

Cane News

*CANEGROWERS Proserpine's
monthly member newsletter*



WELCOME TO THE 2022 ISSUE # 4 OF 'CANE NEWS'

DATE CLAIMERS

May

30th

QLD Land valuation objection deadline

31st

QFF Tariff survey closes

June

1st

Proserpine Precision Agriculture workshop, Proserpine Showgrounds

10th

Farmacist Advanced Spray Application workshop

14th

Show Cane; Sections 8, 9 & 10 to Showgrounds; 7am to 4pm

16th

Show Cane; Sections 1 to 7 to Showgrounds; 1pm to 5pm

17th

Show Whitsunday



JEPPESSEN FARMING CO.

For all your agricultural contracting needs

Laser levelling , truck & dog, surveys, earthmoving & more

Tony Jeppesen

0414 322 729

Jake Mitchell

0408 160 660





Use your train brain

GIVE WAY TO CANE TRAINS

Pre-season training of locomotive drivers is under way in the **Proserpine area.**

Locomotives will be operating across the district during daylight hours.

Please approach all cane railway crossings with caution and obey all signs and signals.

wilmar

QFF ELECTRICITY TARIFF PROJECT - CLOSES 31st MAY, 2022

Queensland and New South Wales farmers could win one of two \$500 discounts off their energy bills for participating in a research study aiming to better understand how they consider and choose electricity tariffs for their agricultural operations.

The research project is a collaboration between the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) and the University of Queensland, with funding from Energy Consumers Australia, and aims to assist farmers in the tariff decision making process and support greater inclusion of farmers' needs in the design of more flexible tariffs.

The project partners are seeking farmers to undertake a confidential 30 -minute phone or Zoom interview with researchers from the University of Queensland. Participating farmers will all receive a \$40 gift card with those involved by May 31, 2022 going into the draw for the \$500 discount.

Complete the Expression of Interest form: [https://
www.surveymonkey.com/r/
Z7NVMWZ](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z7NVMWZ).

CROP INSURANCE FOR MEMBERS

CANEGROWERS members will get free crop insurance for the 2022 season as part of a new initiative aimed at lowering costs for growers while ensuring members are adequately covered against fire, hail or transport losses.

The initiative provides crop insurance cover with an indemnity level of \$35 per tonne with nil excess. The coverage will be offered to all members, free of charge as part of your membership. CANEGROWERS has used our strong membership base and experience in the insurance market to develop a competitive product with the premium now being paid by the CANEGROWERS organisation. The core terms and conditions of the policy will remain unchanged.

More details on this exciting new initiative will be provided to all members in a letter attached to the upcoming June Australian Canegrower magazine.



CANEGROWERS

MARKETING INFORMATION SERVICE

Info, new video & new PDFs to download & read

Watch this month's video and read the PDF updates from the CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service to learn what's been happening.

You can access this information by logging into the member services section at www.canegrowers.com.au, using your CANEGROWERS membership number.

ARE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE WITH SRA?

Sugar Research Australia publishes a quarterly magazine called *Cane Matters*, distributes a fortnightly eNewsletter and frequently sends out invitations for events.

Other publications like the Variety Guides, Greyback Canegrub Management Manual and Weed Management Manual have also been posted out to growers.

If you aren't receiving content from SRA, please contact Dylan Wedel, District Manager – Central, to update your details, 0490 029 387, DWedel@sugarresearch.com.au



2022 PRE-CRUSH UPDATE

Despite some much-needed rain over the past week, Proserpine's 2020 pre-crush estimate remains at 1.64MT of cane. Most of the area has benefitted from the showers, although some more than others.

While there are still a few critical projects to be completed, the mill remains on-track to commence crushing operations on 21 June. Given the size of the crop and allowing for wet weather and scheduled maintenance, the crush is expected to be completed by mid-November.

The annual review of our Collective CSA Allowances has seen an increase in **Cartage Allowance** increased from \$0.25 to **\$0.29 p/km/tonne** and the **Continuous Crush Allowances** (Weekend/RDO) will increase to **\$1.27 p/tonne** (previously \$1.24).

The interim payment CCS is calculated using a 5-year average. As you would know, Proserpine's

CCS has fluctuated widely during this time due to our variable weather. Given the prolonged wet season, we have erred on the side of caution and requested Wilmar commence payments based on a CCS of 14.00. As is our normal practice, we will review CCS performance throughout the harvest to ensure there are no serious financial impact on members at the conclusion/wash-up.

BUSINESS ESSENTIALS WORKSHOPS

A CANEGROWERS Business Essentials workshop was held at Proserpine on 10 and 11 May 2022 with 10 growers in attendance.

The primary goal of the workshop series was to provide growers with tools, methods, and strategies to improve farm profitability. During the workshop growers engaged in an interesting strengths and weakness analysis that generated very good discussion, which helped to tease out relevant strategic issues that they considered in their individual plans. The session on market risk led to some excellent question and answer time with the sugar trading professionals.

2022 MEMBERSHIP LEVY

For the 5th consecutive year, CANEGROWERS Proserpine has approved an unchanged Membership Levy for the 2022 season. The District subscription will remain at 0.16 per tonne of cane.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will have read that QCGO has insured Members' Fire Perils cover to \$35 per tonne with a Nil Excess. CANEGROWERS Proserpine has agreed to purchase additional cover to increase the indemnity value to \$40 per tonne (with no excess). The additional premium cost has been covered from our accumulated reserves and does not impact your levy.

SSP MEMBERS - HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR RSD TESTING?

Now is the time to book your RSD testing.

The SSP team anticipate a high demand for testing this year, so to ensure your results are received as promptly as possible, please contact Frank (0419 679 427) or George (0488 777 657) to arrange your testing.

The Lab takes approximately three weeks to return testing results. Growers will be advised of their results by text message with an invoice following shortly afterwards.





PROSERPINE PRECISION AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP

Join leading experts and producers to learn the latest developments in Precision Agriculture and how it can benefit your farming operations.

Practical advice and solutions from farmers and researchers:

- software solutions
- irrigation automation
- grower experiences
- drone demonstrations
- variable rate application
- digital soil mapping
- weather forecasting

When: Wednesday 1 June 2022, 9.00am – 1.30pm

Where: Proserpine Showgrounds, Anzac Rd, Proserpine Qld 4800

RSVP: 26 May 2022 to Stephanie Duncan on 0459 863 298 or email sduncan@sugarresearch.com.au or Frank Millar, Sugar Services Proserpine, on 0419 679 427 or email: frank.millar@sugarpros.com.au

This workshop is hosted by Proserpine Young Farmers supported by SRA and SSP.

DAF - NATURAL DISASTER IMPACT SURVEY

With heavy rainfall continuing in some regions, we encourage you 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 you are a primary producer and experience any losses or damage to your property, please fill in our [Natural Disaster Impact Survey](#) to help us understand the scale of any impacts.

Additionally, if you 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.

Remember: if it's flooded - forget it!



It's almost show time!

CANEGROWERS Proserpine will be running our annual Show Cane competition at this year's Show Whitsunday and with fantastic local sponsors once again on board, it promises to be a great year.

Keep an eye on your emails and facebook as we move through June, as the 2022 schedule will be emailed to all members and reminders for the CCS sections will be posted to our facebook page as the dates approach.



Printed copies of the schedule will be available from the Proserpine office and if you have any questions regarding the event, please don't hesitate to ask any of the Canegrowers or SSP team.

Dates to remember:

Tuesday 14th June: Sections 8, 9 and 10 are to be delivered to the Proserpine Showgrounds between 7am to 4pm

Thursday 16th June: Sections 1 to 7 are to be delivered to the Proserpine Showgrounds between 1pm to 5pm

Friday 17th June: Presentation afternoon commences at 2pm

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR PRICING



If you want more control over your final sugar price, talk to us about pricing for the 2023 season.

We have a straightforward suite of pricing options that enable you to lock in prices should the market get to levels you like.



To find out more about how Call and Target pricing mechanisms have enabled growers to capture potentially attractive prices, see our latest report on [Wilmar growers' Forward Pricing Performance 2012-2021](#).

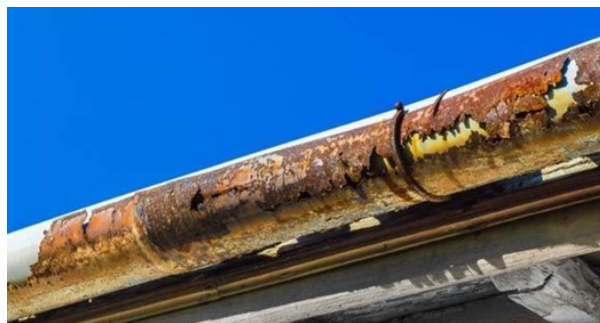


SHIRLEY NORRIS
OFFICE Proserpine Mill
PHONE 0437 803 019



CANEGROWERS INURANCE - THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTENANCE

in recent years, insurers have become firmer with claim decisions when lack of maintenance is involved. Insurers are now using methods such as satellite imagery in conjunction with loss adjuster reports and other methods when working through claims, to ensure the property was in good repair prior to the claim being made. Where a claim involves damaged areas that also show lack of maintenance, your insurer may:

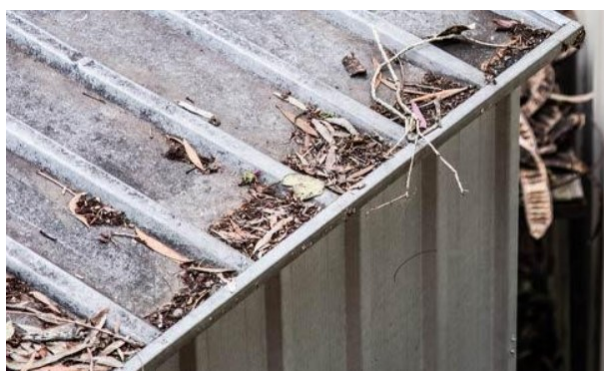


- Decline your claim
- Finalise your claim by cash settlement, taking into consideration the amount of damage Vs lack of maintenance. The option of using your insurer's appointed panel builder is removed, leaving you to organize the repairs
- Require you to complete repairs to the area (or areas) and provide evidence of the repairs before they will pay and close your claim

Where the property is deemed to show an extreme lack of maintenance, insurers reserve the right to cancel your policy.

It pays to take care of maintenance issues around your home and farm before they become an issue. Some examples of items that are frequently mentioned in declined claims as showing lack of maintenance are:

- Rusting roof sheeting or broken/damaged roof tiles
- Rusted or blocked gutters
- Damaged or rusted downpipes
- Flaking or damaged internal/external paint
- Debris in surrounding areas that has potential to cause damage to structures (this could be green waste or other items i.e. old equipment, steel, large timber offcuts etc)
- Damp patches within homes that may be caused by a leaking roof or plumbing
- Damaged tile grout in wet areas



Remember: your insurer has an obligation to provide cover as per your policy documents, as per the level of Cover chosen by you.

Your insurance renewal is a legal document that you agree to when paying your renewal. Your obligation is to stay within the terms of the policy at all times and this includes a responsibility to ensure your buildings and contents have been and will continue to be well maintained.

It's also worth noting that insurers have also become more stringent when checking how well buildings have been maintained when a new policy is being issued. It's not uncommon for insurers to request current photos of structures and to have a heavier line of questioning before issuing a new policy, with insurers declining to provide cover where a property is unmaintained or is undergoing renovations.

Please contact the Proserpine office with any questions you may have, to request a quote or if you'd like to discuss or make any updates to your insurance policy. Trish is in the office Monday to Thursday, 9am to 3pm.

PRE-PAY & SAVE

EARN \$150 CREDIT

for every \$10,000 pre-paid for Bio Dunder® liquid
fertilisers before 30 June 2022.

Our straightforward pre-payment
offer makes it easy to calculate
the benefits.

Reasons to pre-pay

- > Take control of your farm finances
- > Lock in your fertiliser plan
- > Save on your fertiliser costs

How it works

- > Receive \$150 credit for every \$10,000 pre-payment, applied as credit to your account
- > Pre-payment must be made before 30 June 2022
- > Credit must be used by 31 December 2022

FIND OUT MORE > 1800 799 037

Offer available to customers who pre-pay by 30 June 2022 a minimum of \$10,000 towards the purchase of Bio Dunder liquid fertiliser for the 2022 fertilising season. The value of the credit will be calculated on a pro-rata basis for pre-payments above \$10,000. The credit can only be redeemed on purchases of fertilisers from Wilmar BioEthanol (Australia) Pty Ltd ABN 85 009 660 191 (Wilmar) by 31 December 2022 and is non-transferable. Offer subject to change. Wilmar, its employees, agents or contractors are not providing any financial, legal or tax advice. Wilmar recommends that interested parties obtain their own independent financial advice on the suitability and benefits of this offer based on their specific circumstances.



ANNUAL QLD LAND VALUATIONS - OBJECTIONS CLOSE 30th MAY, 2022

Current revaluations

During March 2022 the Valuer General issued new land valuations for 30 local government areas in QLD, some of which areas are in sugar cane districts including for example Cairns, Mareeba, Bundaberg, and Fraser Coast. If your property is in a local authority area that was not revalued, then your land valuation will remain unchanged.

What are land valuations used for?

Land valuations are used and relied upon by various government authorities for a variety of purposes including the levying of various taxes and charges against land holders. These taxes and charges are calculated at a specified rate in the dollar of land value. Examples include local council rates, state land tax and state land rental on state leasehold lands. An increase in your land valuation may, but does not automatically, lead to an increase in your relevant government rates and charges.

Will my rates increase?

Just because your Valuer General land valuation increases does not automatically mean your local council rates will also increase. Councils have very wide powers to manage rating and increase in property values. Councils can apply caps, averaging of values over several years, differential rating and most obviously changing the rate in the dollar of land value. From my experience, I have noticed many local councils use as an excuse the increase in land values by the State Valuer General to justify increases in local rates. There however is no basis for this approach and Councils certainly have many ways in which it can ensure that an increase in land values does not equate to an increase in rates.

How is the valuation calculated?

Lands that are zoned rural are valued on an unimproved basis by state government department valuers. The unimproved basis is intended to reflect the land in its original, natural and undisturbed condition. The unimproved value is the notional amount the land could be expected to sell for without any physical improvements such as houses and sheds, land clearing, levelling and earth works.

Department valuers usually monitor the local area real estate market and analyse sales of properties within the area. From these sales, they will make calculations about the value of improvements forming part of the sale and deduct them from the gross sale price to come up with a notional unimproved value for the land component involved in that sale. Valuers will also consider physical

attributes and constraints on use of the land. These items include matters such as the shape, nature and size of land, any adverse effects of natural disasters, limitations on land use, encumbrances such as easements including cane tramway and powerline easements, planning restrictions and environmental and vegetation issues.

The department does not physically inspect every property in the local authority area every year. Quite often the department will simply carry out desk top valuations using maps and aerial images. Also, in some cases the department will merely apply a factor to adjust the value of all farms by a set percentage. These short cut approaches can lead to anomalies and inconsistent valuations.

Objection process

A land holder can formally dispute a valuation by lodgement of a notice of objection. The notice must follow a set format and be lodged with the department within 60 days of the valuation issuing. As the recent new valuations were issued on 31 March affected land holders have until 30 May to lodge their objection.

Prior to lodging an objection, land holders might consider contacting the department on 1300 664 217 and endeavour to speak with the relevant valuer and seek further information about how their valuation was arrived at. This further information may assist you in deciding whether to object or not. Some of the common complaints in objections include that the department: -

- relied on an inflated and abnormal local area sale that did not reflect true area values;
- failed to consider particular characteristics of the property, such as soil type and terrain;
- failed to consider flooding issues and permanent adverse effects from a natural disaster;
- made inconsistent valuations compared to neighbouring properties.
- failed to properly consider the value of making the improvements to the property such as the cost of earthworks and drainage works and the cost of timber treatment in clearing the land.

Further advice and assistance

The State Government Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Energy web site contains useful information about the valuation process undertaken by it. Your local CANEGROWERS office can also assist with advice and information. As a free service members can also call Chris Cooper CANEGROWERS legal adviser for additional help and information.

PROSERPINE QSL UPDATE



New 'Balancing Order' feature

Growers using the Self-Managed Harvest Contract can now price the remainder of their unpriced tonnage against individual contracts by using our new 'Balancing Order' feature.

This allows you to place an order for all of the remaining unpriced tonnage against that contract – down to the last tonne – rather than limiting the order size to a multiple of 10 tonnes. To access this feature in the QSL Direct portal, just click on the Balancing Order button now featured on the order screen for this product. When using the QSL App, type the full balance figure into the 'tonnes' field when placing an order and it will be accepted.

Adjusting your estimate?

Recent rain has caused some growers to reassess their production estimates. QSL has a range of mechanisms available to help address the implications of an in-season reduction to your crop.

Should you have concerns about your ability to deliver your committed tonnage, please contact your local QSL representative. [Click here](#) for information on QSL's non-delivery options.

Your 2022-Season pricing options

Nominations for QSL's 2022-Season pricing options are now closed.

However, QSL Direct growers can still choose to transfer their Harvest Pool tonnage into the Self-Managed Harvest Contract by using our new Harvest Pool Opt Out function.



Leave the QSL Harvest Pool at any time during the season and price more yourself using QSL's new Harvest Pool Opt Out. Just choose to 'Opt Out' and any of your Harvest Pool tonnage which has not already been priced by QSL will be transferred to the Self-Managed Harvest Contract so you can price it yourself.

Available to QSL Direct growers from 1 May 2022.

Key Dates 2022

20 June:

2022 Target Price Contract Roll. Last day to achieve 2022-Season Target Price Contract orders before your pricing window is automatically extended and roll adjustments apply.

20 June:

July 2022 ICE 11 Contract Pricing Completion Date. Last day to achieve or roll pricing allocated to the July 2022 ICE 11 contract.



Proud Supporter 2022

QSL is a proud supporter of the following industry events:

2022 Women In Sugar Conference

26 - 27 May 2022 | Burdekin Theatre, Ayr. [Click here for more information](#)

Farming in Focus Forum

27 May 2022 | Ayr Showgrounds

For more information or to book your ticket, [click here](#).

2022 Gin Gin Show

28-29 May 2022 | Gin Gin Showgrounds

[For more information, please click here](#)

2022 Show Whitsunday

Canegrowers Cane Awards

17 June 2022 | Proserpine Showgrounds

**For more information please contact QSL
Grower Relationship Officer Karen
Vloedmans:**

Proserpine



Grower Relationship Officer
Karen Vloedmans
0429 804 876
karen.vloedmans@qsl.com.au

Disclaimer: The information in this document does not constitute financial advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms in full (available at www.qsl.com.au) before making any pricing and pool selection decisions. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information in this document.



ADVANCED SPRAY APPLICATION WORKSHOP

This course has been developed to improve your pesticide use efficiency to help you **maximise your spray jobs and save you money**. This training is delivered by a leading expert in chemical spray application with nearly 30 years experience in a variety of industries.

Presented by Craig Day of



If you prepare or apply chemical on the farm using spray equipment, then this workshop is for you! Learn about or refresh your knowledge on the following:

- Weather and drift management
- Nozzle selection for improved coverage
- How to recognise and avoid inversions
- Chemical label requirements
- Record keeping including spray plans
- PPE and OHS
- Practical strategies for mixing and applying chemical
- Spray water quality
- Effects of adjuvants in the chemical mix
- Development of spray drift management plan customised to farming operation - machine, speed, nozzles, etc.
- Calibration and testing of spray equipment
- General fine-tuning of the machine
- Practical demonstrations using a variety of nozzles and water rates



2022 DATES

Mackay:
7th, 8th & 9th of June

Proserpine:
10th of June

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

Mackay/Proserpine RSVP to Jess: 0429 843 125



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation

Project Bluewater 2 is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, and Farmacist Pty Ltd

Closing date for classified advertisements is the close of business of the first week of each month. Classifieds are free to CANEGROWERS members. CANEGROWERS Proserpine does not necessarily endorse products or services advertised in, or associated with the newsletter. Articles appearing in 'Cane News' do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS.