KCGO

KALAMIA CANE GROWERS ORGANISATION LTD

Weekly Web Round UP

Friday, 5th March 2021

Kalagro Fuel Price

DIESEL - $1.20852 including GST

UNLEADED - $1.24825 including GST

Fuel Delivered – Mon – Wed - Fri

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1. QFF – Media Release – Posted 12/02/21

Queensland Government unfairly picking irrigation water winners

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) has serious concerns the state government is unfairly picking winners within the agriculture sector by further restricting the number of farmers who can access an election commitment to provide a 50 per cent price reduction for horticulture irrigation water users.

While QFF welcomed the government's announcement to reduce water prices for the state's irrigators by at least 15 per cent, the peak agricultural body has questioned the decision to offer different discounts to different commodities and customers of different water providers.

QFF CEO Dr Georgina Davis said it was wrong to favour one agricultural commodity, or regional community over another by selectively providing favourable pricing.

"The Queensland Government is determined to rewrite the accepted definition of horticulture and exclude sugar cane, cotton, nuts, flowers, turf (grass), and nursery growers from receiving the announced price reduction," Dr Davis said.

"While some fruit and vegetable growers will also be prevented from accessing cheaper water because they are not serviced by government water supply corporations Sunwater and Seqwater which could cause competitive disadvantages within the sector and result in market distortions."

"The government's poor decision is exacerbated by expected irrigation water price increases from 1 July 2021, meaning many farmers will be no better off even if they qualify for the 50 per cent discount, as they manage the ongoing effects of drought and COVID-19."

"Uncertainty also exists around how the government and its corporations plan to administer two levels of discounts in a transparent and robust manner, which is likely to be extremely difficult and expensive."

Dr Davis said QFF was calling on the Queensland Government to extend the 50 per cent discount to all horticulture growers and all irrigation customers of Sunwater, Seqwater, Local Management Authorities (LMA) and other water providers.

"While it may have State Budget implications, the greater discount would provide a welcome boost to all of Queensland's irrigated agricultural industries and achieve the government's aim of facilitating more crops, more jobs and more value."

Media Contact:
Kayla Plunkett - 0448 000 692

2. Data Availability – Fine-scale water quality monitoring in high priority Catchments – Posted – 15/02/21

RP232 Fine-scale water quality monitoring in high priority catchments - Data Availability

As you may be aware, the installation of µSite water quality monitoring stations across the Lower Burdekin and Lower Herbert regions has been ongoing for several months now, and so far the site installations are going well (despite a few teething issues). Thank you to the many stakeholders and landholders across both regions that have facilitated the installation of these probes, and have been happy to engage in discussions around the aims and outputs of these sites.

As of now (12/02/2021), we have installed a total of 22 sites, and are planning on installing an additional 7 next week (15 in the Lower Burdekin, and soon to be 14 in the Lower Herbert), taking our total to 29 of the intended 40 sites across both regions.

The data is now being uploaded to CSIRO's 1622 data portal (https://wq.1622.farm/) in real time, and is available to the public, with new data streams being added and updated as new sites are installed.

At present, the data being presented consists of concentrations of Nitrate (N-NO3 – mg/L), and Stream Level (m). It is our hope that over time we will be able to further develop this dataset to include Stream Discharge (cubic meters/second), and from that, calculate loads (tonnes) and yields (kg/ha) of nitrate. There are a number of challenges associated with the calculation or measurement of discharge that we are currently looking to resolve, and hopefully we will be able to provide an update on this in the future.

It is important to note that the data is being recorded and presented in real time – this means that the data has not been checked and validated by a person. However, all data that are presented on 1622 have been run through CSIRO's automated filters, which are designed to capture and eliminate data that is considered of low quality. At present, these automated filters are designed to detect and remove data that is flagged as uncertain by the water quality probes internal checks, values that are outside the upper or lower detection limits of the probe, or unrealistic spikes, either up or down. As more data is received, and manual checks are undertaken to

ensure that these filters are working as expected, it is likely that the filters will be updated and refined, to ensure the provision of the highest quality data possible. One possible implication of this is that the data currently presented in 1622 may change in the future – data that is currently displayed may be flagged as poor quality and removed, and some data that is currently flagged as poor quality may be reassessed as good quality and be displayed. This (unfortunately) is an unavoidable side effect of our push to provide this data directly to stakeholders without delay, and I would ask for your understanding while we refine our processes in this regard.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this data, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Cheers,

Ben Ferguson

Senior Technical Officer

Water Quality & Investigations

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Dutton Park, QLD 4102

3. QSL Information Brief – 15th February 2021– Posted – 15/2/21

Dear Members,

Please find below a short news & information brief from QSL that you may wish to use in your communications to your members.

- **Target Price Contract – roll ahead:** QSL is now publishing the indicative roll adjustment for growers using the 2020-Season QSL Target Price Contract. Monday, 22 February 2021 is the final day for these growers to achieve 2020-Season targets before any unpriced tonnes are automatically transferred (rolled) into the next contract. Rolling extends the time growers have to achieve their pricing, but costs may apply. The indicative roll adjustment is published on the QSL Direct portal, the QSL Daily Price email and the QSL website.
  To see the latest indicative roll adjustment, please click here.

- **Pre-Crush Advance Payment Scheme:** The QSL Pre-Crush Advance Payment Scheme is now open for nomination. Participating growers can receive $50/tonne of sugar IPS on 26 March for up to half of their 2021-Season QSL GEI Sugar. Nominations close 12 March. To find out more, click here.

- **Key dates:**
  - **15 February 2021**
    QSL Individual Futures Contract & Self-Managed Harvest Contract Pricing Completion Date: The pricing completion date for the Mar 21 contract for the 2020 season is 15 February. Any unpriced tonnage after this date will be priced by QSL at the next market opportunity.
  - **22 February 2021**
    QSL 2020 Target Price Contract: Any unfilled orders will be rolled to the May 21 Contract after 22 February. Adjustments may apply.
  - **1 March 2021**
    QSL Actively Managed Pool: Nominations open for the QSL-Managed 2021 Actively Managed Pool.

If members have any questions in regards to the above, please don't hesitate to get in contact with:

- Russell Campbell - Grower Relationship Manager – 0408 248 385
- Kristen Paterson - Grower Relationship Officer– 0438 470 235
- Rebecca Love – Grower Relationship Officer – 0429 054 330 (Mon-Wed)

Regards,

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4. QLD Government – Media Release – Govt. funding improving GBR Water quality – Posted – 17/2/21

Queensland Government

Media release

Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs

The Honourable Meaghan Scanlon

Government funding improving Great Barrier Reef water quality

Improved farming practices backed by Australian and Queensland Government funding are seeing a record rate of improvement in the amount of nutrient run-off flowing from farms to the Great Barrier Reef.

The Reef Water Quality Report Card 2019 released today by the Federal Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley and Queensland Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef Meaghan Scanlon shows a reduction in dissolved inorganic nitrogen discharging from all Great Barrier Reef catchments, giving a cumulative reduction of 25.5% since 2013.

Farmers in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin regions were the main contributors to water quality improvements in 2018-2019.

The Australian and Queensland governments have invested $667 million (from 2017-2018 to 2022-2023) to support farmers and landholders reduce the pollution leaving Great Barrier Reef catchments.

“The report shows that where strong programs are in place, that we can and are making a difference,” Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley said.

“We have invested in further programs since the period covered in the report and are committed to further reef water quality improvements.

“The fact that the overall marine condition remains poor underlines the importance of those investments.”

Minister Scanlon said the report card highlighted a continued drop in the levels of dissolved inorganic nitrogen discharging from catchments into the Reef.

“The overall reduction in dissolved inorganic nitrogen, the Reef’s highest risk marine pollutant, was 4.3% in the 2018-2019 year alone,” Minister Scanlon said. “The cumulative reduction of 25.5% since 2013 is positive for the future of the Reef”

“Sugarcane and banana growers in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin regions were the main contributors to 2018-2019 result with improvements in chemical fertiliser and irrigation use.

“Yet we must continue this trajectory. It has been pleasing to hear of increased compliance with 2019 reef protection laws which introduced chemical, erosion and other practice standards.”

The report card draws upon the best available science and monitoring programs to capture progress towards the targets with new and updated information helping to drive continuous improvement.

Ministers Ley and Scanlon have also announced the five-yearly review of the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan will start with an independent review of the land management practice targets. Industry and other stakeholders will be consulted through the review.

The aim will be to better align the management practice targets with the finer scale water quality targets which vary across catchments, including considering how the targets are set and how progress will be measured.

Report card 2019 highlights include:

- A 4.3% modelled reduction in dissolved inorganic nitrogen loads across the Great Barrier Reef catchments. The greatest reductions were in the Wet Tropics (7.4%) and Burdekin (4.5%) regions.
- A 1.3% modelled reduction in fine sediment loads in the Mary catchment (Burnett Mary region).
- The Burdekin and Wet Tropics regions recorded the largest increase in best practice nutrient management for sugarcane, up 6.3% and 6.1% respectively.
- The Kolan catchment (Burnett Mary region) met the pesticide target to protect at least 99% of aquatic species.
- The Pioneer catchment (Mackay Whitsunday region) recorded the greatest improvement in pesticides (up 4.5%) with 80.5% of aquatic species protected from their harmful effects.

The interactive Reef Water Quality Report Card 2019 is available here: https://reportcard.reefplan.qld.gov.au/

Minister Ley’s office:

John Brady 0427 867 638

Ben Flores 0448 463 094

Minister Scanlon’s office:

Richard O’Leary 0447 155 332

5. QFF Media Release – 2019 Reef Water Quality Report Card Posted – 17/2/21

QUEENSLAND FARMERS' FEDERATION

2019 Reef Water Quality Report Card shows improvement

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) has reiterated Queensland agriculture's commitment to securing the future of the Great Barrier Reef following the release of the 2019 Reef Water Quality Report Card today.

The Report Card assessed the results of all Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan actions reported up to June 2019 and found encouraging progress, particularly at a regional and catchment level, with improved practices leading to pollutant reductions.

QFF CEO Dr Georgina Davis said that while climate change remains the greatest threat to the Reef, improving the quality of water flowing from the land to the sea is critical to reduce additional pressures and support the Reef's health and resilience.

"The Report Card makes clear that landholders are investing time and resources in programs that are delivering water quality benefits, with a 4.3 per cent reduction in dissolved inorganic nitrogen, the Reef's highest risk marine pollutant, a cumulative decrease of 25.5 per cent since 2013," Dr Davis said.

"These results are considered a conservative estimate of progress as projects are different stages of implementation so not all activities undertaken during the reporting period are captured and much of the water quality improvement

Information published is a long way behind on farm and water-quality reality."

“Additionally, the Report Card does not factor in the impact of severe and unavoidable weather events such as cyclones and droughts, which can quickly undo progress.”

“Agriculture has been, and remains committed to doing its bit for the Reef, and over the past few years there has been an exponential increase of farmer participation in Best Management Practice and other voluntary practice improvement programs working to minimise soil loss, fertiliser application and pesticide runoff.”

“Increased uptake of land management practices is required to continue this trajectory and meet the water quality targets.”

Dr Davis said the Report card highlighted the need for further investment to continue momentum following the conclusion of the Reef Alliance’s Growing a Great Barrier Reef (GGBR) project last year.

“With the GGBR project now concluded, government support is needed to ensure its ongoing legacy and continued capacity gains made towards long-term practice change across all Reef catchment areas and industries, while ensuring budgetary implications from COVID-19 do not hinder future progress.”

Media Contact:
Kayla Plunkett - 0448 000 692

6. BPS Chemical Course – Posted – 25/2/21

Upcoming Chemical Course

Dear Members,

A chemical certification course will be held on the 10th March 2021 from 8.00am – 4.00pm at the Burdekin PCYC (MacMillan Street).

Jamie Cupples will be running this course and will also have Jack Robinson and Terry Granshaw attending for support.

This course will cover:

1. ***Transport and handle chemicals***
2. ***Prepare and apply chemicals***
3. ***Control weeds***

The cost for the chemical course with the 3 competencies is normally over $300, however, BPS will be subsidising half the cost so growers will pay approximately $150 + GST (TBA).

Growers will require:

- ***To have a USI number***
- ***Registered and filled out the appropriate paperwork before the course***
- ***Driver's license or other form of identification.***

If you are interested, please contact:

Jasmine Connolly BPS – ph. 0438 934 601

RSVP – 8th March 2021

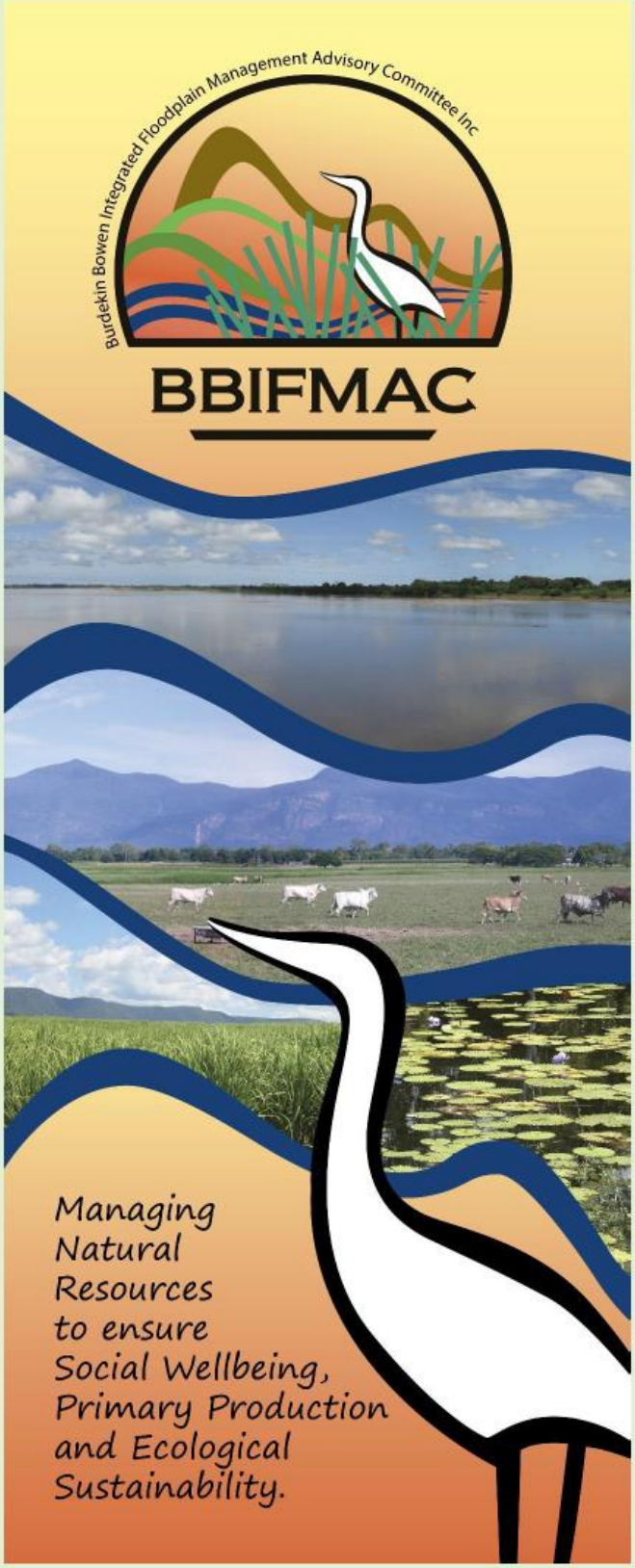
Food and drinks will be provided.

Regards,

Dave Paine
KCGO MANAGER

7. BBIFMAC February Newsletter – Posted – 3/3/21

NEWSLETTER



Issue 10 February 2021

Recent Events

The Regenerative Cane Farming Forum was held in Cairns on the 15th and 16th February. Several representatives from the Burdekin Cane community attended, including BBIFMAC staff. Sugar Research Australia (SRA) and Burdekin Productivity Services (BPS) took up a group of growers from the Soil Health Project and others from the Burdekin and Herbert regions who were interested in different regenerative farming practices.

Attendees visited the Rossi farm to hear about their experience in growing peanut break crops.

Photo provided by Jai Kaartinen-Price (SRA).

The two days consisted of several farm visits which focused on many aspects of a regenerative farming approach, including mixed cover crops, composting, soil health, and revegetation. Although each farm is unique and there is no single recipe for implementing regenerative practices in cane, four main take away points were evident from the farm visits – controlled traffic, minimum tillage, minimising bare fallows, and diversity in cover crops are essential to soil health and as important as good nutrient management.

The forum was a great opportunity for growers, extension officers and industry representatives to network and share their experiences.

Meet the BBIFMAC Committee

Now that we have introduced the BBIFMAC staff, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce one of the BBIFMAC Committee members with each newsletter. In this issue we introduce Steve Attard.

Steve Attard is the Chair of the BBIFMAC Management Committee. Steve works locally in the agricultural sector as the Managing Director of AgriTech Solutions, where his expertise includes irrigation management, sugarcane cropping systems, productivity, and natural resource management.

Black Sesame Summer Spice Trial

The second year of the black sesame spice trial is well underway in the Burdekin region after promising results in the first year trials. The spice trial is being conducted as part of the Spicing up the North project with Central Queensland University (CQU). The funding is provided by the Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia (CRCNA).

The second year trial involves larger scale (0.5-1 hectare) black sesame crops in six regions across Northern Australia, including Rockhampton, Biloela, Ayr, Tully, Darwin and Katherine.

The black sesame crop was planted locally at two sites in the Burdekin in early December 2020 under the guidance of Surya Bhattarai, who travelled up from CQU in Rockhampton to loan the participating farmers the appropriate seed planter and oversee the technicalities.

The aim of the spice trials is to evaluate the potential for future commercialisation of black sesame in Northern Australia, as part of a broader spice development program which is also assessing fennel, caraway, cumin, kalijiri and kalonji for their suitability to large-scale production.

BBIFMAC staff spoke with Peter Papadimitriou, one of the Burdekin's participating farmers for the black sesame trial, to gain some insight into what motivated him to be involved in the project.

The black sesame crop at Peter Papadimitriou's farm in the Horseshoe Lagoon area is a 0.6 hectare trial area.

Peter Papadimitriou's black sesame crop, 2 months after planting.

The crop has started to flower and seed pods are developing.

Q & A with Peter Papadimitriou

Participating farmer, black sesame spice trial

Peter Papadimitriou, one of the participating farmers in the Burdekin for the black sesame spice trial as part of the North Australia Spice Trial with CQU.

1. Tell us a bit about your background in the local area.
   I worked with my Mum and Dad on the family farm in the Horseshoe Lagoon area, growing predominantly vegetables and also some cane until 2005-2006.
   I now grow cane and legumes (as a fallow crop) on the property, but have been interested in growing spices for a number of years.

2. What motivated you to participate in the black sesame spice trial?
   I think it is important to start considering ways to diversify out of growing cane, particularly due to the current sugar prices. The fact that sesame and other spices have a short crop cycle means I can get cash for the crop within 30 days compared to the 24 month return on cane. It is an attractive opportunity for income diversification.

3. What long term prospects or future intentions do you have in regards to growing spice, in particular black sesame?
   I would like to incorporate the black sesame crop in my summer fallow cash crop rotations by planting it following a bean crop.

The crop at Peter's farm is progressing well, and we look forward to providing further information and updates over the coming months.

Thankyou Peter for your time in answering these questions, and for your willingness to participate in the trial.

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- Free or discounted water quality tests.
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Visit our website www.bbifmac.org.au

8. QSL Information Brief – 2nd March – Posted – 2/3/21

Dear Members,

Please find below a short news & information brief from QSL that you may wish to use in your communications to your members.

- ***New*** **March Guaranteed Floor Pool:** Last week QSL launched a new 2021-Season product – the QSL March Guaranteed Floor Pool. QSL's 'floor' pools give growers the best of both worlds, providing a guaranteed minimum return before the harvest starts, and the opportunity for increased returns should sugar prices rise during the season. **Nominations close 4pm, Friday 5 March.** More information available here: https://bit.ly/3sBURQk

- **Nominating tonnes to a QSL product:** QSL reminds all growers nominating tonnes (or editing/cancelling orders) to a QSL-Managed or Grower-Managed pricing product in the 2021 or future seasons, that there is a 3pm deadline. The deadline is significant for those growers who want their 'order' to be available for filling when the market opens on that day, should the market reach their nominated price. After-hours orders (after 3pm) will be available at the next market opportunity (i.e. the following night).

- **QSL video market update:** Have you been wondering what the sugar market and the Aussie dollar are doing? You can find this out, and what other sugar market influencers are doing by catching our video market update on our Facebook page this Wednesday, 3 March, at 4pm. Can't make it by 4pm? Not a problem, the video will stay uploaded on our Facebook so you can watch it any time.
- **Key dates:**
  - **1 March – 30 April 2021**
    QSL Actively Managed Pool: Nominations open for 2021-Season QSL Actively Managed Pool.
  - **26 February - 5 March 2021**
    QSL March Guaranteed Floor Pool: Nominations close for the QSL-Managed Guaranteed Floor Pool at 4pm.
  - **12 March 2021**
    QSL Pre-Crush Advance Payment Scheme: Nominations close for the QSL Pre-Crush Advance payment.
  - **26 March 2021**
    QSL Pre-Crush Advance Payment Scheme: Pre-crush Advance Payment scheme is paid to growers.

If members have any questions in regards to the above, please don't hesitate to get in contact with:

- Russell Campbell - Grower Relationship Manager – 0408 248 385
- Kristen Paterson - Grower Relationship Officer– 0438 470 235
- Rebecca Love – Grower Relationship Officer – 0429 054 330 (Mon-Wed)

Current as at 1 March 2021

Regards,

Kristen Paterson
Grower Relationship Officer

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KALAGRO

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&
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Payroll Manager
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