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# eNewsletter

Whatever the weather and a pandemic throw at us, the show goes on, what a great day in the Burdekin. We're now getting excited about the Ekka, if you're in Brisbane from 6-14 August, we'd love to see you there, come say G'day.



## Strong showing at Burdekin Field Day

Almost 120 people streamed through the gates of SRA's Brandon station last week for the first Burdekin Field Day in more than a decade.

Despite key organisers from the three hosting organisations – SRA, Burdekin Productivity Services and Farmacist - having to stay away after contracting COVID, the show went on with the support of their teams.

A presentation from SRA scientist Dr Sijesh Natarajan, who spoke about the use of drones and technology to improve plant breeding outcomes, proved popular.

Visitors heard from a range of presenters on topics including varieties, harvest optimisation, pests and diseases, soil health and nutrient inputs, and irrigation. They also visited stalls from a range of industry organisations.

Thanks to all exhibitors, presenters, visitors and our co-hosts and sponsors for making the event a success.

*Above: Burdekin Variety Manager Xianming Wei and Variety Officer Catherine Kettle speak with industry attendees about variety development.*

## Examining nutrient rates on very high yielding blocks

The SIX EASY STEPS® (6ES) nutrient management program has been validated extensively throughout the sugarcane industry over the last two decades.

However, growers with blocks that produce very high yields, consistently exceeding the district yield potential, have raised concern about the adequacy of nitrogen and phosphorus guidelines.

Guidance contained in the 6ES Toolbox for very high yielding blocks, supported by a small number of case studies, indicates the 6ES nitrogen guidelines are unlikely to limit productivity at these sites. STEPS 5 and 6 of the 6ES program also promote checking on the adequacy of nutrient inputs and refining inputs where productivity and economic responses are achieved.

*To further understand this issue:* SRA will be establishing sites in three regions to investigate nitrogen and phosphorus requirements on these very high yielding blocks.

**[SIX EASY STEPS TOOLBOX](#)**

## Correct chemical control for greyback canegrubs made easier with SRA's how-to guide

From left to right: SRA District Manager – Far North, Gavin Rodman, Canegrowers Tully Chairman, Bryce Macdonald, SRA Weed Specialist Emilie Fillols and SRA Entomology Leader Dr Kevin Powell at a *Mobilising The Murray* Canegrub workshop in Murray Rural Fire Shed, Murray Upper (Tuesday 12 July).



[Read more and download the guide](#)



## Your input to help design and prioritise future water quality investments

As part of its commitment to working with partners to improve the quality of water flowing to the Great Barrier Reef, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DAWE) want to hear from current and past stakeholders who have been involved in Reef Trust water quality projects. This includes Traditional Owners, NGOs, NRMs and industry stakeholders, as well as landholders and farmers. The survey is open until 29 July.

[Complete the survey and have your say](#)

## Stop and think in Farm Safety Week

Have you been down a worker this week with a long day harvesting and another tomorrow? Feeling complacent about putting away the tools on the floor of the shed? Know you've still got chores and bookwork to do at home tonight?

It's Farm Safety Week and Farmsafe Australia is asking you to stop and think about the sorts of everyday risks and hazards you face on the farm and how you can stay alert and control for them. It might just be a recipe for averting disaster.

Statistics show fatigue, complacency, the blurred line that now exists between work and home, labour shortages, an aging workforce, wellbeing and many other issues combine to make a farm one of the most dangerous work environments in Australia.

[More on Farm Safety Week](#)



## Regulations proposed for quad bikes and SSV

The Queensland Office of Industrial Relations (OIR) is investigating the introduction of work health and safety (WHS) regulations to improve the safety of workers and others when operating quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles (SSV) at a workplace. This includes mandating:

- helmet use
- no kids on adult quad bikes and SSVs
- certain passenger restrictions for some vehicles
- seat belts for some SSVs (where they have been installed).

Written submissions close at COB **Wednesday, 31 August 2022.**

Email [whspolicy@oir.qld.gov.au](mailto:whspolicy@oir.qld.gov.au)

[Read the discussion paper](#)





*This is a Mobilising the Murray project event funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust.*

## Activating your soil microbiome workshop

Join Dr Christine Jones (pictured) as she explains the impacts of inorganic NPK on the soil microbiome and discusses the actions farmers can take to reduce their reliance on expensive inputs - while still achieving the productivity and profitability outcomes they are seeking.

**Tuesday 9 August, Tully Showgrounds**

[More info and to book](#)



## Come and see SRA at the Ekka and Sarina Show

Will you be in Brisbane from 6-14 August? Come and see us at the Ekka.

CANEGROWERS, Sunshine Sugar and SRA are coordinating an industry stand at the Brisbane Exhibition.

Attractions for visitors will include a Virtual Reality tour of the sugar industry, courtesy of Sunshine Sugar. SRA will showcase the new Sugar Industry Roadmap and SRA's role in sugarcane varietal development and biosecurity with displays of cane industry pests and diseases.

We will be located in the agricultural pavilion near a cane juice operator so you can slake your thirst on the industry product before visiting our stall.

If you can't make it to the Ekka, SRA will also be at the Sarina Show (30-31 July). Good luck to all growers entering the cane competition.

## Want to work with SRA? We're looking for ...

- Human Resources / Industrial Relations Graduate
- Molecular Plant Pathologist
- Casual/Seasonal Field Hands  
- Broadwater



[Our current vacancies](#)

## Events

[Field tour of the SIX EASY STEPS validation trial in the drier climate zone](#) - Helen's Hill, Friday 29 July, 4-6pm

FNQ Growers R&D Field Day - Mareeba Turf Club, Friday 29 July, 9am-5pm

[All SRA upcoming events](#)

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