2018 Season Progress

Rainfall patterns have been close to average for the last two months but harvesting operations have not been affected too badly. The overall cane crushed to-date is 4% ahead of estimate due mainly to the 1 YO cane being 9% better than estimate. Forecasts for a dry summer have not changed and an El Nino event is still likely to occur. The recent rains came just in time to allow planting to begin, and current soil moisture levels are almost ideal.

Variety Performance
The situation has not changed much since last month with the main varieties performing better than the original estimate in the 1 year-old cane. The trend is the same in the 2 year-old cane with Q211 the only exception.

Q183 is leading the pack in terms of tonnes of sugar produced per hectare, followed by Q240 and Q208.

ASP Operations
The ASP is open and a few growers have collected their seed material. To assist the planning and distribution process, please give us at least 3-4 days' notice of when you will require your seed. We can then advise you as to when the plot will next be open for you to collect your order.

The Q183 is fully allocated but there are still quantities of all the other varieties available.
Cane Grubs

Unfortunately cane grubs have been found in paddocks across the district. They have been absent for a few years but numbers have been building up and they now have reached levels where their effect can be clearly seen. The grubs feed on the roots of the cane and hence the most obvious sign of their presence is "stool tipping" or patches in a paddock where whole cane stools die back from the leaf tips. Often the first indication of a problem is when the harvester starts throwing out cane stools even though the cane has not "tipped".

There are control measures which can be implemented and if you suspect that you have a problem, give us a call and we will assist you.

GPS Radio's

We have been advised that the manufacturers of the Tait TM8100 radios will no longer be making them. These are the radios that are installed in the GPS base stations and in your tractors.

We are investigating alternative manufacturers but these radios are still available to order until the end of this week. (21/9/18)

If you are interested in ordering a spare or replacement radio these are the suppliers to call.

Transcom (Maclean)- Brian Callaghan 6645 2777

Northern Communications (Lismore) - Scott Barker 6621 5693

Last word

We hope that the planting season continues to go well for everyone and that we continue to get just the right amount of rain exactly when we need it.

See you in the paddocks.

Ged Bambach 0428 662 081

Malcolm Warren 0408 764 742