

HIGHLIGHTS

Kalamia Sweet Notes	1
QSL Update	2
Wilmar Sugar Update	4
Sweet Info	19
Classifieds	20



What a
sweet life!



A new financial year is upon us...

With the commencement of the new financial year on 1 July comes the challenge yet again to get your finances in order.

Whether it be business planning, succession planning or estate planning this is a great time to consider what changes you need to make to meet your goals or to prepare yourself for opportunities or challenges that lay ahead.

A few things you can do to help:

Set goals, or review ones you already have – think about what you want to achieve this financial year.

Update your budget – time to reflect on last year's income and expenditure and plan towards this year's.

Review insurances – ensure you have adequate insurance in place to meet your needs.

Superannuation – are your retirement benefits invested in line with your risk tolerance? Will you have sufficient money to fund your retirement?

Should you wish to discuss any of these matters with one of our advisers please do not hesitate to **call us... and Happy New Financial Year to you!**

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Kalamia Sweet Notes

Designed and printed by:
Lotsa - Print & Signage 4775 1981
KCGOL acknowledges and
thanks all contributors.

FACTS, FICTIONS AND MISINTERPRETATIONS

Some years ago I heavily involved in Research, Development and Extension in the beef industry. It was before the establishment of the Beef CRC at the University of New England as an independent scientific facility. One of the issue debated across the industry was how to best estimate carcass yield on a live animal. There were researchers from Queensland, NSW and Tasmania whose work had produced different "best prediction" approaches. One favoured ultra sound of eye muscle area, another a visual score of hind quarter muscularity against a standardised profile, and the third worked on the idea of a correlation between bone shape and cross sectional area, and carcass yield. These researchers were all highly credentialed and the media got plenty of mileage in airing the debate as each pushed their conclusion as the one industry should adopt. They all wanted the recognition of being the industry expert. In the end, to resolve the matter the industry statutory body funded the establishment of an expert panel of producers, processors, retailers, geneticists and meat scientists to produce a guidance advice to industry and it supported a communications program to ensure the message reached all industry members.

The issue of what's happening to the Reef strikes me as not dissimilar.

We have an appointed Authority with leading scientists, we have a University, which identifies itself as a centre of excellence on matters tropical, and which also has very strong scientific credentials, and we have Queensland, Australian and global communities all with varying degrees of scientific knowledge and commercial interest and emotional attachment to the reef, and politicians who often seem to make it their agenda for their own political ends.

How do we sort the wheat from the chaff in the plethora of information and how do we balance up the different values people place on this amazing feature of our planet? Unsurprisingly nobody wants to be the one caught holding an unreasonable share of the responsibility or cost, not a nation, not a state and certainly not an individual whose enterprise may be impacted by any decisions made by other parties. Countries' governments would seem to be the ultimate

arbiter of who carries what responsibility although international opinion whether it be that of the global exposure from Sir David Attenborough or President Barak Obama or the formal policies of the United Nations can slant that as Australia protects its "good international standing".

Cane farmers appear to have a clear message in front of them from regulators, embrace the industry standard of Best Practice Management, particularly in relation to adoption of 6 Easy Steps and such programs and get the protection of a defensible position under the industry umbrella or risk the outcomes of regulations, current and future, introduced by State and Federal Governments. By embracing this approach cane farmers protect their enterprises and their industry and give a voice of credibility and weight to the industry to deny any of those unreasonable claims made against farmers.

The industry is supporting you to do this with programs like the SRA Project 161, where 100 Burdekin growers will be funded for agronomic services to get them established in the 6 Easy Steps program. I urge you to embrace the opportunity.

It seems the title into this month's article Facts Fictions and Misinterpretations also applies to what is going on with our commercial position with Wilmar. The facts are that BDCG continues to work to get a full set of agreements to satisfy the new legislation and that Wilmar has not made any pronouncements to change its commitment to have agreements available by 30th June, and there are no new opportunities to forward price for 2017 at present. The 2016 price is reaching a very good level despite the \$A working against it in recent days, and after a bit of a disconnect initially with the moves of 2016, the 2017 price is now well over \$530. May it stay there (or higher) until after you can access forward pricing and lock this money in.

As much as working to have money coming in by getting the Forward Pricing in place,



Kalamia has also been working to save you from sending money out. There has been a lot of press about the pending increases in electricity prices and Kalamia, recognising the major cost burden that will put on irrigators, has thrown our weight behind the ARC-UP program to get tariffs reduced by 30% and have sent letters lobbying the State's Treasurer, Minister for Agriculture and Shadow Minister for Agriculture, our local member Dale Last. Electricity pricing is based on a complex model which sees State and Federal authorities each being responsible for approval of different parts of the pricing model that applies to your bill. A major part of this a flawed process of allowing charges to include a return on the replacement cost of network infrastructure not the actual original cost. This has a major inflationary impact on the charges approved. Current Cost Accounting was a fad in corporate accounting 30 years ago and did not persist. It should not be being applied by the regulators now to determine the charges it approves. We will continue to push for the abandonment of the proposed increase.

To finish off, the crush has now started and you are getting the results of your efforts of the last 12 months now weights and CCS are being reported. There has been much discussion with Wilmar about the challenges of working with their new website. They have acknowledged the need for helping users deal with the changes and I am pleased to report that I understand they will be issuing some notes to act as a User Guide.

Good harvesting.

David.

PRICING AND PERFORMANCE – COMPARING APPLES WITH APPLES

By QSL Finance Manager – Supplier Relations Bryce Wenham



As the Queensland sugar industry transitions to Marketing Choice, it is more important than ever before for growers considering their marketing options to be able to make a fair assessment of each provider's product and performance claims. Today we cover some of the major elements you should keep an eye out for when assessing performance to date as well as your options moving forward.

TONNES ACTUAL VS TONNES IPS

Right from the get-go it's important to clarify if the price being quoted is Tonnes Actual or Tonnes IPS. The Tonnes Actual price is calculated by using the relevant ICE 11 futures rate (which is in US cents per pound) and the conversion rate from US currency to Australian dollars. Even in this relatively simple calculation there's room for different exchange rates to be used on any given day, dependent upon the currency rate secured (ie. it's possible to lock-in the exchange rate ahead of time or secure the

exchange rate at the time of pricing).

The Tonnes IPS figure takes the calculation a step further, factoring in the IPS price adjustment (based on the Queensland average), and is closer to the final rate used in a grower's cane pay formula.

GROSS VS NET

There's a comprehensive range of costs and charges associated with marketing and pricing raw sugar for export. Under the QSL marketing system, these costs as well as any earnings, such as premiums and corporate income, are captured in the QSL Shared Pool, which is subsequently applied to every tonne of sugar which passes through the QSL system. When assessing a pool or pricing result, it's important to look at the net result. While a gross price may be attractive, it's not the full picture and it's certainly not your final result. That being said, under QSL's profit-sharing system, the Net price can be higher than the gross price if our earnings surpass our outgoings and the Shared Pool amount is a credit applied to the gross price rather than a cost.

with the associated costs and revenues shared proportionately amongst pool participants. In the case of QSL pools, QSL makes the pricing decisions for a pool, with participants in that pool generally receiving the same price (subject to the potential for miller-specific costs and adjustments). This collective pricing approach frees growers from having to make pricing decisions for the life of the pool while at the same time enabling them to participate in the market over a potentially longer period of time than if they priced themselves.

Individual forward pricing allows growers to make the pricing decisions themselves and requires growers to nominate a minimum tonnage to be priced within a stipulated time period. Growers currently lodge these orders with their Miller, who then passes them on to QSL to execute. The prices achieved under this system can vary significantly from individual to individual, as each grower's results reflect their own pricing decisions and risk strategies.

Clearly, both of these types of pricing mechanisms have fundamental differences and

Individual forward pricing allows growers to make the pricing decisions themselves and requires growers to nominate a minimum tonnage to be priced within a stipulated time period.

POOLS VS INDIVIDUAL PRICING

When comparing claims of the prices achieved, it is absolutely essential to ascertain whether the figures provided are a pool result, an individual forward pricing result, or aggregates of either.

A pool is a quantity of raw sugar from one or more Suppliers that is priced collectively,

so are not an appropriate like-for-like comparison. Nor is an aggregate of individual pricing a comparable measure for a pool result, as it reflects an average of multiple growers' individual pricing decisions rather than a pool manager's efforts.

THE PRICING WINDOW

When comparing pricing results, it's



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important to ensure that the pricing conducted was across the same time period. For example, it could be deemed misleading to compare the results of a pool which runs for 12 months with a pool that runs across three years. The reason for this is they have different pricing windows, with the pool which runs for a longer period having more opportunity to wait for more favourable pricing opportunities. However this same pool is more exposed in a falling market and probably required a pricing commitment long before the pool with the shorter pricing window. They are different horses for different courses.

So when assessing a pool manager's performance, make sure the pricing periods are the same or at least similar, otherwise you could be comparing different market activity more than the pool manager's expertise at managing it.

COMMITTED VS UNCOMMITTED

The first factor to consider when comparing pool results is whether the pools are committed or uncommitted.

For example, the QSL Harvest Pool requires no commitment to deliver the nominated tonnage – hence it is an 'uncommitted' pool. Its primary purpose is to help manage production risk and in-season crop variations, and its pricing strategy reflects this priority. So while growers usually incur no penalty for failing to deliver their nominated tonnage, they do so in the knowledge that the pool operates within strict pricing and sales parameters. In effect, they trade potential pricing opportunities for lower production risk.

As their name suggests, committed pools



require growers to commit to delivering a tonnage, and costs can apply for failure to do so. However, due to the pool's known and fixed tonnage, the pool manager usually has more flexibility to make pricing decisions.

RISK PARAMETERS

When comparing pool results, it's also essential that you look at what the pool aims to do and the associated levels of risk. Is this a pool that forgoes some pricing ability in order to manage production risk, like the QSL Harvest Pool? Does it give the pool manager more discretion to price or use financial instruments in return for an increased opportunity to secure higher returns, like QSL's Actively Managed Pool? Does it seek to maximise returns by expanding the pricing window, like our Forward Season pool options? Or does it seek to manage risk and provide the security of a known minimum return in exchange of a reduced return above a set trigger price, like the QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool? Each of these pools serves an equally important

purpose but can have vastly different results in exchange for the benefits available. But to compare their merits on pricing results alone can be misleading.

MORE INFORMATION

QSL provides detailed Product Description Statements for each of our pools. These cover each pool's key characteristics and features, management strategies and mechanisms, its risk profile as well as growers' rights and obligations should they choose to participate in it. You can find all of these documents as well as other important information about our pricing and payment arrangements in QSL's 2016 Marketing Guide or via the Pricing section of our website. These sorts of details, as well as regular performance updates, will be pivotal when assessing your pricing options for 2017 to ensure you're not only making an educated assessment of your options, but you are fully aware of the potential implications and obligations of any marketing or pricing options you eventually choose to undertake.

This report contains information of a general or summary nature. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial product or investment advice. 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 contained in this report.



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DEAR GROWER,

The Burdekin's 2016 crushing season is under way. All four mills commenced crushing yesterday morning. Invicta was the first to tip bins, starting about 9.20am, followed by Inkerman, Pioneer and Kalamia.

A significant capital and maintenance program was undertaken ahead of this year's crushing season. This means there is a large amount of new equipment being commissioned for the first time. While steam trials can test some equipment, others need product in the factory in order to be properly commissioned.

The first 24 hours of operations were fairly disrupted, which was to be expected, particularly at sites which have had substantial upgrades to electrical and control systems.

Pioneer Mill started relatively smoothly and was expected to load close to a normal allotment today. Inkerman and Invicta both had commissioning issues around new control systems. Invicta is now beginning to settle. Inkerman has the most new equipment to commission and is still working through that process. Kalamia took time to commission the new governor system on two mills but resolved those issues this morning. The rest of the factory was tested with product today.

Daily loading will build as the factories settle. We hope to be close to or at full cane supply by later this week. Harvesting conditions are close to ideal and we want to take advantage of this while we can.

The planned 14 June start date for the Herbert region's crushing season is in doubt after widespread rain was received last week. We will consult growers and harvesting contractors again tomorrow to assess the potential for harvesting, before making a final decision about whether to delay the start.

Should 14 June not be possible, we will consider a number of alternative start-up scenarios.

The Herbert's crop estimate for the season is 4.45 million tonnes. However, the recent rain is likely to spark further crop growth – as was the case last season. With a wetter-than-average season predicted, we are keen to start crushing as soon as possible to give us the best-possible chance to crush all of the region's cane.

The Proserpine region also received rain last week but remains on track to start crushing on 14 June.

A final factory steam trial will take place tomorrow. The newly overhauled turbine alternator performed very well in steam trials completed last week.

The Proserpine team is feeling positive about the upcoming season and the mill will be ready to go next Tuesday.

Plane Creek Mill's start date is also still 14 June, despite last week's rain. The date was reviewed with grower representatives earlier this week. At this stage, there is sufficient harvesting interest to enable the factory to commence crushing, as planned. Our next review will happen tomorrow.

While current weather conditions are excellent, showers are forecast for early next week. We will continue to monitor the situation, in consultation with grower representatives. Growers will be notified of any changes to the start date, via the grower web.

Best regards, John Pratt

Executive General Manager - North Qld

INDUSTRY NEWS

GROWER ADVANCE SCHEDULES AND FORECASTS

Updated schedules for the 2015 and 2016 season will be available later this week. The schedules include both Wilmar and QSL pool values.

Growers will also be able to access and download their updated cashflow forecasts for the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

Please note, the cane values provided are indicative only and do not include GST, allowances or any lien, levy or other deductions.

The initial advance rate which QSL has set is based on forecast prices at 29 April 2016. However, the most recent QSL forecast, as at 27 May, shows a significant increase in expected prices across a number of pools. If market conditions remain favourable, prices will be amended to reflect these higher pool values.

Growers' cash flow forecasts available on the grower web are also set to reflect QSL's current (April) advice on the payment advances.

GROWER WEB ISSUES BEING RESOLVED

An upgrade of Wilmar Sugar's grower website was deployed in February this year.

The upgrade was required to address legacy issues with the old website and to enable the grower web to be accessed from smart phones and tablets.

Since the deployment a number of grower web users have contacted us with feedback about issues or concerns.

We have taken this feedback on board and our IT department is in the process of resolving issues which have been identified.

We hope to have all issues addressed by later this week. A notice will be sent to all growers once this has been achieved.

We appreciate your patience as we undertake this work.

To access the grower web, please go to www.wilmar-sugarmills.com.au. We recommend growers save this address to their Favourites.



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COMMUNITY NEWS



CANE TRAIN SAFETY CAMPAIGN LAUNCH AT COWBOYS GAME

More than 700 sticks of free fairy floss were given to Cowboys fans at the home game on Saturday as part of Wilmar Sugar's annual launch of its cane train safety awareness campaign. A team of 19 Wilmar Sugar employees, including cane train safety mascot Sam, handed out temporary tattoos, silicone wristbands and activity sheets all promoting cane train safety. The Cowboys offered Wilmar Sugar an activation in the LGIA Super Community Hub as part of our Adopt-a-School sponsorship.



It was a great opportunity to remind people about the start of the crushing season and the fact cane trains would be on the move again.

BUSINESS AWARDS ACCOLADE

Wilmar Sugar won the Endeavour Foundation Business Community Award at the Townsville Chamber of Commerce's Business Awards.

The award recognises good corporate citizenship. We were nominated by Ronald McDonald House NQ for our Community Support Program. Our application focused on our community partnership with Ronald McDonald House NQ, which began in 2014 and has developed significantly since then.

Ronald McDonald House NQ is an excellent facility which provides a vital service to families of sick children. Many of the families which benefit from the House come from the regions in which we own and operate our sugar mills.

We are proud of our partnership with Ronald McDonald House NQ and were grateful to be recognised by the Townsville Chamber.



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Advances and payments by pricing category



2015 SEASON: HERBERT, BURDEKIN & PLANE CREEK

6 June 2016

		US Quota	Wilmar Managed Pool	FSP 2 - 2 Season Forward Pool	FSP 3 - 3 Season Forward Pool	Actively Managed Pool	Guaranteed Floor Price Pool	Harvest Pool	Totals & Averages
POOL PRICES									
Previous Net Pool Price Estimates	A/t IPS								
27 Mar 2015		\$545.48	\$359.83	\$407.04	\$423.30	\$362.82	\$393.79	\$360.77	
24 Apr 2015		\$545.84	\$374.53	\$423.57	\$433.97	\$386.21	\$400.93	\$384.38	
29 May 2015		\$557.58	\$356.26	\$415.32	\$430.45	\$368.78	\$400.12	\$365.94	
30 Jun 2015		\$562.46	\$358.07	\$416.65	\$431.22	\$377.25	\$400.03	\$369.39	
31 Jul 2015		\$583.99	\$337.82	\$413.72	\$430.54	\$374.38	\$401.93	\$359.37	
28 Aug 2015		\$605.63	\$323.69	\$417.38	\$431.68	\$370.14	\$400.97	\$352.64	
25 Sep 2015		\$612.43	\$358.47	\$423.43	\$437.76	\$382.23	\$403.06	\$361.27	
30 Oct 2015		\$608.16	\$393.55	\$434.40	\$443.61	\$405.34	\$405.90	\$385.08	
27 Nov 2015		\$601.53	\$394.38	\$434.05	\$443.38	\$414.80	\$406.89	\$386.09	
25 Dec 2015		\$605.01	\$399.24	\$434.38	\$443.63	\$416.23	\$406.80	\$387.77	
29 Jan 2016		\$619.24	\$385.19	\$429.83	\$438.82	\$409.84	\$405.70	\$378.01	
26 Feb 2016		\$616.57	\$388.97	\$433.25	\$440.41	\$412.97	\$405.58	\$381.15	
25 Mar 2016		\$607.62	\$383.62	\$435.08	\$439.75	\$415.36	\$406.03	\$383.99	
29 Apr 2016		\$606.79	\$382.71	\$433.59	\$438.27	\$414.35	\$406.09	\$381.02	
Current Gross Pool Estimate	A/t IPS	\$695.93	\$384.28	\$437.64	\$443.84	\$414.64	\$407.66	\$382.89	
Shared Pool Premiums	A/t IPS	-\$57.17	\$30.65	\$30.65	\$30.65	\$30.65	\$30.65	\$30.65	
Shared Pool Charges	A/t IPS	-\$31.76	-\$31.76	-\$31.76	-\$31.76	-\$31.76	-\$31.76	-\$31.76	
Net Pool Price Estimate 27 May 2016 Pool Reports	A/t IPS	\$607.00	\$383.17	\$436.53	\$442.73	\$413.53	\$406.55	\$381.78	
ADVANCE RATES	A\$/t IPS	% Advance	Status						
In-Season \$ Rates									
Initial	\$227.00		Paid	\$227.00	\$227.00	\$227.00	\$227.00	\$227.00	\$227.00
20 Aug 2015	\$243.00		Paid	\$243.00	\$243.00	\$243.00	\$243.00	\$243.00	\$243.00
22 Oct 2015	\$266.00		Paid	\$266.00	\$266.00	\$266.00	\$266.00	\$266.00	\$266.00
17 Dec 2015	\$304.00		Paid	\$304.00	\$304.00	\$304.00	\$304.00	\$304.00	\$304.00
Post-Season Differential Rates									
21 Jan 2016		80.00%	Paid	\$484.01	\$319.39	\$347.50	\$354.90	\$332.98	\$310.21
18 Feb 2016		82.50%	Paid	\$510.88	\$317.79	\$354.60	\$362.03	\$338.11	\$311.85
17 Mar 2016		85.00%	Paid	\$524.08	\$330.62	\$368.27	\$374.35	\$351.03	\$323.98
21 Apr 2016		90.00%	Paid	\$546.86	\$345.26	\$391.57	\$395.77	\$373.82	\$345.59
19 May 2016		95.00%	Paid	\$576.45	\$363.57	\$411.91	\$416.36	\$393.63	\$361.97
23 Jun 2016		97.50%	Scheduled	\$591.82	\$373.59	\$425.61	\$431.66	\$403.19	\$372.23
Final		100.00%	Scheduled	\$607.00	\$383.17	\$436.53	\$442.73	\$413.53	\$381.78
FORECAST RETURN FOR A 'DEFAULT GROWER' (i.e. A grower with no Forward Pricing or QSL Fixed Tonnage Pools)									
% Allocation to US Quota and Harvest Pools				2.39%				97.16%	100.00%
Advances to be Paid on 23 June 2016	A/t IPS			\$591.82				\$372.23	\$377.49
Final Forecast Advances to be Paid	A/t IPS			\$607.00				\$381.78	\$387.17
% Paid Season-to-Date				97.50%				97.50%	95.00%

Notes to Advances Program

Forward Pricing pools

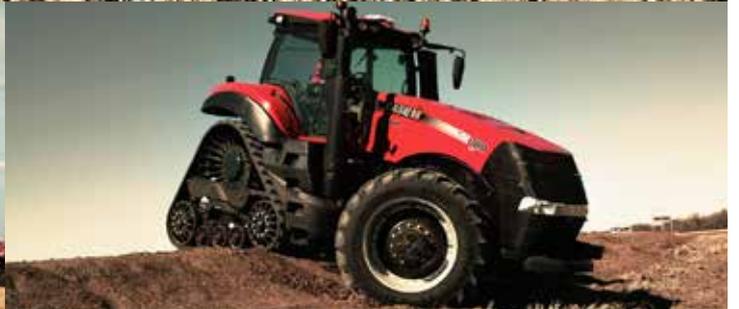
In addition to the above pools, many growers have undertaken pricing via Wilmar's Forward Pricing program, namely under the Target Price and Call Pool pricing mechanisms. The final returns from these pools are subject to the same Shared Pool adjustment as for the ICE No.11 pools referred to above.

Shared Pool Element

The 'Shared Pool Premiums' and the 'Shared Pool Charges', as shown above, together comprise the 'Shared Pool Element' as defined in the Forward Pool and Pricing Agreement (FPPA).

General information

Advances are quoted EXCLUSIVE of GST. All advances are subject to QSL Board approvals, final returns for each price category, Wilmar's final sugar production for the season and tonnage allocations to various pricing methods. All growers who have used any form of Forward Pricing will have different advances depending on their price outcomes and tonnages fixed.



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MEMBERS INFORMATION NOTICE BOARD

Upcoming AGM for Kalamia Cane Grower's Organisation.

Members are reminder that our Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 20th July 2016 at 7.30pm held at the Burdekin PCYC.

Further information regarding the AGM will be issued shortly.

CSA Agreements for 2017

Kalamia Cane Growers as part of BDCG is working together to have in place a new working documents ready for discussion in the near future. There is meeting scheduled with Willmar on Tuesday 5 July. Giving you access to further 2017 Forward Pricing is our priority.

Changing Ownership/Leasing & Kalamia Member Changes

Existing Kalamia Cane Grower members are asked to notify our office of any changes concerning farm sales/leasing arrangements.

This information will help to keep our membership accurate in communication and allows staff to assist with these matters if required.

This will also assist your organisation to provide any prospective members with our extensive range of services including industry representation, negotiation of CSA agreements, special fuel prices, crop insurance, wage preparation and other benefits.

CORES Donations Update

CORES now has "Deductible Gift Recipient" status
Donations are Tax Deductible

Interesting News Articles

WESTERN QUEENSLAND RAIN A GODSEND, BUT STILL FAR FROM DROUGHT BREAKING

ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural

By Mark Jeffery, Kallee Buchanan, Amy McCosker and Lydia Burton

An unseasonal soaking has seen rain records tumble in parts of drought-affected Queensland, which graziers say has been a godsend.

Longreach, Barcaldine, Isisford and Tambo, in western Queensland, have all seen their highest ever June rainfall totals, with records dating back to the late 1800s.

Already this month, the town of Longreach has received 170 millimetres of rain, more than eight times its June average.

In the south west, Charleville recorded its highest daily rainfall total for June, with 80 millimetres falling in one day.

It is rain that many in the west have never seen at this time of year before.

Kerry Joseland from Eltham station, west of Isisford, measured more than 120 millimetres over the weekend.

"It was beautiful actually it couldn't have been better it's just been slow steady soaking rain," she said.

"I can remember as a child rain in June definitely, but I can't remember as much as almost five inches [152 millimetres] in one fall, that is phenomenal!"

Having missed out on two downpours earlier in June, Mrs Joseland said she could not believe her eyes when she checked the



Photo: Charlie Kidd enjoying a puddle after 62 millimetres of rain at his home Ourdel station, near Windorah. (Supplied: Helen Kidd)

rain gauge.

"It's hard to explain the feeling after drought for so long and it's just been so dry for so long it's just awesome getting so much rain in one hit," she said.

Mrs Joseland said she expected to see some pasture response from the rain, but it is far from drought breaking.

"We have had cattle away on agistment all of last year so we have only got a few weaners here at home at the moment," she said.

"It [this rain] will grow some winter herbage and hopefully the moisture will still be there when spring hits."

RAIN INTERRUPTS CANE CRUSH

Along Queensland's east coast, the rain has brought the annual sugar cane crush to a halt in most growing districts.

All four mills in the Burdekin, Australia's largest cane growing region, have stopped production.

Canegrowers Burdekin chairman Phil Marano said it could take the industry up to four weeks to recover.

"We should be stopped for at least two weeks, probably four weeks," Mr Marano said.

"It's a little bit ironic that we should get so much rain when we've been suffering through a drought.

"Where I am on my farm I had over 70 mm. This bit of rain was definitely at the wrong time," he said

The two mills in the Herbert region, north of Townsville, will also be delayed.

They were due to get underway for the season this week but will now be postponed due to the wet weather.

'CLEAR OPEN SKIES' CRITICAL FOR GROWERS

It is a similar story in the Tropical North with widespread falls in excess of 100mm grinding the crush to a stop at Mackay Sugar, while Wilmar's Plane Creek stopped production on Sunday and its Proserpine factory has had its start date pushed back a second time due to wet weather.

Further south, the wet weather has meant delays for the Isis and Maryborough mills, while Bundaberg Sugar will not crush again until at least Thursday.

Canegrowers Queensland chairman Paul Schembri said it was critical that the crop got a chance to dry out.

"Often you can get a substantial rain event and then you get clear open skies, that would be helpful, but certainly overcast, persistent rainfall won't be helpful to our cause at all," he said.

"It'll be problematic now in terms of getting our crop off, we accept that, but again these things have happened in the past and we'll just have to take it in our stride.



Photo: Drought affected Glenaras station near Ilfracombe, in western Queensland measured 23 millimetres over the weekend. (Supplied: Judy Gowing)

Sweet Memories



1924 Ayr Railway Station



Cane Train - Lower Burdekin



Opening of Beachmount Road, 1951



Queen St, 1930



Planting Cane

Interesting News Articles

CANEGROWERS SAY THERE ARE MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS AROUND COALITION REEF FUND

QLD Country Hour – abc.net.au/rural

By Craig Zonca

Farm lobby group Canegrowers says it has more questions than answers regarding the federal Coalition's promise of a billion-dollar fund to save the Great Barrier Reef.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on Monday announced \$1 billion over 10 years to fund low interest loans for energy and water efficiency projects in Great Barrier Reef catchments.

The concessional loans would be for "clean energy" projects that improved water quality by reducing run-off of pollutants and fertiliser, and limiting ocean outfalls from sewage treatment plants.



Photo: Money for the reef fund will come out of a fund administered by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. (ABC Open: Brad Marsellos)

But Canegrowers CEO Dan Galligan said the loan plan was light on detail.

"It's very hard to come out and support anything," he said.

"I have some reservations that the objective here was to get a headline with a big figure in it ... and that's about it so far."

ENERGY EFFICIENCY, WATER QUALITY OR BOTH?

The money will come out of the \$10 billion fund administered by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

The Prime Minister promoted the scheme as a means to support the installation of more energy- and water-efficient irrigation systems, pesticide sprayers and fertiliser application systems.

It could also be used to finance solar panels on farms.

"Obviously canegrowers are right in the middle of trying to deal with this and doing their bit for protecting the reef," Mr Galligan said.

"We don't have any knowledge of how the loans would be structured, what sort of projects, whether you'd have to aggregate projects, what the targets are ... we're

assuming a lot here."

Canegrowers calls for better consultation Mr Galligan raised concerns that the plan indicated the Coalition was keen to move to a loan-type structure rather than provide further dollar-matching grants, which had largely been used to fund many reef-related programs.

But he gave the Prime Minister the lead in the "neck and neck" battle on reef politics.

"Going to a loan structure, I'm not so sure that's generally the way we'd see this as being the most efficient way to get practice change on the reef," he said.

"Today's announcement, if it was to deliver everything the Government says it will deliver, it would certainly put the Coalition ahead."

Mr Galligan also called on the major parties to consult with industry groups before making further commitments ahead of the July 2 poll.

"Whoever gets in, they're going to lean back on land managers to try to deliver it," he said.

"So we would hope that they would rely on getting their opinions in the first place."



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Interesting News Articles

ETHANOL A REALITY IN QUEENSLAND'S NORTH

June 21, 2016

www.northqueenslandregister.com.au

The plant is expected to produce 344 million litres of ethanol yearly by 2020.

After 12 years of development construction of the Pentland Bio-Energy plant will commence in September.

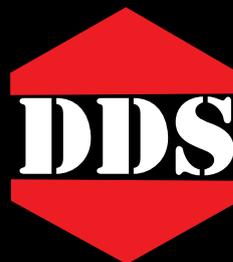
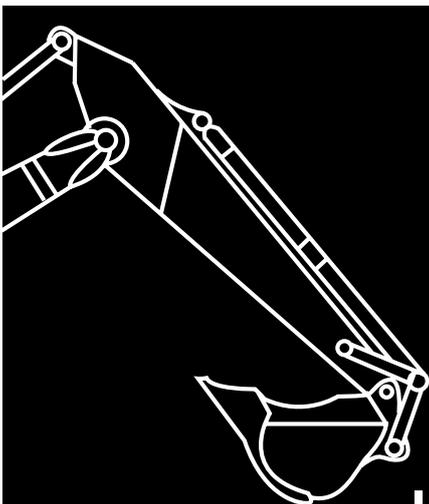
The fully integrated and energy self-sufficient plant situated about 90km south-west of Charters Towers and its accompanying sugar cane and sweet sorghum crops will produce its first ethanol by 2019 at the latest.

The plant is initially expected to produce 194 million litres of fuel grade ethanol between 2018-2019, which will be exported to a Fortune 100 company with an off-take agreement arranged for the next 15 years.

To get to the initial level of production 19,000 hectares of the 67,000 hectares of available land will be used.

Production will increase to 344 million litres by June 2020 annually at an average price of 80c per litre, which equates to \$280m in export trade out of the region at least for the next 10 years.

The project will employ 500 people during construction, and a further 180-200 people when operations commence in late 2018.



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Interesting News Articles

2006 SUGAR CANE SMUT OUTBREAK THAT THREATENED QUEENSLAND'S SUGAR INDUSTRY: 10 YEARS ON

QLD Country Hour

By Scott Lamond, Craig Zonca,
Kallee Buchanan

The sugar industry says it has come a long way on breeding varieties since the smut outbreak that threatened to cripple it a decade ago.

Sugar cane smut – a fungal disease – was found on a farm near Childers 10 years ago today.

It was the first identified incursion of the exotic disease on the east coast of Australia.

Former Isis Canegrowers Chairman Joe Russo said the discovery on his farm started a chain of events that rocked the industry.

"We were the centre of the universe I suppose you could say." Joe Russo, former Isis Canegrowers chairman

"It's a day that I'll never forget and it's a day that I think the whole district got on the map," he said.

"Our local productivity officer was doing a routine inspection for cane planting and he saw this very peculiar looking thing that came out of the top of the cane that we know now was what they call a whip.

"When he saw that he took evasive action straight away and called on the experts to identify and to see what it was, he had a suspicion but had never seen it before in the flesh."

First seen in the Ord River region in Western Australia in 1998, it was feared an uncontained East Coast outbreak could wipe out the national sugar crop.

Smut causes severe stunting of the plant, which takes on a grassy structure and does not grow more than knee-high, causing

yield losses of up to 60 per cent.

Mr Russo said Queensland authority's hopes to eradicate pest brought 'absolute chaos' to his farm.

"We became immediately quarantined, our farm," he said.

"To move to the shed you had to put on suits, space suits, so that weren't transmitting this disease ... the rules that went around that quarantine were just absolutely ridiculous but that was the way the protocol was at the time.

"They thought they were going to eradicate it and just find it on our farm and then it would all go away, but that never happened.

"I can understand what they were trying to do, given the way it spreads, the way it can get some varieties and just decimate them." Over time, and as the disease was found in the Mackay and Herbert regions, authorities ruled that smut was endemic, which made growers ineligible to claim compensation.

Mr Russo said one of the positives to come from the outbreak was the unifying effect it had on the Isis district.

"Industry leaders, the mill, the productivity board and cane growers worked as one united body to try and either eradicate it ... or move forward," he said.

"It was a massive thing that hit us and we just didn't know where we were going for those first months, no cane could be harvested unless it was first gone through and identified if there was smut in the block.

"We were the centre of the universe I suppose you could say.

"One of our older farmers whose been in the industry for years I'll never forget he stood up (at a meeting) and he said, 'as bad as this is and no matter what happens I'm glad



Photo: Smut in sugar cane causes stunting with yield losses up to 60 per cent that effectively wipe out a crop. (Kim Honan: ABC Rural)

we got it in Isis because I know together we'll work together and we'll resolve it and get on top of it, and that's something that'll stay in my mind because we did all rally."

VARIETIES PROVE THE ONLY LINE OF DEFENCE

Dr Mike Cox was a plant breeder for the research arm of the industry, BSES (which later became Sugar Research Australia) which swung into action identifying the disease and finding a way to save the industry. He said the industry had been aware of the risk of a smut incursion even before the Western Australia case, and had been working with researchers in Indonesia to test local varieties for resistance.

"When it hit in 2006 we were in the very fortunate position to realise which varieties were resistant and which were susceptible," he said.

"Unfortunately about 80 per cent of the industry was growing susceptible varieties. "We had to really work together to completely change the variety profile."

One of the challenges of smut was the black whip like structure filled with billions

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Interesting News Articles

of sooty spores that could travel on the wind, spreading the infection.

Dr Cox said the cause of the incursion was never officially determined, but a number of theories have emerged since then.

"It's very interesting because in about 2004 there were some quite unusual jet stream winds and our pathologist at the time, Barry Croft, commented that this is the sort of weather event that could bring smut from either Indonesia or the Ord across to the east coast," he said.

"Even though it was found in 2006 it probably came in (earlier) and that was probably the weather event that caused it to come in."

As one of the last sugar producing nations to get smut, Dr Cox said it was work to breed new varieties that eventually saved the industry.

"We moved very swiftly to move in massive amounts of cane, of resistant varieties, particularly from the Burdekin," he said.

"The industry's cooperation and realisation how important this disease was critical in minimising the amount of damage that actually occurred."

SUGAR RESEARCHERS FACE NEW CHALLENGES

Sugar Research Australia now biosecurity manager Barry Croft was the pathologist that worked on the smut outbreak.

He said the key lesson was to identify what the risks were and to be prepared for them.

"And also the growers, the researchers, and the milling sector, need to work together to prepare for these threats in the future," he said.

"Smut's here to stay now so even though we're growing resistant varieties, there is low level of the disease still present in the industry so it will be a continuing process of making sure that all of our new varieties



Photo: Isis cane grower Joe Russo says the discovery of sugar cane smut on his property in 2006 brought 'chaos' to his farm. (ABC Wide Bay: Jodie van de Wetering)

have enough resistance to prevent serious yield losses."

It was a strategy that has again come to this for with the emergence of the mysterious yellow canopy syndrome, which Dr Croft said presented new, tougher challenges for the industry.

"Probably yellow canopy syndrome's a much more difficult problem to address because we don't know what causes it, smut was a well-recognised disease from many countries around the world, whereas with yellow canopy syndrome we're dealing with something where the cause is unknown," he said.

"It makes it very difficult to advise growers what to do and also how to manage it because we don't know how it spreads, we don't know what the causal agent is and

there are limited options for growers to respond to the problem."



Photo: Authorities originally tried to contain the outbreak, but smut was eventually also found in Mackay and the Herbert and was declared endemic. (ABC TV)



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Interesting News Articles

QUEENSLAND FARMERS ANGRY AT SUBSTANTIAL ELECTRICITY PRICE HIKE

ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural

By Craig Zonca, Mark Jeffery
and Amy McCosker

Queensland rural lobby groups say electricity price hikes of more than 10 per cent this year will spell doom for the agriculture sector.

Canegrowers and Cotton Australia have slammed the determination from the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) for a 12.3 per cent hike in transitional tariffs from July 1.

“The spiralling cost of electricity to run pumps to water farming land has becoming an untenable outlay,” Canegrowers CEO Dan Galligan said.

“Farmers are fed up with this situation. Our voices and concerns have been ignored.”

Transitional tariffs, which are commonly used by irrigators, have risen dramatically over the past decade as the QCA moved to a more cost-reflective pricing model.

While admitting the price jump was more significant than he would have liked, Queensland Energy Minister Mark Bailey defended his Government’s role.

“I submitted to the QCA for a better outcome and they didn’t accept my submission,” he said.

“I’m always very supportive of the business sector but in the end, it’s a QCA recommendation.”

In fact, Mr Bailey argued there had been

greater price stabilisation since the Palaszczuk Government came to office last year.

“Well, last year it was of course zero per cent [price rise], so if you look at the last two years for transitional and obsolete tariffs, it’s about a 5.5 per cent increase over the two years,” he said.

“I understand it’s challenging for transitional and obsolete tariff users.

“These tariffs are being subsidised by the taxpayer; we are supplying power to them at below the cost of supply.”

However, that was of little comfort to Mr Galligan.

“We are absolutely fed up with successive ministers suggesting it’s better now that it was under a previous government,” Mr Galligan said.

FARM GROUPS CALL FOR PRICE CUT

Canegrowers has been lobbying for a reduction in electricity prices for the past four years, including a plan for a 33 per cent cut which it claimed would be cost neutral to the Government due to increased demand. Mr Bailey maintained that he was yet to see any financial modelling to support such an “optimistic position”.

“It’s hard for me to make a judgement when I don’t have that before me,” he explained.

“If they want to present evidence and modelling that shows it’s cost neutral, we will look at that closely.

“But to be quite frank, I do have my doubts that a 33 per cent price drop could possibly be cost neutral.”

Mr Galligan said Canegrowers had made numerous submissions calling for a new irrigation-specific tariff but it needed the Government and regional electricity distributor Ergon Energy to agree to further analysis.

“We can’t model it without the data associated with the usage of electricity; we need the minister to say ‘ok, let’s give this a go,’” Mr Galligan said.

PRICE RISES WILL HURT FARM PRODUCTION

Cotton growers are also heavy users of irrigation and have been campaigning for tariff reform.

“We’re just sick and tired of the excuses that keep coming through,” Cotton Australia general manager Michael Murray said.

“What we’ve seen over the last decade is just year on year of double digit price rises.

“And it doesn’t seem to matter what party, what government ... nobody seems to want to bite the bullet and reform electricity prices.”

The Far North Queensland Electricity Users Network said the price rises would be detrimental to all small businesses.

“Small business will be laying-off people, closing down, reducing hours, reducing expenditure,” network coordinator Jennifer Brownie said.

“If you wanted to slow down regional Queensland, I can’t think of a better way to do it.

“They’re blaming these charges on higher network and energy costs; let’s have a look at who owns the network in Queensland.

“A hundred per cent of the transmission and distribution network is owned by the Queensland Government.

“It is a cash cow for the Queensland Government.”

Figures from the QCA suggested a typical small business could expect an 11 per cent increase on their electricity bill next financial year



Photo: Cotton crops under irrigation. (ABC Rural)

Interesting News Articles

SWEET COMPETITION: SUGAR SUPPLY SHORTFALL SEES GLOBAL PRICES SOAR TO THREE-YEAR HIGHS

ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural

By Craig Zonca

The global sugar price continues its bullish run in futures trading, topping 19 US cents a pound for the first time in more than three years.

A worldwide supply deficit has seen the sweet commodity in hot demand since the start of the year, when prices started at 15 cents a pound.

"It's been a long time between drinks, but we're very happy that its back at these levels," Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) chief executive Greg Beashel said.

With the Australian dollar sitting around US\$0.74 in trading on Thursday, the raw sugar price equated to close to AU\$560 a tonne, a jump of 36 per cent year on year.

Poor growing conditions in Thailand and India have meant the world is "very short of sugar", with the current supply shortfall expected to continue next year as well.

Additionally, rain has hampered the Brazilian harvest, although the full impacts on yields and crushing downtime are yet to be realised. Mr Beashel said picking the peak in the market remained the "million-dollar question".

"We've got a situation where the speculators have got a very big position in the market and we expect over the next little while they might take some profits," he explained. "That profit taking will probably cause a bit of a dampening of the big spikes we've seen over the past week or so."

MARKETING SAGA STOPS GROWERS CASHING IN

Many cane growers are unable to cash in on the market jump because supply contracts have yet to be finalised.

After a bitter battle over marketing rights, Queensland Parliament passed legislation late last year forcing millers to provide growers with a choice of marketer for what was termed "grower economic interest" sugar.

The change has affected the cane supply contracts between milling companies and growers, along with the agreements between millers and QSL over the flow of raw sugar itself.

The delay in securing contractual deals for the next season has proven to be a frustration for many in the industry, particularly growers wanting to forward sell.

"QSL's view is that this arrangement can be implemented with very little change to how things operate right now," Mr Beashel said.

"We're ready to go now ... I'm expecting something will happen very soon with MSF Sugar.

"The ball is in others courts about what happens in the Tully and Wilmar areas," he said.

"We have an agreement that we're ready to sign, I expect they will have some different views about some of the terms in that agreement.

"Our motivation is to get this done as soon as we can."

COMPETITION BETWEEN QSL AND MILLERS TO MARKET RAW SUGAR

Under the new legislative regime, QSL and milling companies will compete for the business to market "grower economic interest" sugar.

Bundaberg Sugar, Isis Central Sugar Mill and Mackay Sugar have committed a combined 600,000 tonnes of raw sugar to QSL for the three seasons from 2017-2019.

That figure marks a significant drop on the two million-plus tonnes QSL will market this year.

Mr Beashel remained confident in securing additional support from growers who supply MSF, Tully and Wilmar despite the foreign-owned millers wanting to leverage their own global marketing base.

"We're hoping that through these on-supply agreements that we'll be able to get substantial more tonnage to market going forward," he said.

"We need to present a proposition that wins their business ... it has to be as attractive as possible to growers."

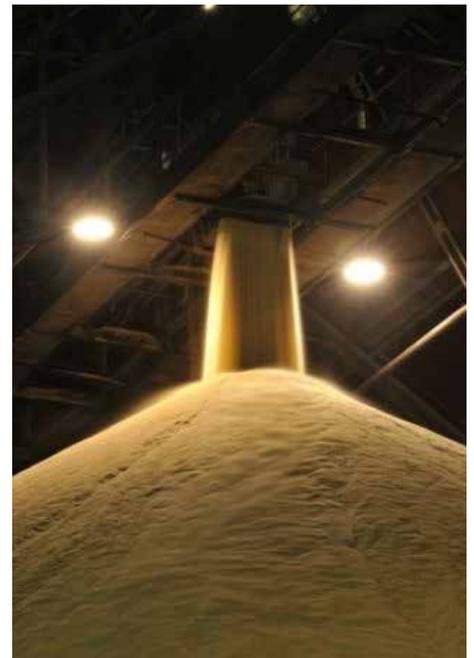


Photo: The global raw sugar prices has surged to its highest level in three years. (QSL: Qld Sugar Ltd)

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Interesting News Articles

MARKET UNCERTAINTY PUSHES FARMERS TO MOVE AWAY FROM SUGAR CANE

ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural

By Mark Jeffery

Uncertainty in the sugar market due to the delayed signing of marketing contracts means major changes for one farming couple in the Burdekin.

Ange and Gary Spotswood are relying less on cane at their mixed-crop farm at Mt Alma near Inkerman, just south of Ayr.

"We've just got to start looking at cane as just being another crop and not the only crop that we need to grow," Mr Spotswood said.

"We have the soil and we have the water, so don't rely on the one industry anymore. So we have to diversify to be sustainable."

Electricity and water costs on top of the delayed process of securing a marketing contract are making farmers think twice about planting new crops.

"I think just because it's being dragged out we're already wanting to plant cane now," Mr Spotswood said.

"And it's unseen where we're going to sell the crop in 2017.

"It's very hard to manage a cash flow when there's fluctuations.

"It happens in every industry and we just want to broaden our risk."

The Spotswoods' plans to diversify come as the sugar industry experiences one of its highest world future price levels in many years – at US\$0.17 a pound.

Queensland Sugar treasurer Steve Stone said it was because the industry was heading into a deficit cycle.

However, many cane farmers, like the Spotswoods, were unable to take advantage of the high prices, because many were still waiting to lock in marketing contracts.

DIVERSIFYING AND VALUE-ADDING

In addition to cane, the Spotswoods' farm an impressive range of horticultural crops and run cattle.

"We're actually just starting to use our cattle and to rotational crop as well," Ms Spotswood said.

"We're looking at to hopefully being able to sell the whole beast as one, as a whole, we're just starting to begin that process at the moment."

Organic farming is a major emphasis at the Spotswood farm with a large portion of their land organically certified.



Photo: Ange and Gary Spotswood at their Mt Alma farm near Ayr (Mark Jeffery)

"It becomes about value-adding," Mr Spotswood said.

"I think we're all trying to value-add all the way down the supply chain.

"We plan on building a farming industry that is sustainable.

"We have a lot of wetlands and marine life in our property too."

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Sweet Info



'Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.'

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WORD OF THE MONTH

gegenschein

noun (gey-guh n-shahyn)

a faint, elliptical patch of light in the night sky that appears opposite the sun, being a reflection of sunlight by meteoric material in space.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

- Q: Why couldn't the leopard play hide and seek?
A: Because he was always spotted.
- Q: What do you get when you cross a fish and an elephant?
A: Swimming trunks.
- Q: What did the pop star do when he locked himself out?
A. He sang until he found the right key!

DID YOU KNOW...?

- » Did you know cows don't have upper front teeth
- » Did you know Mars appears red because it's covered in rust
- » Did you know the opposite sides of a dice always adds up to 7
- » Did you know almonds are members of the peach family



LENTIL, SWEET POTATO & PANCETTA SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- » 750ml (3 cups) Campbell's Real Stock Chicken
- » 2 teaspoons olive oil
- » 1 large red onion, finely chopped
- » 2 celery sticks, trimmed, finely chopped
- » 50g pancetta, finely chopped
- » 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- » 500g sweet potato (kumara), peeled, cut into 1cm pieces
- » 400g can no-added-salt lentils, rinsed, drained
- » 400g can no-added-salt diced tomatoes
- » 250g broccoli, cut into small florets
- » Chopped fresh continental parsley, to serve

Step 1

Heat oil in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook the onion, celery, pancetta and garlic, stirring, for 6 minutes or until soft. Add the sweet potato. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute or until combined.

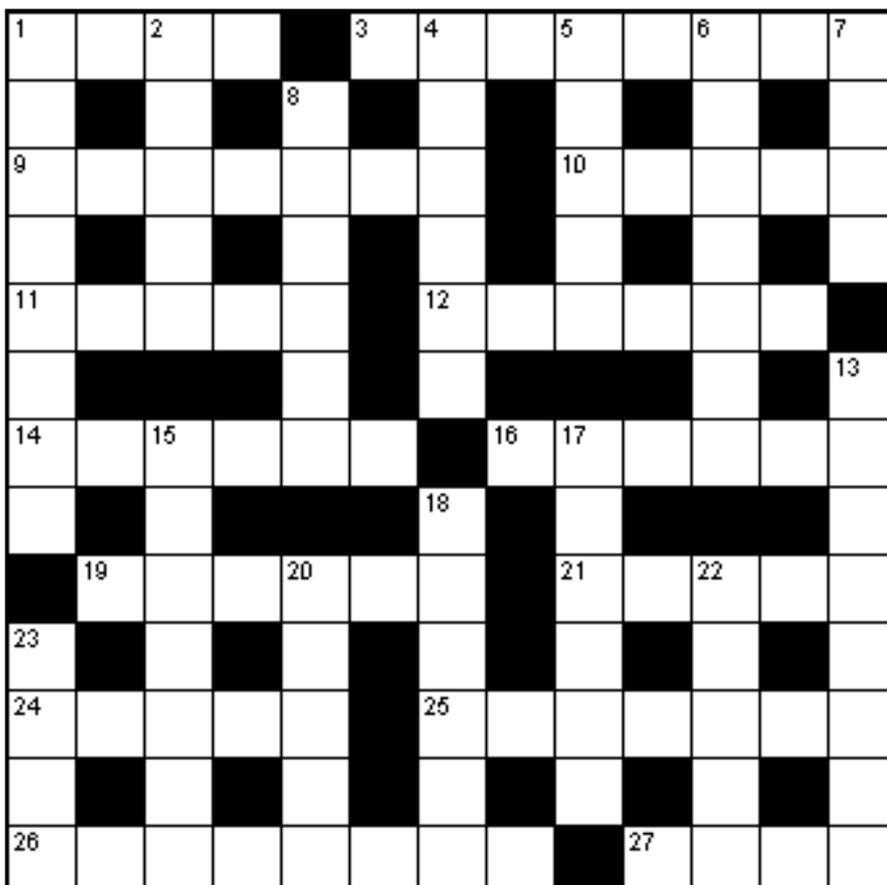
Step 2

Add the stock, lentils and tomato. Increase heat to medium-high and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer, partially covered, for 15-20 minutes or until sweet potato is tender. Add broccoli. Simmer for 3-4 minutes or until broccoli is tender crisp.

Step 3

Divide the soup among serving bowls and top with parsley.

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 As well (4)
- 3 Stress (8)
- 9 Without assistance (7)
- 10 Once more (5)
- 11 Be evasive (5)
- 12 Division into opposing factions (6)
- 14 Squabble (6)
- 16 Attack (6)
- 19 Small quake (6)
- 21 Take power unlawfully (5)
- 24 Bind (3,2)
- 25 Carrion-eating bird (7)
- 26 Previously (8)
- 27 European mountain range (4)

DOWN

- 1 Persian Gulf emirate (3,5)
- 2 Steady, sober (5)
- 4 Unassuming (6)
- 5 Sandy common (5)
- 6 Welsh port (7)
- 7 Dispatched (4)
- 8 Header (anag) (6)
- 13 Indoor footwear (8)
- 15 Right (7)
- 17 Cosily (6)
- 18 Item of neckwear (6)
- 20 Tree yielding syrup (5)
- 22 Customary (5)
- 23 Strong restless desire (4)

Classifieds

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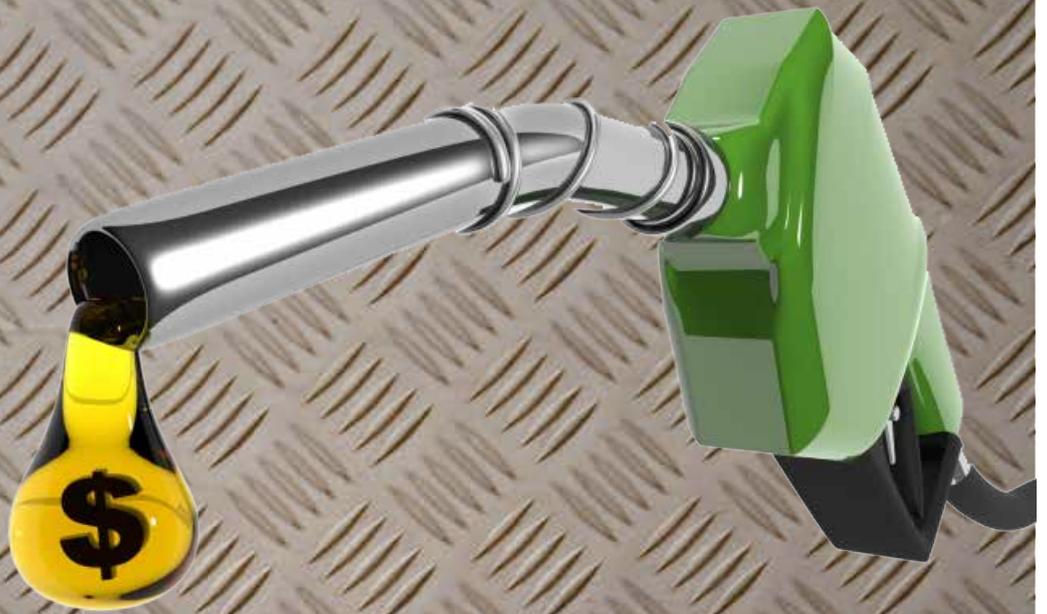
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Down - 1: Abudhabl, 2: Staid, 4: Modest, 5: Health, 6: Swansa, 7: Sent, 8: Adhere, 13: Slippers, 15: Assail, 19: Tremor, 21: Usurp, 24: Cravat, 20: Maple, 22: Usual, 23: Itch. Across - 1: Also, 3: Emphasis, 9: unaided, 10: Again, 11: Hedge, 12: Schism, 14: Bicker, 16: Correct, 17: Snugly, 18: Cravat, 20: Maple, 22: Usual, 23: Itch.



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