



Welcome to the Spring edition of *CaneConnection*

This magazine continues to provide an update on SRA-funded research that is occurring both within SRA and via our external research partners.

SRA research is strongly focussed on delivering valued research solutions for sugarcane growers and millers, and this magazine is aimed at communicating this research.

This magazine also features extension articles from the SRA extension team.

In this issue you can read several articles about the importance of improving soil health.

As researcher Dr Graham Stirling explains on page 18, there is a need to increase carbon inputs and reduce carbon losses in the sugarcane farming system so that we can build a biological community that is capable of competing with pests and pathogens.

We also hear from SRA Principal Researcher for Biosecurity, Rob Magarey, on important work that is occurring to ensure that the industry is vigilantly prepared for any exotic pests and diseases that could make it to our shores.

Just as the industry was prepared for the smut incursion in 2006, SRA is working to ensure that the industry is prepared for a range of other possible threats.

This edition also takes a close look at the results from a survey that SRA conducted of about 400 growers in June this year.

The purpose of the survey was to help SRA understand its performance for its investors, as well as to gain a thorough understanding of the rate of practice change and research adoption in our industry.

Our aim is to continue this survey each year, which will help us track trends and provide the information that will help SRA to continue to provide valued research solutions for growers and millers. You can read more about the survey on page 14.

And with the forecast of an El Niño for the summer and water allocations having been reduced in some regions, this

edition also looks at the importance of preparing for the season ahead in terms of thinking about timing of irrigation.

We also look at innovative Burdekin farmer Aaron Linton's investment in trickle tape, which is producing significant water savings and higher yields. Aaron is pictured above.

As always, if you have thoughts on how you would like to improve this magazine, please call 07 3331 3340.

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