



SRA District Manager Northern & Agricultural Machinery Specialist Phil-Anthony Patane with Tully grower Jamie Dore.



MEET YOUR NEW MATE IN THE FIELD

Harvest Mate is a free web based portal and app designed to help cane growers and harvesting contractors capture additional cane and sugar yield from the paddock.

Using industry data and economic analysis, *Harvest Mate* is a practical framework to optimise harvest settings to increase yield and revenue.

Harvest Mate provides growers and contractors with an opportunity to increase cane and sugar yield. Industry trial results showed an average of five per cent increase in yield with the potential to deliver an additional \$116/ha, after paying both harvesting costs and levies.

It was developed and funded over three years by Sugar Research Australia (SRA) and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, (DAF) with input and support from sugarcane growers and contractors across the industry.

It is easy to use and free, making it accessible to anyone who wants to improve their harvest practice in Australia.



Register today at harvestmate.au

Download the FREE app from Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

For more information visit sugarresearch.com.au

SRA acknowledges the invaluable research contribution by economists from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) for the development of this tool, as well as funding from DAF for its delivery.



**Queensland
Government**



1. ONCE-OFF USER PROFILE SET-UP FOR HARVESTING CONTRACTORS (ALLOW FOR 45-60 MINUTES)

Fixed Costs are also entered here. These can also be entered automatically if you have completed the 'Fixed Cost Calculator' – to access this click on your profile (top right of screen) and a drop-down menu will appear.

Enter the Harvester Repairs and Maintenance figure for your business. Ensure that the value is an average of consecutive years.

Step 1

Enter your harvester, haulout and labour details under the 'Machinery & Labour Setup' section.

Step 2

Enter your group details (such as roster) under the 'Group & Operational Setup' section.

Fixed Costs are also entered here (can also be entered automatically from the 'Fixed Cost Calculator').

Note: This is done pre-season but can be adjusted in-season if required. Updates in successive seasons would take less time.

Step 3

Under the 'Group & Operational Setup' section you can invite growers who are part of your harvesting group.

This allows them to upload their block information automatically from mill estimate data.

Note: The grower being invited will need to have created a profile already.

2. BLOCK/CROP INFORMATION INPUT (3-5 MINUTES PER BLOCK)

To calculate the block specific outputs in the App, you need to load block and crop specific data to the 'Infield Logistics' section.

This section is to be completed by the growers in the group and or harvesting contractor.

Step 4

Add the relevant Farm to the 'Infield Logistics' section.

Step 6

Add the relevant Farm to the 'Infield Logistics' section.

Step 5

Add blocks (if required) and enter in the outstanding block and crop information.

All block/crop information is required if the grower has not uploaded their estimate data.

Following **Step 6** the assigned blocks can be accessed via the comparison scenarios section or in the App.

Note: Ensure that all block and crop information is entered correctly with all fields completed otherwise this will impact blocks not being correctly assigned to the group and harvester.

3. INFIELD APP USE (1-2 MINUTES PER BLOCK)

To determine the most economically optimal settings on the day of harvest, use the *Harvest Mate* App on your smart phone.

Step 7

Select the relevant block on the App and update any inputs if required (e.g. if conditions are damp or the crop has lodged).

Step 8

Click the 'Predict' button and select the most relevant harvester settings for your business.

The most economically optimal settings are labeled with a ★ however this may not be the most practical for your business.

Block Results

| Block Agronomy | Harvester | Grower |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|
| Standard | ★ Predicted | (F) |
| Cost (\$/ha) | 781 | 774 |
| Cost Change (\$/ha) | -8 | -5 |
| Cost (\$/t) | 8.88 | 8.42 |
| Cost Change (\$/t) | -0.46 | -0.46 |

XYZ FARMING | Trial Block

Date: 11/2/2022

Group: XYZ Farming

Block #: Trial Block

Crop Variety: Q252

Crop Class: first ratoon

Yield (T/ha): 88.6

Moisture: dry

Topping: moderate

Presentation: sprawled

CCS (t/ha): 14.60

Ground Speed (km/h): 6.8

Run Speed (RPM): 730

PREDICT

4. COMPARISON SCENARIOS (2-5 MINUTES PER BLOCK/ REPRESENTATIVE AREA CALCULATION)

After you have updated the 'Infield Logistics' section and linked blocks to a group/harvester:

Select the group and grower/s you are considering a harvesting scenario for.

Allowances can also be added here if applicable.

Select the predicted settings on each block (or select the standard settings if no change is required).

Once settings have been selected for a grower, calculate the average costing outputs for the grower.

This will show the average change in harvesting cost and the expected net benefit for the grower.

Note: These outputs can be used pre-season to assist growers and contractors to explore scenarios.