

Welcome to the 2014 spring edition of CaneConnection



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Welcome to the Spring edition of *CaneConnection*. With harvest now in full swing, we have entered one of our busier times of the year, with the crush progressing, fertiliser application under way and fallow planning commencing. In this edition of *CaneConnection* we have included articles focused on each of these critical functions.

With the crop grown, the aim is to get as much of it to the mill as we can. To tackle this matter and to assess losses, Mackay Area Productivity Services (MAPS) has purchased an infield sucrose loss trailer, developed by SRA, to work with growers and their contractors to

help optimise results. In our article we share the results to date and some of the key things we've learned from this purchase.

When the current crop is harvested, the challenge is how to get the ratoons away to ensure maximum yield next year. We focus on two important issues here – nutrition and irrigation. Nutrient management in ratoons has become increasingly complicated. We explore a range of things to consider when developing your ratoon nutrient management strategy, including getting the rate, placement and timing of fertiliser application right to help your ratoons grow well through the next 12 months.

With rising electricity prices, questions about the value of irrigation are often asked. We clarify this matter in an article focusing on the role of irrigation to ensure yield potentials are maximised and to provide the comparative economics of a number of different approaches.

Finally, we have included two articles examining fallow management, a critical component to setting up your next crop cycle to achieve maximum productivity and profitability.

As always, we are keen to get your feedback. If you have any ideas about areas that we might explore in future editions, then let us know at communications@sugarresearch.com.au

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