

# the Australian Cane Farmer

## ACFA holds its AGM and Conference

The ACFA Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held in Cairns on Tuesday May the 13th with the AGM commencing at 9am and the conference opening at 10am.

Both the AGM and the Conference - Sugarcane '08 Innovation, Information and Ideas will be held at the Pacific International Hotel.

The conference costs \$20 for ACFA members and \$40 for non-members and includes morning and afternoon tea and lunch.

ACFA Chairman Ross Walker said the line-up of speakers at this conference was excellent and encouraged all farmers to attend.

"This year's line-up of speakers is outstanding and will help farmers make the most of their cane farm," he said.

"I encourage all cane farmers that wish to take an active interest in their industry to attend.

"It will be a great opportunity for all of us to hear industry leaders share their knowledge and we can all benefit from the expertise gained from their years of experience.

"It's sure to be a great day and I look forward to seeing all of you there," said Mr Walker.

To register phone ACFA 1800 500 025, or 07 3303 2020.

*To see the full conference agenda and speaker biographies turn to page 4.*

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April 2008

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### inside this issue:

1. QSL's board restructure proposal discussed.
2. ACFA's AGM and Conference profiled.
3. SRDC news

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### Breaking News

The proposal put forward to restructure QSL is a hot topic in the industry at the moment and ACFA Chairman Ross Walker cuts through the jargon to explain why ACFA is opposed to its introduction and what effect it will have on farmers.



Leading farmers into the future

### QSL's future hangs in the balance



By ACFA.  
Chairman  
Ross Walker.

The future of QSL is still playing out but it is now coming to a head.

The current grower Directors on the Board have let farmers down badly.

The transition arrangements to QSL were a debacle and have cost farmers many tens of millions of dollars.

The QSL board is proposing to restructure the board from 12 to 4 or 5.

The board would be a skills based board with a thorough knowledge of

1. Corporate governance and board processes.

2. Export marketing and

sales

3. Financial/derivative market experience

4. Legal, finance and accounting

5. Export logistics and

6. Sugar refining

The new charter of the company would aim to provide for greater commercial focus.

A selection panel of two farmers and two millers would select four or five board members with the power to appoint the Chair of Directors if appropriate.

ACFA is currently on the grower selection panel and should be represented on the proposed new selection panel.

The proposed selection panel

process would result in the Canegrowers organisation controlling and having the only two grower members.

Their Directors and members dominate the QSL grower membership and the ever growing list of farmers not in Canegrowers will be totally disenfranchised.

The outcome of the current proposal would be neither democratic nor representative.

CSR could have both miller members on the selection panel but they will be sharing with another miller. The grower selection panel should be the same for representation and unity's sake.

The new agreement requires millers to enter into evergreen or rolling three year supply agreements with QSL.

Millers would in turn offer farmers three year forward

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### QSL's future hangs in the balance

pricing mechanisms for up to 50 per cent of normal production in cane supply agreements.

The ACFA Board remains firm in its view that because farmers continue to derive much of their income from the historic pooling arrangement and because the majority of pool proceeds are paid to farmers, the most commercial mechanism would be one where exposure is matched with participation.

It is therefore the view of the ACFA Board that farmers should be represented on the board of QSL. If that is unacceptable to some stakeholders then it is those stake holders who are seeking to change QSL, and not the ACFA, who would be taking QSL out of commercial balance.

While it is essential that suitably skilled directors be installed into QSL, there should be an overseeing stakeholder presence represented on the board.

The ACFA board acknowledges that the past failures of QSL to adequately serve the needs of farmers have not resulted from the staff of QSL but rather from a riven board that has been unable to foresee the imperative pricing structures within QSL that would have provided the maximum return to stakeholders.

This however does not preclude the value of personal exposure of directors to a company's performance. Therefore a board comprising a majority of skilled directors complementing a minority of stakeholder representative directors would complete a balanced board

suitable to stakeholder requirements. ACFA should either be represented on such a board or an instrument of its appointment as is currently the case.

There is no doubt farmers would have a very minor role and influence in the proposed new set up.

The chance of a farmer being appointed as a Director for the company would be small.

Miller representatives would have a better chance of appointment.

Appointing the new Board could result in the Directors having no equity in the company or the industry. This is always worrying when people making major decisions have no ownership in the outcomes.

As the past years have disappointingly demonstrated, we must have the very best qualified Directors on the QSL Board.

The resolution to change the constitution was agreed on at the 21st April QSL Board meeting.

A meeting of QSL members, one from each mill area (23 in total) and also one ACFA and one Canegrower member, will be held on May 19 in Brisbane.

To be successful the changes will have to be approved by 75 per cent of both grower and miller members and also the ACFA and Canegrowers members.

*Continued on page 5...*

## ACFA Conference Agenda

*8.30am: Annual General Meeting Registration*

*9.00am: Annual General Meeting commences*

*9.30am: Morning Tea and Registration for Conference*

*10.00am: ACFA Chairman Ross Walker welcomes attendants*

*10.15am: Dr Frikkie Botha opens the Conference*

*10.30am: Peter Twine - CRC SIIB Sugarcane Biofactory and Biorefinery - The issues and opportunities*

*11.00am: Frank McMahon - Industrial Relations: Where are we going?*

*11.30am: Dr Ray Kearney - Health Impacts of Fossil Fuels - Ethanol is a Clean Alternative Fuel*

*12.00pm: Dr Jeff Parr, Southern Cross University; Professor Leigh Sullivan, Southern Cross University - Opportunities for carbon sequestration in sugar cane by enhanced Plantstone carbon yields*

*12.45pm: Lunch*

*1.30pm: Dr Barry Kitchen and Dr David Kannar of Cocoa Australia - Low GI Sugar and The Cocoa Connection*

*2.15pm: Brian Mahony - Raw sugar market in Asia/Pacific*

*2.45pm: Dr Allan Dale, Terrain Natural Resource Management - Reef Rescue Plan - What's in it for farmers?*

*3.15pm: Robert Magarey - BSES Limited - Sugarcane Smut: A Profile*

*3.45pm: Afternoon Tea*

*4.00pm: Sydney Mills, Manildra Group Company - Ethanol and sugarcane: What are the options?*

*4.30pm: Chris Aylward, SRDC - Grower Innovation and Research Outcomes*

*5.00pm: Close of Conference*

## ACFA Conference - Speaker Biographies

**Brian Mahony**

Brian grew up on his family's cane farm at Abergowrie in the Herbert River district.

After leaving school he joined CSR Limited as a cadet accountant and while at university completed a Bachelor Business with majors in finance and law.

He worked in CSR's Sugar Mills Group for 15 years before moving to Sydney and joined the Export Marketing Group which in those days carried out the agency contract that CSR held initially with the Queensland Sugar Board but subsequently with Queensland Sugar Corporation.

In his early years there he was responsible for hedging (all futures market activity) and managing foreign exchange cover for the Queensland export crop.

In later years he was responsible for customer relations and sales in the many markets in East and South East Asia and North America.

In 2001 he began working with Mulgrave Mill, initially on a consulting basis but eventually became a full time employee.

In 2006 Mulgrave became the first of the Queensland Sugar businesses to export in its own name, bulk raw sugar from its own factory and also from Mossman Mill, to customers in East Asia.

Brian manages the export programme and the futures market activity.

**Chris Aylward - Project Officer - SRDC**

Chris lives in Sarina and work part-time for both the Plane Creek Productivity Services, and the Sugar Research and Development Corporation.

For last seven years Chris have been working in the sugar industry in various roles with BSES, Mackay Rural Supplies, and now PCPSL and SRDC.

The main focus of his work over this time has been supporting grower groups who are undertaking their own on-farm research into productivity and profitability issues.

## Chairman's Comment

*...from page 3*

During the lead up to the vote millers will negotiate new sugar supply agreements with QSL which will become unconditional if the member vote is successful.

Milling companies have issued an ultimatum - accept the proposal or they will form a new marketing company.

ACFA warned of this outcome many years ago.

There is no doubt changes need to be made but QSL must make decisions fairly for the advancement of both millers and all farmers otherwise all will be lost.



### ACFA Conference - Speaker Biographies

In February 2008 many of the grower groups he worked with presented their innovation and research results at GIVE 2008 (Grower Innovation Virtual Expo).

His presentation will summarise some of the key innovation and research outcomes from these grower groups, and discuss the value and importance of these grower groups to the sugar industry.

If you have any questions, please contact him on this email address or on 0437 330 877.

Dr Jeff Parr



Dr Jeff Parr is an Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at Southern Cross University and the director of plant research at Plantstone Pty Ltd.

His current research involves screening grass plant varieties including sugarcane for their

Plantstone Carbon qualities.

Plantstone Carbon is a unique form of carbon encased in silica, which once entering the soil is stable for thousands of years.

Dr Parr in collaboration with Professor Leigh Sullivan also of Southern Cross University and Plantstone Pty Ltd will be presenting their research findings and discussing the potential benefits for the sugar industry.

Peter Twine



Peter Twine is the CEO of the CRC Sugar Industry Innovation through Biotechnology (CRC SIIB) based at the University of Queensland, St Lucia.

The CRC SIIB is a Commonwealth Government body funded by the Federal and Queensland State Governments and industry groups with the goal to 'Add Value to

## ACFA Conference - Speaker Biographies

Australian Sugarcane'.

The sugarcane plant holds great promise over and above current sucrose, molasses and green energy uses. Biotechnology provides the ability to investigate and expand numerous promising uses of the sugarcane plant.

The CRC SIIB has invested in projects to research and develop diversification opportunities and methods to maximise sucrose production. Peter Twine will talk about some of this work and highlight the challenges that lie ahead in the commercialisation of the most promising options.

Assoc. Professor Ray Kearney OAM



Mr Kearney is an Associate Professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunology (Department of Medicine, Central Clinical School), The University of Sydney.

As a voluntary, independent advocate, on behalf of the community during the past 14 years, he has been pro-active in campaigning for tunnel filtration and to replace fossil fuels with cleaner, renewable bio-fuels, including ethanol.

He has successfully petitioned former Prime Minister John Howard MP and helped persuade him in setting up the Biofuels Taskforce in 2005.

Ray was largely responsible for bringing the health benefits of clean fuels into the debate on alternate fuels in Australia.

After over 35 years in academia, Ray retired from the University of Sydney 31 December, 2006 but retains full academic entitlements as an Honorary Associate Professor.

Rob Magarey



Rob is a Principal Research Scientist with BSES Limited, Tully.

## ACFA Conference - Speaker Biographies

He has worked with BSES for over 27 years, two years in Brisbane and the rest in Tully.

He originally came from South Australia, graduating from the University of Adelaide in Agricultural Science (Honours) in 1981 and with a PhD from the University of Queensland in 1991 (working on *Pachymetra* root rot).

During his time with BSES he has worked on *Pachymetra* root rot, yield decline, leaf diseases (including yellow spot and orange rust), smut, chlorotic streak, nematodes, and a range of other diseases.

He has been a consultant to the PNG sugar industry since 1988 and has become familiar with exotic diseases in the region.

From 2005-2007 he was President of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society.

Sydney Mills



Sydney is currently employed at the Manildra Group – Manildra Energy Australia in the field of RandD Engineering and Marketing Planning Development.

Today, Sydney currently works at Manildra Energy Australia on their Ethanol Plan, coordinating all ethanol activities on F.F.V. (Flexible Fuel Vehicles), alternative bio-fuel availability as well bio-fuel development in Australia.

### Additional Speakers include...

Other speakers at the conference include Dr Frikkie Botha Executive Director of the SRDC who will open proceedings.

Frank McMahon's presentation entitled: 'Industrial Relations: Where are we going?'

Professor Leigh Sullivan from Southern Cross University will also speak about opportunities for carbon sequestration in sugar cane by enhanced Plantstone carbon yields.

Dr Barry Kitchen and Dr David Kannar from Cocoa Australia will discuss Low GI Sugar and The Cocoa Connection.

Finally, Dr Allan Dale from Terrain Natural Resource Management will examine the Reef Rescue Plan and 'What's in it for farmers?'



## Sugar Slides

*Written by Cally Wilson, Marketing Analyst, Queensland Sugar Limited*

The ICE No.11 May 2008 raw sugar futures contract commenced the beginning of March at US 14.62 c/lb and reached the months high of US 15.07 c/lb on the first night of trade.

The strong prices remained in the first three days of trade before world markets collapsed and sugar followed the downturn in commodity markets.

Over the next three weeks, the May 2008 contract continued to come under pressure and on the 20th March reached the months low of US 11.25 c/lb.

In the last week of trade, the May 2008 contract bounced back to US 12 c/lb where it hovered for the remainder of the month.

The ICE No.11 May 2008 raw sugar futures settled at US 12.13 c/lb at time of writing, a US 2.49 c/lb decrease on the beginning of the month.

The London No.5 (LDN5) white sugar May 2008 contract began the month of March at USD 387.20 per tonne and continued upwards, reaching a contract high of USD 400.00 per tonne in the first week.

As the raws market collapsed, the London whites followed and fell nearly USD 60.00 per tonne in three days.

The May 2008 contract then firmed up to trade around USD 350.00 per tonne but came under pressure again falling to the months low of USD 312.60 before trading in the low to mid

USD 330's for the remainder of the month.

The LDN5 white sugar May 2008 contract closed the month at USD 335.10, a decrease of USD 52.10 per tonne.

FO Licht has revised its estimate for global sugar production in 2007/08 to 168.9 million tonnes, down from the November estimate of 169.2 million tonnes.

The forecast for world ending sugar stocks has increased to 86.22 million tonnes raw value, up from the November estimate of 84.89 million tonnes.

The estimate of stocks as a percentage of consumption has risen to 55.77 %, up from 50.43% in the 2006/07 season.

The Reserve Bank of Australia lifted the cash rate by 0.25% to 7.25% in March, however the AUD was unable to sustain its upward momentum and traded downwards over the month.

The AUD traded between 0.9092 0.9468 against the USD.

The AUD was trading at 0.9230 against the USD at time of writing.

## Changes to minimum employment standards... What employers need to know!

*Article provided by McKays Consulting, a division of McKays Solicitors*

Last month we explained the proposed laws to abolish Australian Workplace Agreements.

The new law became effective on 27 March, 2008.

Already we have been asked to advise on whether a recently signed AWA can be lodged. Employers need to act urgently to lodge any already signed AWAs.

If you need assistance with this, telephone us without delay.

New minimum employment standards  
The Labor Government plans to replace the current Workchoices minimum standards with 10 "Forward with Fairness" minimum standards.

The following compares the current and proposed minimum standards:

### WorkChoices – Five Minimum Standards

1. Maximum weekly hours of work
2. Basic rates of pay and casual loading
3. Annual leave
4. Personal leave
5. Parental leave

### Forward with Fairness – Ten Minimum Standards

1. Maximum weekly hours of work
2. Requests by parents for flexible

working arrangements

3. Annual leave
4. Personal leave
5. Parental leave
6. Community service leave
7. Long service leave
8. Public holidays
9. Notice of termination and redundancy
10. Fair work information statement

What is a national employment standard?

Like the WorkChoices standard, the proposed "Forward with Fairness" standards are a "safety net" and so will override any other employment arrangement less favourable to the employee than the standard.

For example, many employers will recall that the WorkChoices personal leave standard meant their employees were automatically entitled to 10 not 8 days paid personal leave per annum.

What does this mean for employers?

Because submissions are still being taken on the proposed standards, it is too early to say

## Changes to minimum employment standards... What employers need to know!

*Article provided by McKays Consulting, a division of McKays Solicitors*

for sure what the final standards will be.

Some terms of the current standards may not significantly change, for example:

- Maximum ordinary hours for a full time employee will remain 38 hours per week.
  - Paid annual leave for an employee will remain four weeks for each year of service, or five weeks for a “shift worker”.
  - Paid personal/carer’s leave will remain at ten days for each year of service.
- There will be other changes to those standards, though.

For example, whether an employee is entitled to penalty rates for working overtime, will be a factor in assessing the reasonableness of an employer's request for an employee to work overtime.

An area of significant change is redundancy pay.

Currently, there is no automatic entitlement to redundancy pay, and so redundancy pay entitlements arise only from Awards/NAPSA’s or by agreement in the employment agreement, collective agreement or AWA/ITEA.

Many executive employees for example have no entitlement to redundancy pay, unless their employment agreements include that.

Employers need to be aware that:

- The minimum redundancy pay standard will apply to their executive employees; and
- The redundancy payment is addition to notice of termination.

What can employers do now?

In future newsletters we will keep you updated as the “Forward with Fairness” minimum standards are finalised.

For now, when drafting executive employment contracts, employers should bear in mind that soon their executive employees will be entitled to redundancy pay, and so employers should avoid overgenerous notice periods.

Contacting us

If you would like assistance with drafting employment agreements, or would like to discuss how the proposed minimum employment standards will affect your workplace, then please contact:

Scott McSwan on (07) 4963 0860 or [smcswan@mckayslaw.com](mailto:smcswan@mckayslaw.com) or  
Karen Porter on (07) 4963 0870 or [kporter@mckayslaw.com](mailto:kporter@mckayslaw.com)

*The information contained in the newsletter should not be relied upon without first consulting us and obtaining specific advice.*

### What's going on in the sugar regions?

#### Innisfail Regional Report

Fine weather has returned to the tropical coast.

Negotiations are continuing in all areas for cane supply contracts.

The major talking point at the moment regards the mass destruction of mature sugar cane in order to clear land for forestry interests.

To see the mass destruction of mature cane has come as a shock to many farmers here and caused a reaction amongst millers as well.

Negotiations are still continuing for the sale or merger of Mulgrave Mill.

The crop has suffered because of the overcast conditions of the last couple of months and is not as good as toted at the beginning of the year.

The Tablelands still has a good crop which is still slightly above average.

John Blanckensee  
ACFA Northern Director

#### Herbert Regional Report

The district is starting to dry out with only 172 millimetres of rainfall so far for the month of March.

Some farmers are out discing their ground in preparation for planting.

There have been a few more blocks of smut

infection found but overall the levels seem to be relatively low.

There doesn't appear to be any great loss occurring with recent crop estimates having been undertaken, however, it remains to be seen exactly what damage has occurred when harvesting commences.

Meetings were held recently in the Herbert to look at opportunities during the year for Research, Development and Extension

The last week has seen us feeling our tropical weather with the higher humidity. The Easter break saw a great long weekend, with relatively minor shower activity.

Those who went camping away from the district would have had a relaxing time and no worries about keeping dry.

Carol Mackee  
ACFA Herbert Director

#### Burdekin Regional Report

Trevor Berryman, Executive Officer, Burdekin Productivity Services reports that approved seed cane plots have been opened for Inkerman, from the 25th of March and for Whitson's (Kalamia/Pioneer) from April 2.

Opening days for both plots are Monday, Wednesday and Friday with three days notice required for orders.

RSD ELISA testing of all plots commenced with Inkerman and Whitsons on 19th March, with negative results for all varieties and all

## What's going on in the sugar regions?

tests, results for remaining plots will be available by end of March.

Commercial RSD testing commenced in April in the Pioneer and Invicta mill areas. Growers will be notified with minimum of one days notice.

BPS is working with Burdekin Shire Council to have itch grass placed onto the declared pest plants list. This weed has the potential to become a major concern in the district and improved management practices are being developed.

Avril Robinson, project officer with the DPI&F and BPS jointly run Property Management Systems Initiative continues to work in areas that add to grower's profitability, productivity and sustainability.

At present, spray courses are being organised by both Avril and Gavin Jones of BPS> Dr Ross Coventry, Project Leader of the SRDC funded 'Identifying Management Zones Within Cane Paddocks: An Essential Foundation For Precision Sugarcane Agriculture.'

This project is developing and promoting techniques for establishing zones for targeted application of best management practices within cane paddocks and offers rapid and relatively cheap methods for recognising patterns in soils and plant growth in sugarcane paddocks and includes integrated data from different sites and times allowing subsequent development and promotion of variable rate, site-specific, best management practices for sugarcane production and environmental stewardship.

The Feb/Mar round of CPI meetings have concluded with good roll ups.

Results of the SRDC funded 'Review of the Burdekin CPI Groups: Lessons Learnt and recommendations for the future', conducted by Dr Jeff Coutts, indicated among other things that CPI group meetings are a key part of extension delivery in the Burdekin and play an important role in information dissemination (productivity and environmental) as well as in developing relationships within the industry.

There is good evidence that the groups have resulted in a high level of practice change with positive production and environmental impacts over recent years.

The Nutrient management workshops (6 Easy Steps) are to begin early April in the Burdekin.

Recent headland inspections by BSES and BPS in areas known to have high smut spore counts have still not identified the disease.

However, it is apparent that farmers have taken notice of BSES advice by removing significant areas of susceptible varieties (e.g. Tellus, Q127 and Q117).

Cane planting has commenced in earnest and it is expected that there will be mainly KQ228 and Q208 planted in the next 2 months in the district.

Planting for some farmers who need to laser level, will be delayed as the late harvest finish made laser levelling impossible immediately after the harvest.



### What's going on in the sugar regions?

The 30th ASSCT (Australian Society of Sugarcane Technologists) conference was held in Townsville 29th April 2 May 2008. It showcased the latest sugarcane research and extension activities.

Margaret Menzel  
ACFA Burdekin Director

#### Central Regional Report

Despite February's flood rains across the region, farmers are now looking to the heavens for at least 100mm of rain.

Paddocks are now dry and the crop has failed to develop over the last month.

The crop is now very likely to be lower than initial estimates and will suffer badly if rain does not fall immediately.

ACFA has been presenting awards at the annual productivity awards being held in the Mackay Sugar area.

Mackay Sugar's restructure proposal will be explained to farmers this month.

The last proposal failed to get 75 per cent acceptance. The new proposal has been formulated after an extensive survey of members and has full board support.

A number of farmer meetings are planned.

Ross Walker  
ACFA Central Region Director

#### Southern Regional Report

On the same day as record rainfalls occurred in Mossman, Bundaberg, Isis and Maryborough farmers began pushing the buttons to start the irrigation pumps.

The early heavy rain has left crops with little root development and this makes the shock of returning dry more serious. Some areas of the farm need water while other areas need drainage.

Sugar pricing options have been released and Millers are hoping farmers will attend information sessions. It is important farmers fully understand the options available. Small group meetings would seem to be best and ACFA can help with arrangements.

Smut resistant varieties are going out in nucleus quantities as of mid March.

Autumn planting is being revived as farmers strive to find a balance with rotational crops and Spring time work loads.

24/7 harvesting and the loss of workforce to the mining Industry is driving the need to even the workload throughout the year.

People are happy to work in the sugar industry but individual arrangements are necessary to get that employer/employee trust to work.

Hourly rates aren't everything and this is where we can fight back against the big Miners. We need to stop the brain drain.

Crop wise, 2008 is looking good, so the

## What's going on in the sugar regions?

Southern Region has at least a good start to the season.

Mike Hetherington  
ACFA Southern Region Director

### New South Wales Report

Autumn conditions in New South Wales have seen cool nights with still mild days.

The cane has certainly slowed its growth with crop estimates yet to be finalised however most believe that the new South Wales industry will certainly not reach the same

figures as last year.

The high input costs involved in growing cane is driving growers to look at alternate fertilizers and or farming systems to reduce these costs.

Soya bean crops are looking quite good in some areas and will give these growers a much needed cash injection as grain prices are currently at extremely high levels.

Wayne Rodgers  
ACFA New South Wales Director

## Short and Sweet

Cellulosic ethanol to surpass corn...in 14 years

It's going to take nearly a decade and a half, but cellulosic ethanol will overtake corn ethanol, according to an enzyme maker.

Cellulosic ethanol, in terms of volume, will surpass corn ethanol production in 2022, that's 14 years away.

The time is needed mostly to scale up. Ethanol production in the U.S. is around 7 billion gallons a year.

Cellulosic ethanol is still in the experimental stage.

Kenya: Residents Say Eviction is Unfair

Residents on land earmarked for growing sugarcane in Msambweni District have resisted a move to evict them.

The residents said they had lived on the land for years and it was unfair for the Government and the investor to evict them without a notice.

Workers of Kwale International Sugar Company, the investor who plans to build a sugar factory in the area, yesterday started clearing crops and plants on two farms. Farmers in Ramisi, Msambweni District, salvage what they could after part their crops were uprooted by workers of an international sugar company, on Tuesday. The company plans to plant sugarcane on the land.

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Leading farmers into the future

# the Australian Cane Farmer

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## ACFA services

### Publications:

The Australian CaneFarmer - published eleven months per year.  
Australian Sugarcane - the leading R&D publication - Bimonthly.

**Representation:** ACFA has a proven record of fighting for farmers where others have either given up or not begun.

**Branch Network & Local Representation:** Make use of your local ACFA branch, call your local director or visit [www.acfa.com.au](http://www.acfa.com.au).

**Corporate services:** World sugar news, Market information, Politics, Local sugar related news, Wage & industrial relations, information Environmental

matters Water issues.

**Industry surveillance:** ACFA is constantly monitoring matters relevant to canefarmers.

**Insurance:** General insurance - ACFA insurance is the market leader. It has the largest share of cane farm general insurance in Qld & Australia:

- Crop insurance
- Life insurance & personal accident insurance - ACFA insurance provides life & personal accident insurance via AON and Australian Casualty & Life.
- Financial planning - ACFA members have access to AON financial planners.

**Pays:** For a low fee, ACFA members have access to an automated pays service.