KALAMIA CANE GROWERS ORGANISATION LTD

Weekly Web Round UP

Friday, 2nd April 2021

Kalagro Fuel Price

DIESEL - $1.19745 including GST

UNLEADED - $1.27680 including GST

Fuel Delivered – Mon – Wed - Fri

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1. QSL Information Brief – Posted – 29/3/21

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

- **QSL Marketing Sessions - Burdekin:** QSL's Treasury Manager, Ginette Barrett will be in the region April 13-14. More information to come.
- **QSL video market update:** Don't miss this week's video market update with QSL's Treasury Manager, Ginette Barrett. Head to QSL's Facebook page on Wednesday 31 March at 4pm.
- **QSL Grower Pricing Update:** The March QSL Grower Pricing Update is out now. Click here to view.
- **QSL Grow Program:** The QSL Grow Program works to promote the long-term sustainability of the Queensland sugar industry by supporting initiatives focused on protecting and increasing sustainable sugar production at a grassroots level. Click here to learn more**.**
- **Key dates:**
  - **1 March – 30 April 2021**
    QSL Actively Managed Pool: Nominations open for 2021-Season QSL Actively Managed Pool.
  - **15 April 2021**
    Individual Futures & Self-Managed Harvest Contracts: Pricing Completion Date for May 2021 Contract for growers using the 2020-Season Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest Contract. Any unpriced tonnage after this date will be priced by QSL at the next market opportunity.
  - **15 April 2021**
    Defaulting Target Price & Grower Floor Price Contracts: Nominations close for the 2021-Season Defaulting Target Price Contract and Grower Floor Price Contract. Any unpriced tonnage will automatically be cancelled after this date.
  - **20 April 2021**
    QSL Target Price Contract: Pricing Completion Date for the 2020-Season Target Price Contract. Any unpriced tonnage after this date will be priced by QSL at the next market opportunity and adjustment may apply.
  - **30 April 2021**
    QSL Pricing Declaration Date: Last day for growers to nominate to their chosen QSL-Managed or Grower-Managed pricing products for the 2021-Season.

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

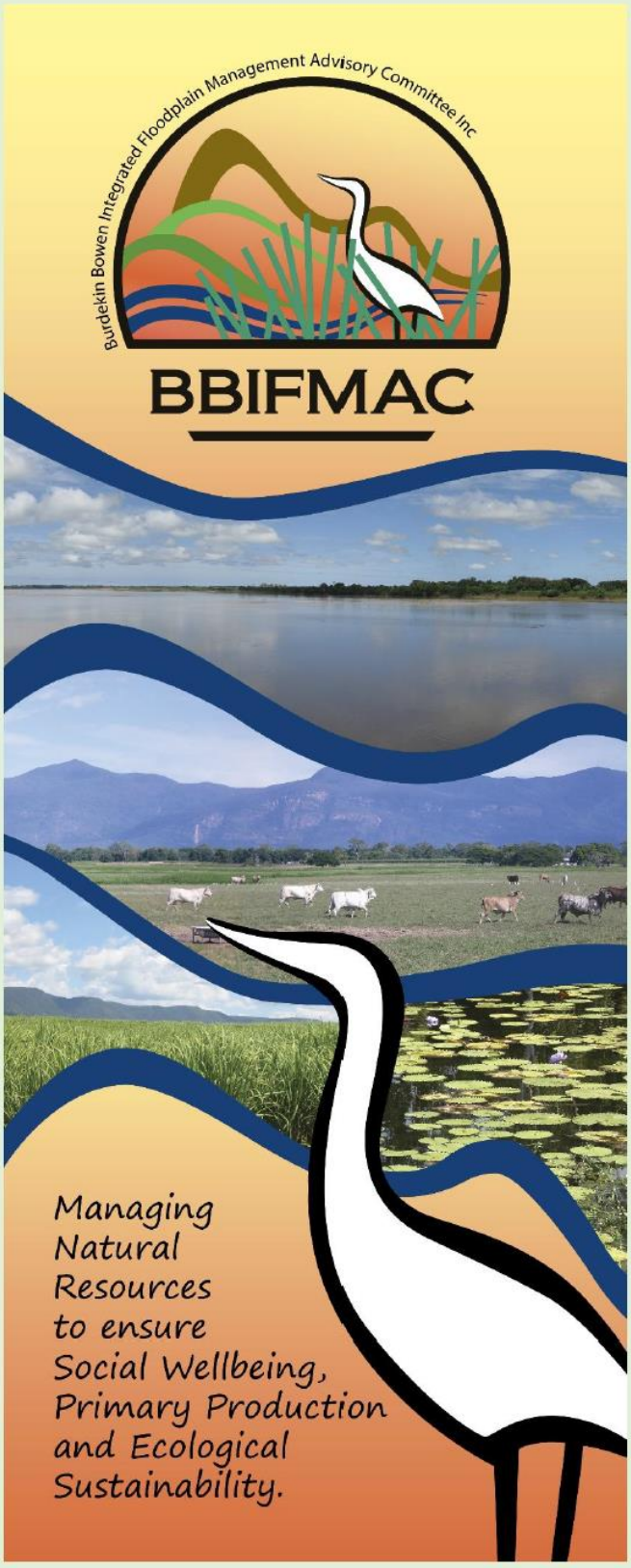
- Russell Campbell - Grower Relationship Manager – 0408 248 385
- Kristen Paterson - Grower Relationship Officer– 0438 470 235
- Rebecca Love – Grower Relationship Officer – 0429 054 330 (Mon-Wed)

Regards,

Kristen Paterson
Grower Relationship Officer

NEWSLETTER

Issue 11 March 2021



Seeking Farmers to Participate in the NQ Winter Spice Trial

BBIFMAC are seeking local farmers with a keen interest to participate in the upcoming winter trial of high-value spice crops. The 'Spicing Up the North' Project is lead by Central Queensland University (CQU), with funding from the CRC for developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) and supported by seed company AgriVentis Technologies.

The crops have demonstrated their suitability in a series of small-scale trials conducted in 2019, with the fennel crop in Ayr outcompeting the other trials in Biloela, Rockhampton, Tully, Katherine and Darwin. After success in the 2019 and 2020 summer trials, CQU is interested in trialling the black sesame over the winter.

Expressions of interest are now open for farmers in the Burdekin region who can provide up to one hectare of land to trial either fennel or black sesame. Please send your expressions of interest by email to mackenzie@bbifmac.org.au or phone the BBIFMAC office on (07) 4783 4344.

The fennel and black sesame crops in the 2019 small scale trials at Rita Island in the Burdekin.

Meet the BBIFMAC Committee

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce one of our great BBIFMAC Committee members with each newsletter. In this issue we introduce Merv Mohr.

Merv Mohr is the Treasurer on the BBIFMAC Management Committee, and has been a member of BBIFMAC since 2017. Merv has worked in the Burdekin for 44 years within the agriculture industry, including 11 years teaching horticulture at Burdekin Agriculture College, and 15 years at Farmer's Agencies as a Regional Agronomist. Merv has worked as a Horticulture Advisor for Rapisarda Enterprises since 2005, and continues in this capacity part-time, as well as pursuing his woodworking interests and travelling the countryside in his semi-retirement.

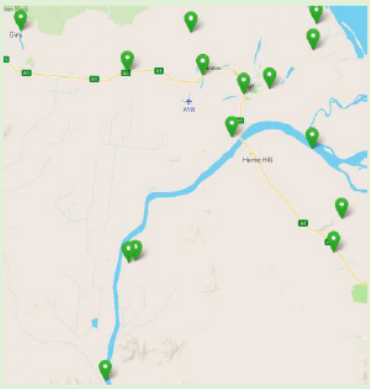
Fine Scale Water Quality Monitoring in High Priority Catchments

The installation of fine scale water quality monitoring sites has been ongoing since the end of last year in both the Lower Burdekin and Lower Herbert regions.

The project is funded by the Queensland Government's Water Quality Investigations team, and delivered in partnership with BBIFMAC. It is in response to the ongoing call from farmers and industry stakeholders to increase the number of water quality monitoring sites which will enable a more adequate representation of the entire district.

The monitoring will provide valuable data for agricultural communities, landholders, industry, extension staff, and the wider community through the ability to access local, real-time water quality results.

A total of 29 of the intended 40 sites across the Burdekin and Herbert regions have already been instrumented, and the site installations are going well despite a few teething issues.



A map of the fifteen water quality monitoring sites in the Burdekin that BBIFMAC have installed and continue to maintain as part of the Fine Scale Water Quality Monitoring project.

The data being presented consists of nitrate-nitrogen (NO3-N) concentrations in milligrams per litre (mg/L) and stream level in metres (m). The long-term aim is to be able to further develop the dataset to include stream discharge (as cubic metres/second), and calculate loads (in tonnes) and yields (in kilograms per hectare) of nitrate-nitrogen.

The data is now being uploaded to the CSIRO 1622™ portal in real time, and is available for public viewing. New data sets are being added and updated as the project progresses and new sites are installed. To access the data, visit https://wq.1622.farm/

It is important to note that the data is being recorded and presented in real time, which brings with it several limitations.

The data is uploaded to the portal without being checked by a person, and hence, processes must be implemented to ensure that the data presented is accurate and of high quality.

The Department of Environment and Science Water Quality Investigations team are working to ensure this by running the data through CSIRO's automated filters, which are designed to capture and eliminate data that is considered low quality. They detect and remove data that is flagged as uncertain by the water quality probe's internal check, values that are outside the detection limits of the probe, and unrealistic elevations.

As more data is obtained, and manual checks are undertaken to ensure that these filters are working as expected, it is likely that updates and refinements will be made to ensure the delivery of the highest quality data possible. This is unfortunately one of the limitations of providing real time data directly to stakeholders without delay.

The water quality monitoring equipment at each site consists of a nitrate-nitrogen sensor which is powered by a solar head unit to power the electronics and transmit the data in real time.

BBIFMAC's role within the project is to assist with the water quality equipment installations for the sites within the Burdekin and Herbert regions, as well as undertaking regular maintenance and troubleshooting. Technical Officer, Luke Buono is the main contact for the project.

We look forward to updating you as the remainder of the sites are implemented and more data is made available via the CSIRO 1622™ platform.

Become a BBIFMAC member!

JOIN NOW FOR JUST $20 PER YEAR.

BBIFMAC members receive:

- Free or discounted water quality tests.
- Discounted water quality monitoring equipment.

Follow us on Facebook at Bbifmac Inc

Visit our website www.bbifmac.org.au

3. NQ Dry Tropics – Optimising Soil Health Workshop
Posted – 31/3/21

A group of Lower Burdekin cane farmers recently learned about optimising soil health and the benefits of cover crops at a workshop held in Airville, presented by David Hardwick and Simon Mattsson, of
Soil Land Food
. The first of three one-day sessions was kindly hosted by cane farmer Denis Pozzebon.
Attendees learned how to identify soil texture by adding water, creating a ball (also known as a bolus) and making a ribbon-like structure. Later they visited a paddock to find out about Dennis Pozzebon's trial of mixed cover crops, including sunn hemp and sunflowers.
David Hardwick said soil was a critical part of any farm business, and it needed to be looked after, including ensuring the presence of sufficient organic matter.
The event was funded through the
Queensland Government
Reef Water Quality Program as part of the Enhanced Extension Coordination Project.
The second and third workshops will be held in April and May.

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AIRMAC

BEST PRACTI
ACCREDIT
NQ DRY TROPIC
Supporting
cane

4. Facebook Post from Dr Peter Ridd – Posted – 1/4/21

FACEBOOK POST FROM DR PETER RIDD

Corals are not the "canary in the coal mine", delicate creatures that warn us of environmental damage. They can grow in very unfavourable conditions – like on the rocks of the Mackay Harbour breakwater. The enclosed water is murky and muddy which also reduces sunlight reaching the coral. There is sometimes a light oily film on the water from all the boats and ships. But corals have colonised parts of the breakwater built for the harbour.

Thanks to Stephen Andrew, MP for Mirani for taking these pictures
https://www.facebook.com/StephenAndrewMP/videos/481466462987246
If ANY coral can live in Mackay Harbour, surely one of the harshest places on the coast for corals, it raises questions about claims that there is some sort of impact from farming and industry on reefs so far away from the coast.

The harbour corals are nothing like the quality of the Great Barrier Reef which is 100 km over the horizon. But they are healthy and typical of inshore reefs.

I have worked on inshore coral reefs since 1992. We took the first long-term measurements of water turbidity with instruments we invented. It was evident that inshore reefs such as Roundtop Island, just offshore from Mackay Harbour, often live in very dirty water. In some cases, all light can be extinguished for days, or even weeks – totally naturally. But inshore reefs are adapted to these conditions.

If one has to compare corals to other organisms, rather than a canary, I would suggest a cockroach is more appropriate – except cockroaches are not beautiful. But corals, like cockroaches, are tough and resilient. You can kill the odd one but they will keep coming back. They have survived hundreds of millions of years through times of massive upheaval.
Just because corals are tough and resilient is not a reason to not take care of the Reef. But we must also not allow science institutions to make false claims about the impact of farms and industry on the Reef.

Kalamia Cane Growers Organisation Services Offered to Members and Non-Members

KCGO in partnership with Chevron Australia Downstream Fuels P/L are proud to provide Bulk Fuel and Lubricant services to KCGO Members & Non-Members of the Burdekin Region. Call now to take advantage of our discounted pricing.

Credit Card payment options available to KCGO Members only

KALAGRO

KALAMIA CANE GROWERS ORGANISATION LIMITED (KCGOL) & KALAGRO LIMITED

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KCGO PROVIDES PAYROLL SERVICES FOR MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS

- Wages Preparation – Fair Work ATO & STP Compliancy
- Superannuation
- End of Financial Year Processing
- WorkCover – Premiums & Claims Assistance

TAX PRACTITIONERS BOARD REGISTERED
BAS agent 25954836

Payroll Manager
Jacki Kratzmann

KCGO PAYROLL SERVICE CHARGES

Members
$12.20 (incl GST) per Payslip

Non-members
$14.15 (incl GST) per Payslip

All Clients
$20.25 (incl GST) End of Financial Year Processing (per Employee)

Harvest Invoice Services

PREPARATION OF WEEKLY HARVEST INVOICE CHARGES

Members:
$12.20 (incl GST) per Invoice

Non-members:
$14.15 (incl GST) per Invoice

Postage Charges:
$1.10 per Env.

Delivery Options:
- Invoices emailed
- posted
- KCGO office pickup option

****Service offered to KCGO Members & Non-Members****