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Friday 3 March 2023

We've got some exciting news in this eNewsletter! Strap yourself in for news of the start of high-flying discussions on sustainable aviation fuel nationally and check out SRA's first eLearning program.



Progress on the Sugar Plus journey

In a step forward for the Sugar Industry's [Sugar Plus vision and roadmap](#) released last year, SRA and the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) this week had a seat at the table at a meeting of major stakeholders interested in the production and use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

[Link to story here](#)



SRA Principal Agronomist Danielle Skocaj and Translation Research Manager Barry Salter played a pivotal role in the development of the content for the Online Sugarcane Nutrient Management program.

The Online Sugarcane Nutrient Management program is being supported by face-to-face workshops in sugarcane regions, including in [Mackay](#) on 14 March and in the Southern district on 1 April. Keep your eye on our events page to find out the latest details and enroll:

[Check out our events page for OSNM supporting events](#)

SIX EASY STEPS® goes online

SRA has launched a new online training course based on the SIX EASY STEPS® face-to-face workshops free to cane growers and their advisors.

The Online Sugarcane Nutrient Management training course was developed for sugarcane growers who want to refresh or up-skill their knowledge of nutrient management for sustainable sugarcane production.

In response to requests from the industry, the training will also provide growers with the necessary knowledge to create an annual nitrogen and phosphorus (N&P) budget for their farms.

A grower who successfully completes this training program will be considered an Appropriate Person under the definition of the Queensland Government's Reef protection regulations.

The course is now available online for all sugarcane growers and advisors on the SRA website.

[Access the online course here](#)



The online program's development was funded through the Queensland Government's Queensland Reef Water Quality Program and SRA.



Recommendations from EEF60 project now in the toolbox

Results and recommendations from the ‘*Support of cane farmer trials of enhanced efficiency fertiliser (EEF) in the catchments of the Great Barrier Reef (EEF60)*’ project; and then its extension ‘*Cane farmer trials and modelling of EEFs*’ have now been added to the SIX EASY STEPS TOOLBOX

Funded by the partnership between the Australian Government’s Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation EEFs were tested over four seasons on 74 sugarcane farms located between Mossman and Bundaberg. The results show that when high nitrogen loss conditions are likely, EEFs are a good option.

The on-ground testing and modelling was possible with support from a collaborative partnership between Sugar Research Australia, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, CSIRO, CANEGROWERS, productivity services and cane farmers.

[Webpage - Outcomes of the EEF60 project](#)

Improved spraying practices will not only benefit your pocket

The fallout from poor spraying practices can go far beyond the economic damage on your own farm, as NSW cotton growers recovering from a widespread drift event over Christmas will tell you. To have your livelihood significantly (and repeatedly) affected by the actions of someone else can be devastating economically and emotionally.

Drift management is one of the many topics covered in our Advanced Knockdown Herbicides workshops held in partnership with Nufarm and Croplands in Mackay, Rocky Point and Bundaberg. (More workshops are planned for other regions.) It is a 'must do' for growers who want to optimise their herbicide spraying practices.

"The workshops will improve growers' weed management knowledge so they don't need to rely on others; help growers understand on their own farms what went wrong when they experienced poor weed control and toxicity on cane; and point out the risks of getting it wrong: to other crops, their own crop, their own safety, and the environment," Emilie said.

The workshops will include live demonstrations from Nufarm and Croplands to illustrate product incompatibility and the effect of nozzles and adjuvants on drift.

[Knockdown herbicide workshops Mackay, Rocky Point, Bundaberg](#)



SRA's Weed Scientist Emilie Fillols, and representatives from Nufarm and Croplands, invite you to learn more about effective weed management using knockdown herbicides.

Connecting with producers in the Reef

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has refreshed its [Farming in the Great Barrier Reef](#) web content to incorporate feedback received from producers.

Sugarcane growers [Joe Marano](#), from Mourilyan, [Santo and Sam Lamari](#) at Ingham, [Denis Pozzebon](#) at Mt Kelly and [Liza Giudice](#) at Cairns are featured in a new series of case studies posted to demonstrate innovative strategies farmers are making to improve sustainability.

Producers or organisations that would like to contribute success stories, can contact isabel.bryce@daf.qld.gov.au

[Farming in the Reef](#)



Farm drains have the potential to work like wetlands and remove nitrates from waterways

That was the focus of a recent workshop at Murray Upper near Tully where farmers and extension officers looked at how to modify and manage drains for the win-win outcome of improving water quality while maintaining production.

Farmers and extension officers at the workshop visited a functioning vegetated drain (pictured above) and saw another where there are plans to reinforce some banks and revegetate the edges. These kind of changes can improve the capacity of some drains to reduce sediment and nutrients while maintaining flows. And with all the drains in our region the potential is exciting!

This workshop was a joint initiative of Terrain NRM and the Queensland Government's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. It was part of the Mobilising the Mossman and

Murray project, funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust and delivered by Terrain NRM in partnership, in the Murray region, with SRA.

[For more info, see this TERRAIN NRM video](#)



Learning how new varieties are screened for disease resistance

A group of sugarcane growers from Rocky Point last week visited SRA Woodford on a tour organised by SRA District Manager - Southern, Lisa Devereaux and CANEGROWERS Rocky Point, as part of activities in the Southern district plan.

The growers were addressed by SRA Manager, Biosecurity and Disease Screening, Shamsul Bhuiyan and other staff who demonstrated the complex process involved in developing cane varieties that are disease resistant.

Shamsul encourages growers who wish to visit the Station for a tour - to learn more about how to identify a disease on their own farms and about screening for disease resistance - to please contact him via email on: sbhuiyan@sugarresearch.com.au

"What do you do at work?"

Do you have a child in your family who has asked you what you do at work?

If you want to talk to them about sugarcane farming but don't really have simple enough resources on hand (apart from, perhaps, pointing out your window at the cane) [ABC Education](#) now has the answer.

The producers of a video series called [Future Farmers](#) got in touch with SRA for some cane farming images. The 7-part series has now been published.



Sugarcane farming and milling are among the agricultural industries explored. Follow the link below to watch. It's an interesting production which features children talking to other children who live on farms.

[Future Farming Episode 7 - Sugarcane farming and sugar milling](#)

SRA Brisbane corporate staff are now in Brisbane's CBD

SRA's corporate staff have now moved from Indooroopilly to **Suite A, Level 10, 300 Queen Street, Brisbane.**

Indooroopilly laboratory staff are unaffected.

[How to find us ...](#)

SRA Events

[Knockdown Herbicide Advanced Workshop](#) - Mackay, Wednesday 8 March, 8am

[Learn more about SIX EASY STEPS online](#) - Mackay, Tuesday 14 March, 8am

[Knockdown Herbicide Advanced Workshop](#) - Woongoolba, Wednesday 15 March, 11am

[Knockdown Herbicide Advanced Workshop](#) - Welcome Creek, Thursday 16 March, 1pm

[Harvest Mate Northern Roadshow](#) - various venues, 22 March - 6 May

[SRA's Meringa Station Field Day](#) - Meringa, Tuesday 18 April, 8am

Upcoming industry events

[SRA/QUT Regional Research Seminars](#) - various venues, 20-30 March

[ASSCT](#) - 44th Annual Conference, 18-21 April, Cairns Convention Centre

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

Our address is 50 Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, Qld, 4068

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