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Welcome to the Autumn 2019 edition of *CaneCONNECTION*

Our first port of call in this magazine checks in with the harvesting Rural R&D for Profit project, talking with Mackay grower Phil Deguara about in-field demonstration trials from the 2018 season. You can read about changes the Deguaras have made to their machine and its operating parameters to get the most from the crop for the whole value chain on pages four and five.

We also have a look at the SCHLOT Live project, which is working toward a practical tool for the people inside the cab of the harvester. This new tool is designed to bring real-time harvest loss information into the cab and is a significant step forward from 'SCHLOT classic'.

In this edition, we also continue our regular dive into sugarcane soil health. We talk about the costly problem of nematodes and some of the research strategies being used to tackle them for the industry. We also hear from a range of growers who have implemented improved farming system practices on their farms, including what it took to change and what benefits it is delivering to their business.

In this edition we also highlight some of the latest findings and work from the yellow canopy syndrome research program, which has made notable progress from recent trials and experiments.

Enhanced efficiency fertilisers (EEF) continue to be a hot topic for the industry, and many of you will have heard of the EEF60 project that SRA is running in conjunction with CANEGROWERS. In this edition, we look at another EEF project led by Dr Kirsten Verburg with CSIRO in conjunction with Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited.

Our thoughts go out to all in the industry who have been impacted by severe weather this year – ranging from drought in the South and NSW to severe flooding in parts of the north. Here's hoping for some much kinder weather for everyone as 2019 rolls on.

Brad Pfeffer

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(Cover page) Young brothers Thomas and Eli Walsh checking over this year's soybean fallow. Read more on page 12.

Design: Catherine Jorissen, SRA.

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95

The number of in-field trials undertaken by SRA over the last two seasons to help the industry optimise harvest efficiency.

Page 4



273,360

The number of virtual treatment years created as part of 'virtual trials' to analyse enhanced efficiency fertilisers.

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By the numbers

1000km

The travelling distance that a harvester has reduced its yearly mileage through a shift to 1.9 metre dual rows.

Page 16



\$80M

The estimated cost of nematodes to the Australian sugar industry each year.

Page 14



6

The number of years that Glen Cole has been growing cane at Casino, NSW.

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Thorough hygiene drives good biosecurity outcomes

SRA has prepared a short online video with tips and reminders for cleaning down your harvester.

The video runs through the importance of proper hygiene for moving harvesters both within a district and between biosecurity zones. In the video, we talk with Luke Giddy (SRA Burdekin), and Marian Davis from Burdekin Productivity Services about some of the basics of cleaning and the process for obtaining a plant health assurance certificate for moving a harvester.

In order to move machinery across sugarcane biosecurity zone boundaries, machinery requires a plant health assurance certificate (PHAC) available through your local productivity service or Biosecurity Queensland.

The PHAC states that the machinery was free of visible plant material and soil, when inspected, and will accompany the machine during transport.

Movement within sugarcane biosecurity zones does not require a PHAC, but requires the 'General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO)' to be managed. The requirement of the Act requires you to take all reasonable steps to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks.

- To see the video visit the media section of www.sugarresearch.com.au.
- The biosecurity section of the SRA website also has useful information on your general biosecurity obligation and information sheets on machinery hygiene. ■



(Above) Marian Davis and Leigh Chapple from BPS and Luke Giddy from SRA with some tips on cleaning down your harvester.