



Sugar Research
Australia

eNewsletter

There's another busy month ahead of us with station field days on the agenda in Herbert River, Tully, Meringa and Mackay, and the Southern Sugar Solutions Regional Presentations in Maryborough, Childers and Bundaberg. Hope we see you there!



SRA field days are here!

It's your choice whether you join us at Herbert, Tully, Meringa or Mackay, but please do join us - we've got lots to show you.

RSVPs appreciated for catering purposes.

- [Herbert Station Field Day - Wednesday 4 May](#)
- [Tully Station Field Day - Thursday 5 May](#)
- [Meringa Station Field Day - Tuesday 10 May](#)
- [Mackay MAPS/SRA Field Day - Friday 13 May](#)

[Download details of all field days](#)



Achieving optimum harvesting practice - Rocky Point workshop

Phil Patane, SRA's Agricultural Machinery Specialist and Matt Mills, Laboratory Supervisor, WH Heck & Sons will be guest speakers at a Productivity Workshop in May.

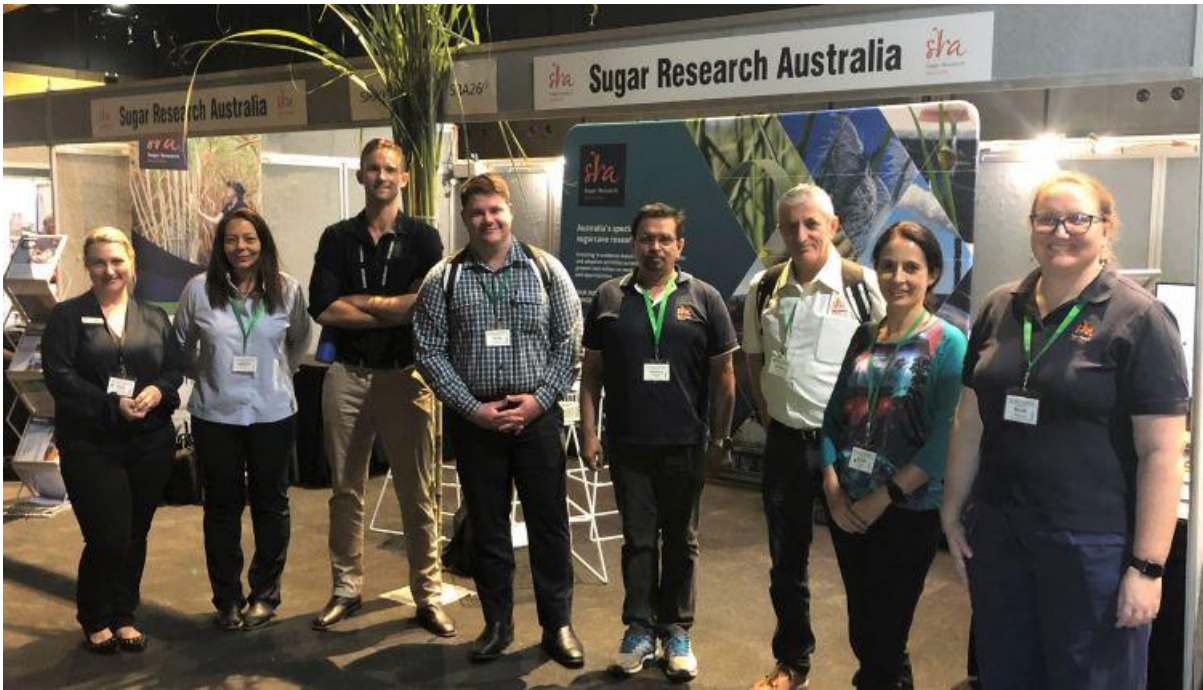
CANEGROWERS Rocky Point and Sugar Research Australia will run the workshop from 10.30-12.30pm (lunch included) on Thursday 19 May in Woongoolba.

The aim is to review the impacts of harvesting practice on cane yield and sugar, examining both machine set-up and changes in harvesting parameters.

New technologies available to assist in achieving optimum harvesting practice will be included, together with an introduction to the Agtrix Electronic Farm Plans.

Please RSVP for catering purposes by Monday 16 May to Kate Armitage on 5546 1481, email kate_armitage@canegrowers.com.au

[Download invitation](#)



Good rollup at ASSCT

Members of SRA were among the several hundred delegates and presenters at last week's Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists Conference in Mackay.

The three-day event included an exhibition, conference program and tours, showcasing the latest in research and development from across the industry.

Above: Team members at the SRA booth – Heidi du Clou, Nathalie Piperdis, Paul Calcino, Gavin Rodman, Shamsul Bhuiyan, George Piperdis, Emilie Fillols and Nicole Thompson.



Modernising diagnostics work earns award

SRA's Nicole Thompson accepted the ASSCT award, presented for the manufacturing/agricultural presentation that contributes to continuous improvement or innovation having a direct and immediate benefit to the sugar industry.

Nicole's presentation at the conference was on modernising sugarcane diagnostics and outlined the process for upgrading diagnostic tests for nine exotic and established sugarcane pathogens and diseases. A number of the tests will be trialled during the 2022 season.

Nicole acknowledged and thanked her co-authors, Chuong Ngo, Rey Poels and Lihan Zhao. The research was undertaken as part of a Rural R&D For Profit project funded by the Australian Government and administered by Hort Innovation.

Nicole Thompson accepts the ASSCT award from Ross Broadfoot.



Trash blanketing and tillage trial update

In other ASSCT news, rain forced the cancellation of an agricultural tour which was to have included an update on a long-term trash blanketing and tillage trial undertaken in Mackay.

Trash has either been retained - through green cane trash blanketing (GCTB) - or burnt after harvest since the early 1990s. A treatment was also included to assess plant cane establishment under different levels of tillage.

The trial, jointly funded by SRA and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, examined differences in cane yield, tillage effects and soil carbon under different treatments of trash.

Yield in GCTB was significantly higher in the first ratoon crop but not the second ratoon, with the main benefit likely to be soil moisture retention.

Full bed renovation increased yield compared to a wavy disc on its own. This effect was most prominent in the plant cane crop but was evident in first and second ratoon crops.

[Read the full update](#)



Enhanced efficiency fertilisers show increased nitrogen efficiency and maintain productivity

The final report of an extensive research project into new fertilisers available in the sugarcane industry has been released.

The study involving cane farmer trials of enhanced efficiency fertiliser (EEF) in the catchments of the Great Barrier Reef was carried out over three harvests, on 74 sugarcane farms from Bundaberg to Mossman. The project evaluated the performance of EEFs relative to conventional fertiliser.

SRA's Executive Manager Industry Services Hywel Cook said the study was the most extensive evaluation of EEFs undertaken to date. "The report concludes that trying EEF products when nitrogen losses are more likely is a good strategy that will not impact on productivity or profitability and will improve nitrogen use efficiency and water quality; a great outcome for local waterways and the Great Barrier Reef lagoon," Hywel said.

[Read the full story and final report](#)

What's the best fallow crop in cane?

You're invited to hear the results of the SRA Southern Sugar Solutions Project at presentations in Maryborough, Childers or Bundaberg from 11-13 May. Featuring Neil Halpin, Principal Farming System Agronomist, DAF, the topics will include:

- how surface and sub-surface mill mud, cane trash and biochar applications for legume crops can affect the following cane crop
- which is the 'best' legume crop to grow in rotation with sugarcane
- whether herbicide applications in the soybean cropping phase can affect cane productivity in the following crop.

On the same program, SRA's Manager Translation Research, Dr Barry Salter will present results of Central Region farming systems trials.



[RSVP today](#)



Soybean project in three cane growing regions

A new project in sugarcane growing regions to be led by DAF's Principal Farming Systems Agronomist Neil Halpin aims to increase average soybean production in Queensland's high

rainfall coastal areas by 100 per cent by 30 September 2024 through increased productivity and expanding the area planted.

With a co-investment by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' Coastal Farming Systems team will plant commercial soybean varieties in focus paddocks in three key sugarcane growing regions.

[Find out more](#)

Upcoming Events

[2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium](#)

3-5 May, Gold Coast

[31st International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists Congress](#)

February 2023, Hyderabad, India

SRA Field Days:

[Herbert Station Field Day](#)

8am-2pm, 4 May, 181 Fairford Rd, Ingham

[Tully Station Field Day](#)

8am-3pm, 5 May, 216 Dallachy Road, Tully

[Meringa Station Field Day](#)

8am - 3pm, 10 May, 71378 Bruce Highway, Gordonvale

[Mackay Station Field Day](#)

8am - 3pm, 13 May, 26135 Peak Downs Highway, Te Kowai

[Southern Sugar Solutions Regional Presentations](#)

Maryborough, Childers, Bundaberg, 11-13 May

See details of all SRA events

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