



From rainfall and flooding in the south, to heatwave conditions in the north, the weather has brought some challenges over the past week or so. Our thoughts go out to all those affected by the severe rain event and who are managing its impacts. Please, stay safe.

## **Disease workshops postponed due to flood event**

SRA has cancelled two disease workshops scheduled for this week as a result of flood impacts in South-East Queensland.

The events were to have been hosted at SRA's Woodford site, but flood waters cut access, making it unsafe to access the site.

Manager - Biosecurity and Disease Screening, Nicole Thompson said while the team was disappointed to postpone the workshops, it was the appropriate decision to ensure the safety of SRA employees and guests.

"We plan to reschedule the events and will be in touch with registered participants when further information is available," Nicole said. "We look forward to hosting industry guests when the risk of further flooding passes and the ground dries out."

*Below: the flooded access road to SRA's Woodford Station earlier this week.*



## Assessment process for flood damaged farms gets under way

Gowers in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales affected by the severe rain event can access a range of government support.

**Queensland growers.** In Queensland, farmers who need assistance to get their farming business up and running should consider completing the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' (DAF) online [Natural Disaster Impact Survey](#). Completing this will speed up the assessment process.

Growers can describe damage to infrastructure, crops and livestock – and upload photos. Details of financial assistance currently available for natural disasters can be found at [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au).

Farmers without power and the internet, can also report damage and seek information about assistance via the DAF customer service centre on 13 25 23.

**NSW growers.** NSW growers who are flood affected and in need of assistance should call 1800 814 647 or 13 77 88. To be advised when financial support is available from the NSW Government please [fill out the form here.](#)

## Nutrient management resources updated

Sugar Research Australia has updated a number of nutrient management resources for growers.

A new edition of the [Australian Sugarcane Nutrition Manual](#) is available on the SRA website and the SIX EASY STEPS® potassium guidelines for each growing region have been reviewed. Resources to support nutrient management at Rocky Point are also now available.

Principal Agronomist Dr Danielle Skocaj said now is great time for growers to be planning their nutrient management program for the 2022 season.

“Following the SIX EASY STEPS® approach to nutrient management will help growers achieve profitable and sustainable sugarcane production,” Danielle said.

[See the latest resources](#)

## Milling research seminars scheduled for coming weeks

Updates on a range of interesting research initiatives are on the agenda for this year's Regional Milling Research Seminars to be held at Gordonvale, Townsville, Mackay, Bundaberg and Woongoolba in coming weeks.

The sessions, presented in partnership by QUT and SRA, are designed for mill employees and showcase innovative work occurring to enhance mill performance. Sessions are scheduled from 8am-3pm on the following dates:

- Mackay: Monday 21 March
- Townsville: Wednesday 23 March
- Gordonvale/Meringa: Thursday 24 March
- Bundaberg: Tuesday 29 March
- Woongoolba/NSW: Thursday 31 March

[More info & RSVP](#)



## Biosecurity system in the spotlight

How does Australia's biosecurity system need to evolve to cope with biosecurity threats in the sugar industry and agriculture generally?

The Federal Government has released a draft national biosecurity strategy following consultation across agriculture.

[Have your say](#)





Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists



## Latest innovations to feature at ASSCT Conference

SRA is proud to be a principal sponsor and exhibitor at this year's Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) Conference.

The event showcases the latest innovations and developments in the sugarcane industry and will be held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre from 19-22 April, with the theme, "Futureproofing a Resilient Industry". The conference is open to anyone involved in the sugar industry, as well as those who support them, including growers, millers, harvesters, researchers, extension providers, suppliers and engineers.

ASSCT includes a conference program and exhibition with guest speakers, technical sessions, field tours, social and networking events also on offer.

[More on ASSCT](#)

## Snapshot of Australian agriculture

Despite higher temperatures and lower rainfall, agricultural productivity has risen steadily over the past few decades as farmers adapt, according to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES).

Find out where the sugar industry sits in relation to other agricultural sectors in ABARES' Snapshot of Australian Agriculture 2022.

[Read the snapshot](#)

## Upcoming Events

**Herbert** – [Walk and Talk Day](#), 9 March

**Rocky Point** - [Productivity Workshop](#), 10 March

**Burdekin** - [Farm Economic Analysis Tool \(FEAT Online\) workshops](#), 10 March and 11 March

**Mackay** - [SIX EASY STEPS® Nutrient Management workshop](#), 15 March

**Herbert** - [Farm Economic Analysis Tool \(FEAT Online\) workshops](#), 18 March and 21 March

**Meringa, Townsville, Mackay, Bundaberg, Rocky Point** - [Regional Milling Research Seminars](#) from 21 March – 31 March

[See all events](#)

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