

Welcome to the Autumn 2017 edition of *CaneConnection*

Inside this edition you will find a copy of the Biosecurity Manual for Sugarcane producers (see story opposite page), an important document in relation to on-farm and industry-wide biosecurity, which we encourage you to read and keep on file.

SRA has also just released a new manual for weed control, which you can read more about through the eyes of Innisfail grower Damian Wirth (page 14), a relatively new entrant to sugarcane growing who has placed a very high priority on good weed control.

In this edition we also visit some innovative farmers in NSW who are adopting practices of the modern farming system and seeing positive results, and we also hear how advances in soybean breeding are enhancing the value of this important break crop and the role it plays in boosting soil health.

We also look at research projects using 'eyes in the sky' such as satellites and drones to help improve productivity and profitability. Another interesting yarn comes from Mulgrave's Paul Gregory, who is seeing an impressive productivity response to laser levelling to help get water off his paddocks (page 6-7).

This is also the time of year when industry events are in full swing. There are a range of great events occurring across many topics and regions over the next few months. For more detail, visit the events section of the SRA website, or the industry's events calendar at www.canecalendar.com.au.

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions about this magazine, please contact me on (07) 3331 3340 or bpfeffer@sugarresearch.com.au.

Brad Pfeffer

Executive Manager, Communications

Contents

- 03 Farm Biosecurity Manual released for sugarcane producers
- 04 Eye in the sky to help modernise sugarcane plant breeding
- 06 Levelling delivers major productivity boost in the Wet Tropics
- 08 Taking the legwork out of finding a fertiliser
- 10 Putting varieties to the test with waterlogging
- 12 Collaboration the key to ongoing improvement in harvest efficiency
- 14 Ongoing weed control battle to assist long-term productivity
- 15 Using Remote Sensing to improve canegrub management in North Queensland cane fields
- 16 Improved yield forecasting and N management through remote sensing
- 18 From swinging a hammer to cutting cane
- 20 RP20 – How one trial has changed a mindset
- 21 Solid 2016 result at Tolga on the Tableland
- 22 Reduced tillage boosts soil health at Woodburn
- 24 Soybean continues to boost NSW sugarcane production
- 26 SRA continues long-term research in the Southern Region
- 27 News from SRA
- 28 Total Research Investment

ISSN 2203-1111 (Print) ISSN 2203-112X (Online)

© Copyright 2017 by Sugar Research Australia Limited. All rights reserved. No part of *CaneConnection* (this publication), may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of Sugar Research Australia Limited. Sugar Research Australia Limited acknowledges and thanks its funding providers, including levy payers (sugarcane growers and millers), the Commonwealth Government, and the Queensland Government (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries).

Disclaimer: In this disclaimer a reference to 'SRA', 'we', 'us' or 'our' means Sugar Research Australia Limited and our directors, officers, agents and employees. Although we do our very best to present information that is correct and accurate, we make no warranties, guarantees or representations about the suitability, reliability, currency or accuracy of the information we present in this publication, for any purposes. Subject to any terms implied by law and which cannot be excluded, we accept no responsibility for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred by you as a result of the use of, or reliance on, any materials and information appearing in this publication. You, the user, accept sole responsibility and risk associated with the use and results of the information appearing in this publication, and you agree that we will not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever (including through negligence) arising out of, or in connection with the use of this publication. We recommend that you contact our staff before acting on any information provided in this publication. **Warning:** Our tests, inspections and recommendations should not be relied on without further, independent inquiries. They may not be accurate, complete or applicable for your particular needs for many reasons, including (for example) SRA being unaware of other matters relevant to individual crops, the analysis of unrepresentative samples or the influence of environmental, managerial or other factors on production.