your manager directly to discuss.

Lisa Parker
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