



# Harvesting demonstration trials: what it means at the mill

**In 2017, SRA worked with 43 harvesting groups in green-cane areas to assess the impact of adopted harvesting best practice. Each trial involved four treatments in commercial conditions: low loss, recommended practice, current practice, and aggressive practice. These treatments relate to ground speed and fan speed and were unique to each site.**

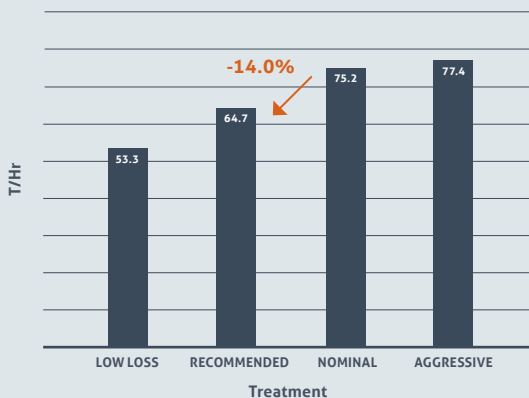
Here, we show the overall results from the 2017 trials and examine the implications for greater adoption of Harvest Best Practice particularly in relation to the milling sector, as well

as outlining areas where investment and work is needed to achieve the 'sweet spot' for the industry.

In 2018, SRA will work across the industry on 60 more trials as well as strengthening collaboration with millers. The impact to mill logistical operations, in particular bin supply, requires further investigation. SRA will work in close consultation with the milling sector to appreciate milling logistics within the parameters of harvesting best practice. ■

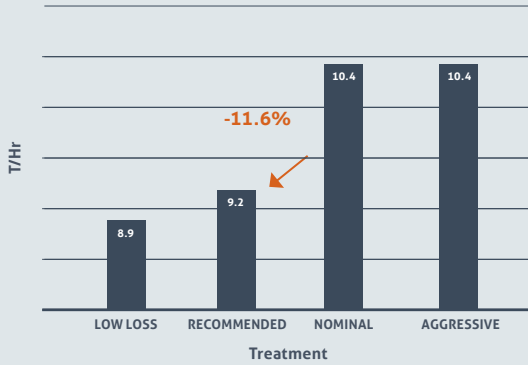
*(Above) The adoption of harvesting best practice has issues for consideration in relation to cane supply and logistics. (Over - page 8) SRA conducted 43 harvesting demonstration trials with the industry in 2017.*

## Harvesting Rate



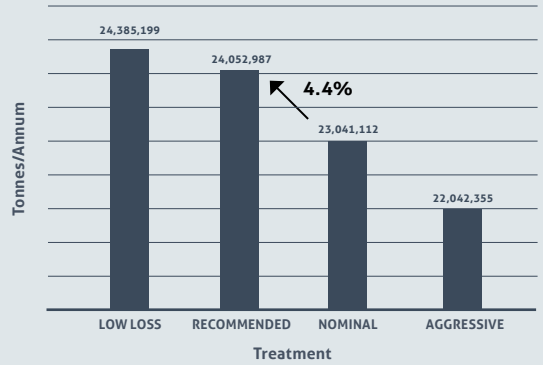
*The 2017 field demonstration trials indicated that across the Australian sugar industry, a 14% decline in overall harvesting rate (tonnes per hour delivered to the bin) would occur as a consequence of harvesting contractors migrating from nominal to recommended practice.*

### Bin Fill Rate



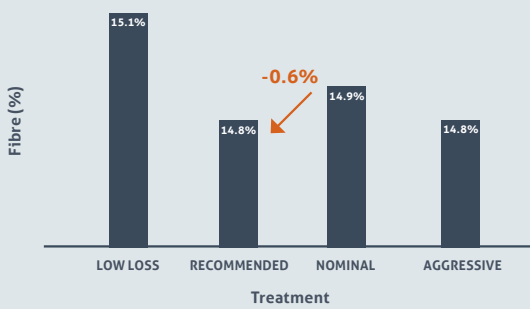
Bin fill rates in the 2017 field demonstration trial indicate an 11.6% decline from average industry contractor harvesting practice (nominal) to recommended harvesting practice with no statistical difference in bin mass

### Season Tonnage



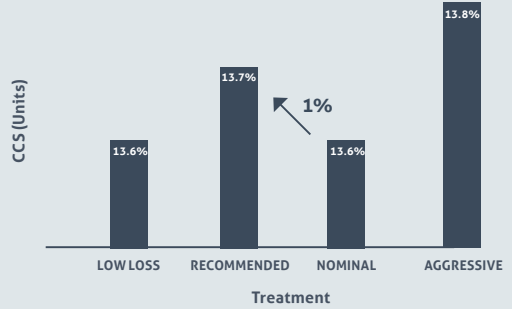
2017 Field Demonstration trials imply a 4.4% increase in tonnages between average industry contractor harvesting practices (nominal) to recommended harvesting practice with no increase to cane land. A statistically significant difference was recorded between industry nominal and recommended harvested yields.

### Mill Fibre



Mill fibre levels decreased 0.6% in the trials, with no statistically significant difference between industry contractor practice (nominal) and recommended harvesting practice.

### Mill CCS



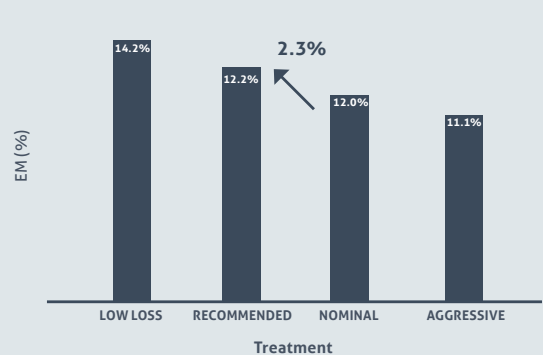
The 2017 Field Demonstration trials saw a 1% increase in CCS between average industry contractor harvesting practices (nominal) to recommended harvesting practice

### Season Sugar Production



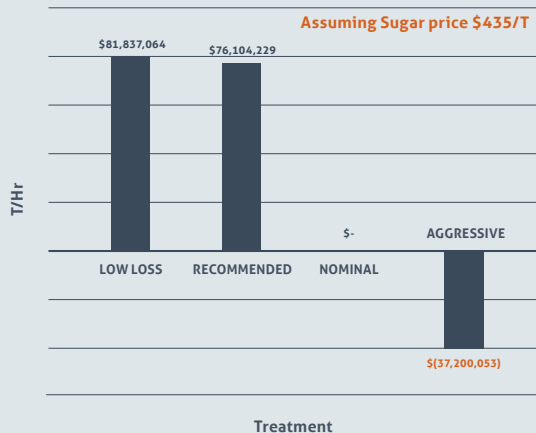
Sugar increased 5.5% between average industry contractor harvesting practices (nominal) to recommended harvesting practice

### Extraneous Matter



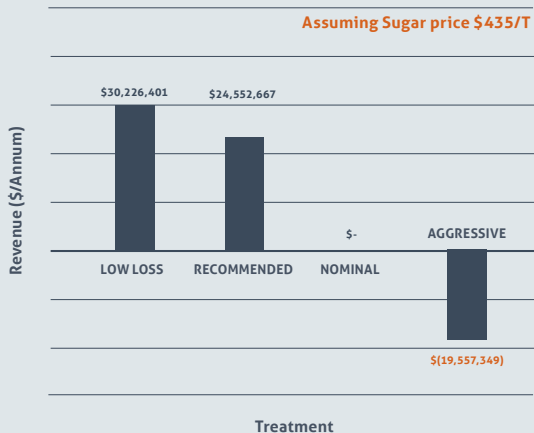
There was no statistically significant difference in the extraneous matter.

## Change in Industry Value



Assuming a sugar price of \$435/T, the increase to industry revenue is \$76M if harvesting contractors were to change their nominal harvesting practice to recommendation.

## Change in Mill Revenue



The 2017 Field Demonstration suggest a \$24M increase to industry mill revenue if contractors change their harvesting practice (nominal) and adopt recommended harvesting practice.

However the increase to milling revenue does not account for cost associated with milling cane harvested at harvesting best practice.



**Australian Government**  
Department of Agriculture  
and Water Resources



The SRA Harvesting Best Practice Adoption Team are committed to working with the Australian Sugar Industry milling sector in 2018 to enhance the industry value chain. It is our mission to collaborate with all mills across the regions to identify the most practical parameters to maximise harvesting best practice while minimising the impact to mill assets, operations and logistics.

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For more information contact:  
Carol Norris (Milling Liaison Officer)  
on [cnorris@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:cnorris@sugarresearch.com.au)  
or 0459 861 482

Phil Patane (Project Leader) on  
[ppatane@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:ppatane@sugarresearch.com.au)  
or 0431 818 482

Garry Landers (Researcher) on  
[glanders@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:glanders@sugarresearch.com.au)  
or 0417 607 873