

WHERE ARE YOU ON THE SMARTCANE BMP JOURNEY?

By Kate Gowdie
Smartcane BMP Manager

The Smartcane Best Management Practice (BMP) program commenced in 2014, and with well over 95% accredited grower retention, is one of the most successful industry-owned accreditation programs of its kind. Smartcane BMP accredited growers manage over 30% of Queensland's cane area.

Becoming certified is an opportunity for you to have your farming practices officially recognised as meeting or exceeding the industry standards.

The program is currently experiencing exceptionally high uptake, with over 160 accreditations in the past 12 months and total accreditations now exceeding 560.

Participation in the program is completely voluntary and available to all Queensland cane growers.

The Smartcane BMP program, managed through CANEGROWERS, has funding through the State Government, which currently enables us to provide registration, self-assessment/benchmarking, pre-audit and/or auditing services at no cost to the grower.

This funding is available until 2022.

The journey to accreditation involves registration, followed by a self-assessment to benchmark your farming practices against industry standards.

"For some growers, moving from benchmarking to accreditation involves little more than tweaking of records."

Over 75% of the Queensland cane area has been benchmarked against the Smartcane BMP core industry

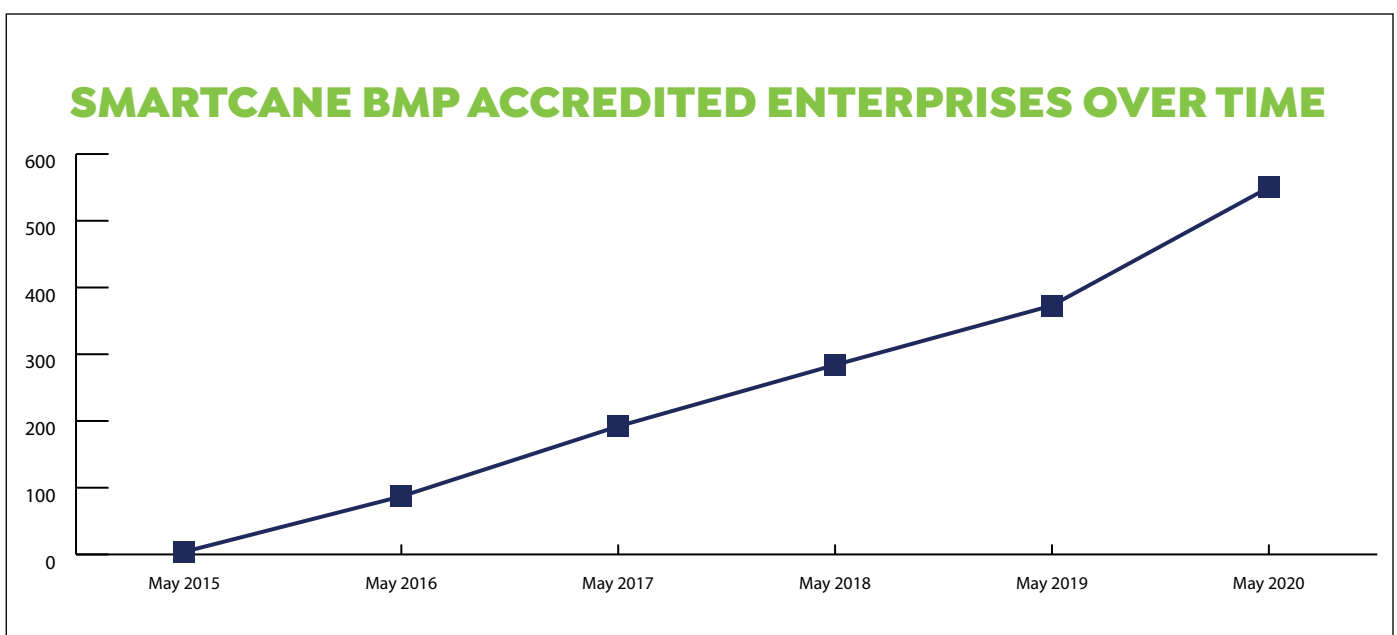
standards for soil health and nutrients, irrigation and drainage, and weed, pest and disease management.

For some growers, moving from benchmarking to accreditation involves little more than tweaking of records.

Others may seek to change some of their practices, their equipment or their record-keeping tools before embarking on accreditation.

As every business is different, the time it takes to complete the Smartcane BMP accreditation journey is different for everyone.

If you are yet to register or have been benchmarked for some time and are unsure about how you can progress, please contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator who is there to assist you every step of the way.



THE SMARTCANE BMP JOURNEY



REGISTRATION

Yet to register?

Visit www.smartcane.com.au and click on the Register tab on the home page or call your local Smartcane BMP Facilitator.

SELF ASSESSMENT

Completed your self-assessment and are now benchmarked?

Do you need to update your assessment?

Access the grower home page of the Smartcane BMP website or contact local Smartcane BMP Facilitator for assistance.

NEED HELP?

Working towards accreditation but unsure how to proceed?

Contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator to help you reach your goals. Facilitators can provide you with record keeping tools and other resources to help you achieve accreditation.

ACCREDITED

Have you considered benchmarking your business against the Smartcane BMP non-core modules?

Visit the grower home page of the smartcane bmp website or speak to your facilitator to find out more.

Give us your feedback! How can we improve the Smartcane BMP program? To share your ideas, email BMP_Administrator@canegrowers.com.au.

Your journey to Smartcane BMP accreditation checklist

- Register details on the Smartcane BMP database
- Complete self-assessments/benchmarking in the minimum three core modules (1-3) captured on the Smartcane BMP database
- Use results of self-assessment to identify areas for improvement (if required) and implement before progressing to the next step
- Undertake an on-farm pre-audit
- Successful audit = Accreditation
- Check/Surveillance audit conducted between 1-5 years
- Reaccreditation audit conducted at five years

Our network of facilitators with a wealth of industry expertise and Smartcane BMP know-how are here to assist you on your Smartcane BMP journey. Find your nearest facilitator by visiting www.smartcane.com.au ■