

The current weather system has brought some welcome finishing rain for the crop in regions where the wet season has previously been lacklustre. In southern areas too much lingering rain on already saturated soils may see losses where cane is under water too long. At SRA, Woodford Station has had to close until next week and the MAPS/SRA Field Day has been rescheduled. But our farmers will tell us "that's the nature of our industry". So we square our shoulders and power on.



Thank you for joining us in Ingham, Tully and Meringa



Mackay Maps/SRA Field Day rescheduled 2 June 2-5pm

Through sunshine and showers growers came together

In recent weeks field days were held at the Herbert, Tully and Meringa stations where SRA researchers and variety team members welcomed growers from across northern Queensland for a day of presentations and conversations.

All agreed that the events were a great opportunity to hear all about progress in SRA's work and how it can be implemented in the field; and at the same time to catch up with peers over a great feed. But the conversations don't stop there.

SRA Agronomist Danielle Skocaj presented at all three field days on *optimising nutrient inputs during high fertiliser prices* and is looking forward to visiting growers she met at the field days.

"I had some great questions at the events and have already received follow up requests to visit growers and discuss their specific circumstances," Danielle said.

If you've got a question that you'd like to put to an SRA researcher, please contact your SRA District Manager or email sra@sugarresearch.com.au

Photos from top left – clockwise: SRA Pathologist Rob Magarey focused his talk on Pachymetra root rot. Variety officers Rhylee Pendrigh and Felicity Atkin launched the 2022/23 Northern Region Variety Guide. Growers Paul Rossi and Jason Salvetti were wet but smiling at the Meringa event. Kevin Powell talked about current and emerging insect threats; and growers were keen to learn about new varieties in Ingham.

New date for Mackay MAPS/SRA Field Day. More here.



Encouraging sugar women to gain greater farm business skills

A special 'for women by women' Farm Business Management Skill Set is now on offer.

The course has been brought about through a partnership between Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network (QAWN), CANEGROWERS Mackay and the Queensland Government's Rural Jobs and Skills alliance through UQ Skills.

The aim is to encourage women in sugar to participate in agriculture through gaining skills and knowledge in rural business development and management.

For Mackay and Plane Creek cane farming women the set dates are 31 May-3 June with QAWN fully-funding the \$120 co-contribution fee for eligible non-concessional participants.

If there is enough interest from women in sugar, UQ Skills may run face-to-face classes in other regions.

To express your interest contact Central Queensland QAWN Officer:

Peter_Albertson@canegrowers.com.au

Image credit: Women in Sugar Australia Conference 2021 Mackay (Robyn Devine CANEGROWERS). The Women in Sugar Australia Conference is on this year from 26-27 May in the Burdekin: <https://bit.ly/3wq0vIQ>

Warnings current

NSW VIC QLD WA SA TAS ACT NT

Warning services

> Rain radars

> Satellite images

> Weather maps

> MetEye

Severe Weather Update: Intense rainfall has cleared the Qld coast, but flood risk remains

National Recovery and Resilience Agency

Information about disaster recovery

Weather for Thursday 12 May

City observations

Keeping an eye on the weather

With heavy rainfall continuing in some regions, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) is encouraging producers to stay up-to-date with the current weather warnings and alerts through the Bureau of Meteorology and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services - QFES.

If cane growers experience any losses or damage to their property, they can fill in a [Natural Disaster Impact Survey](#) to help DAF understand the scale of any impacts.

If producers are in an area that has been through multiple events this season, please remember to keep good records of any impacts including date-stamped photos. This will help support and confirm eligibility for assistance as different natural disaster events have different types of assistance. And remember, if it's flooded, forget it!



Change of leadership for raw sugar ops

Wilmar Sugar Australia has announced a senior leadership transition within its Australian raw sugar operations.

After a career spanning more than 45 years in the raw sugar business John Pratt, Executive General Manager North Queensland will retire in the second half of this year. Shayne Rutherford will be appointed as *Head of Sugar and Renewables* in his position.

Mr Rutherford (pictured left) has 20 years' experience in Wilmar's sugar business and has been Executive General Manager Strategy and Business Development since 2010.

And farewell to CANEGROWERS Chairman

Paul Schembri (pictured right), CANEGROWERS Chairman since 2013 has retired after just shy of 40 years representing Mackay, Queensland and Australian sugarcane growers.

A Farleigh sugarcane grower since the age of 17, Paul took up a representative role on the local area mill suppliers' committee in 1983 and was elected to the Queensland Cane Growers Council six years later.

CANEGROWERS held triennial elections this year and a new Chair is expected to be announced later this month.





Zoom event next week

As part of National Careers Week, SRA is a program partner in a virtual event on 18 May: Excited 4 Careers in Agriculture. The discussion will be about how to give students a compass to guide them on their career path into agriculture which will be presented by CQUniversity Australia Agriculture Education and Extension.

The workshop will look at how young people's interests, strengths, and values can be better connected to the diverse range of career opportunities in agriculture. It is aimed at teachers, parents, and passionate ag industry members who are interested in learning more about practical ways to discuss careers with the next generation, ensuring they have the tools to explore and navigate their way into the ever changing world of agricultural work. The 30 minute workshop will be followed by a Q&A discussion.

[Register here for the webinar](#)



AgTech Roadmap

A new AgTech Roadmap for Queensland is being developed by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries with the aim of setting direction for development and accelerating uptake. You can help shape developments by completing the AgTech survey, participating in the online collaboration hub or attending a face-to-face forum:

- Toowoomba (Thursday 19 May 2022)
- Bundaberg (Friday 20 May 2022)
- Cairns (Monday 23 May 2022)
- Mackay (Tuesday 24 May 2022)
- Emerald (Wednesday 25 May 2022)
- Longreach (Thursday 26 May 2022)
- Brisbane (Tuesday 7 June 2022)

More about the AgTech Roadmap

Emergency permit for vines granted

The aerial application of MCPA products containing 750 g/L MCPA to sugarcane crops in central, north and far north Queensland is allowed until 31 August under an emergency permit granted by the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to CANEGROWERS.

The permit enables the control of vine weeds such as bellvine, pink convolvulus, red convolvulus, morning glory, Star of Bethlehem and stinking passionflower in the leadup to the harvest.

In addition, an application has been submitted to the APVMA from a commercial company seeking to vary the label conditions for a 750 MCPA product, as a longer-term solution.

[Find out more](#)

Technical update - Nufarm products

Nufarm Australia is providing technical presentations this month in central and north Queensland.

Topics include:

- 2,4-D updates and latest sugar industry guidelines

- New products: Drop Zone, Terrador and Terrain Flow
- Label extensions and changes
- Grub control – imidacloprid developments.

Dates and venues

Mackay - Tuesday 17 May 9.30am - 11.30am,
Pavilion Room, Shamrock Hotel, 165 Nebo Road, Mackay

Proserpine - Tuesday 17 May 3pm - 5pm,
Metropole Hotel, 80-82 Main Street, Proserpine

Burdekin - Wednesday 18 May 9am - 11am,
Burdekin Theatre (foyer), 161 Queen Street, Ayr

Ingham - Wednesday 18 May 3pm - 5pm,
HCPSL, 181 Fairford Road Ingham

Innisfail - Thursday 19 May 10am - 12pm
Australian Sugar Heritage Centre conference room, 18-24 Bruce Highway, Mourilyan

RSVP to Nufarm Australia: Courtney – 0400 693 260 or Mark – 0409 200 993.
COVID restrictions apply.

SRA Upcoming Events

CANEGROWERS Rocky Point/SRA Productivity Workshop

Thursday 19 May, 1281 Stapylton Jacobs Well Road, Woongoolba

Impact of harvesting practices on cane and sugar yields

Wednesday 25 May, SRA Bundaberg, 314 Pashleys Road, Welcome Creek

Making informed decisions when input costs are high

Thursday 26 May, SRA Mackay, 26135 Peak Downs Highway, Te Kowai

Women in Sugar Australia Conference, Dinner, Bus Tour

Thursday/Friday, 26-27 May, Burdekin Theatre, Ayr

Precision Agriculture Workshop - Proserpine

Wednesday 1 June, Proserpine Showgrounds, Anzac Road, Proserpine

SRA Field Days:

MAPS/SRA Field Day

Thursday 2 June, Victoria Plains Clean Seed Plot, Neilson Drive, Victoria Plains

See details of all SRA events

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Telephone: 07 3331 3333 | Email: sra@sugarresearch.com.au

Our address is 50 Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, QLD 4068, Australia

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