Sugar Research Australia

SSP

Queensland Government

PATHWAYS TO WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MYRTLE CREEK SUB-CATCHMENT

PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT PROBLEM

Exceedances of nutrients and pesticides in the Myrtle Creek.

METHODOLOGY

Ten grower-led demonstration trials were established to monitor paddock-scale run-off water quality on farms in the Myrtle Creek.

TRIALS IMPLEMENTED:

- Drop N rates in old ratoons
- Account for N in mill mud
- Nitrification inhibitor
- Bobcat i-MAXX vs Flame and Atradex
- ENTEC®
- Valor® 500WG vs standard practice
- Band vs blanket spray
- Confidor® Guard vs suSCon maxi Intel®
- Dual Herbicide Sprayer Trial - knockdown interrow treatments

OUTCOMES

The demonstration trial results align with previous research, which support practices such as:

- timing application to avoid run-off for at least the first 20 days after application
- incorporation of herbicides and nutrients with irrigation can assist in improving water quality
- less on, less off.

FARMER SNAPSHOT

Justin changed his pesticide application method to band spraying, cutting down on the application of expensive selective herbicides in his paddocks. Justin also had his rig checked by DAF extension staff and is modifying his rig to improve herbicide application under different situations.

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