

Getting the value from milling statistics

Sugar Research Australia has published a guide to milling statistics for the 2014 season, providing a document that gives a comprehensive run-down on last year's crush. By Brad Pfeffer

The guide, *Mill Area Statistics 2014 Season*, provides an analysis of the harvest according to each of the industry's sugar mills, and it is complemented by a second document called *Varietal Composition and Distribution*, which provides in-depth data on cane varieties and performance across the industry.

The Mill Area Statistics provides a range of information for mills, including tonnes milled, hectares harvested, average cane yield, average CCS, and the proportions of the crop that were harvested green or burnt, and the areas of plant, ratoon and standover cane. It also plots trends over the last 10 years.

SRA principal researcher, Jo Stringer, said the publication was useful across the industry and also provided value to sugar millers by compiling a range of data into a single location.

Dr Stringer said the information was also valuable to both growers and millers because it was accessible via the online tool QCANESelect™, via the SRA website at <http://tools.sugarresearch.com.au/QCANESelect/Default.aspx>

'QCANESelect™ is an extremely valuable decision support tool for growers in helping them choose their varieties,' she said. 'When we as an industry are able to provide tools that have the potential to increase productivity then this delivers both positive outcomes for both growers and for millers.'

'We encourage millers to make themselves familiar with QCANESelect™ so they are aware of the potential of this important resource.'

'It is important to remember that the more layers of data that SRA are able to receive from the mills, then the better the quality of the information that feeds into QCANESelect™. Better data can assist growers in choosing varieties according to soil type or productivity zones for example.'

'The milling statistics that feed into QCANESelect™ are an important part of informing and improving the overall productivity of the industry.'

'SRA thanks all those who collaborated in once again helping to compile this important publication.'

The booklet has been distributed to milling businesses across the industry. If you would like to receive a copy, please email Jo Stringer jstringer@sugarresearch.com.au.

