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NEWS RELEASE

Wilmar opens Proserpine Mill to growers

Wilmar Sugar Australia opened the doors to Proserpine Mill this week to show local growers where the magic happens.

About 35 growers attended the annual grower tour – well up on last year's numbers.

Proserpine Mill Production Superintendent Damien Kelly said the event gave growers the chance to see the mill in full crushing mode.

"It's a great opportunity for us to show our local growers the inner workings of the factory and give them an appreciation of the complexity of the sugar manufacturing process," Mr Kelly said.

"They got to see the process from the cane coming into the mill through to shredding, extraction, clarification, evaporation, drying and storage," he said.

Mr Kelly said the tour also gave growers more insight into how sugar manufacturing by-products are used sustainably.

"We guided them through the process of how bagasse is used as a major source of renewable energy that feeds electricity back into the grid.

"They saw a truck being loaded with mill mud, which is returned to farms as a soil ameliorant and nutrient source for cane.

"We also explained how the molasses is separated and then sent to our BioEthanol plant in Sarina to use in fuels, plastics, make-up, aerosols and a host of other products," Mr Kelly said.

Proserpine Cane Supply Manager Tony Marino said the tour was followed by food and refreshments at the mill's social club, giving millers and growers the chance to come together in a more relaxed atmosphere.

"We had a slow start to the season due to rain, but we're well and truly making up for lost time," he said.

He said the mill had now processed more than 500,000 tonnes of cane – about one-third of this year's 1.58 million tonne crop.

"Growers were generally happy with how the mill's been running this year and a few said the mill was so much cleaner than they had expected.

"It's great to get this sort of positive feedback."

ENDS



Proserpine Mill Production Superintendent Damien Kelly (right) with grower Danny Lawrence chat after the Wilmar tour.



Grower Dennis Madeo checks out the sugar fagalling process at Wilmar's Proserpine Mill.



Proserpine Mill Production Superintendent Damien Kelly (back) shows growers a mill mud being loaded. Mill mud is returned to farms to be used as a soil ameliorant and nutrient source for sugarcane.