

AgDat

2011

Reef Rescue has funded AgriServ's Kevin Moore to help deliver AgDat to the sugarcane community.



Reef Rescue Case Study: AgDat

Kevin Moore's role with AgriServ helps to deliver AgDat to the sugarcane growers.

Funding provided through Reef Rescue has been essential in developing a new farm management recording system currently being implemented in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region. AgDat and the AgDat remote unit allows growers to easily and accurately record any work undertaken on a property to ensure the most efficient management is being carried out, both economically and environmentally.

To ensure growers receive adequate support Reef Rescue is also funding Kevin Moore from AgriServ to help develop and deliver the project to the cane community.

Developed by Agtrix in conjunction with MAPS and Mackay Sugar, AgDat enables growers to record farm activities at a spatial level. "Information on nutrient, chemical and irrigation applications can be recorded together with administration details and any farm management changes allowing for more informed decision making and

better comparisons between years," said Kevin.

"Through AgDat growers will also be able to view a range of other data from various sources including pest and disease records, planting records, mill data and environmental data all adding to best farm management practices."

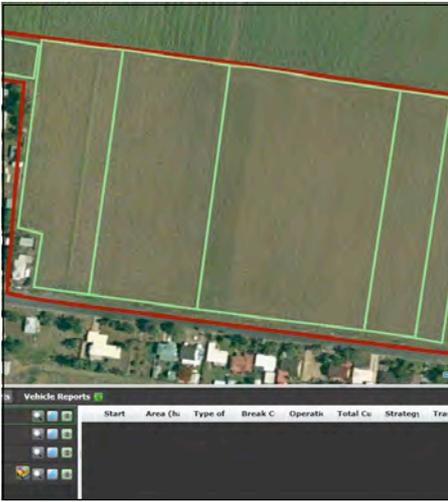
When recording daily management activities such as the application of chemicals, AgDat can display each paddock with a running total of exactly how many kg's of active ingredient have been applied per hectare for each chemical and aggregate this throughout the year.

Reef Rescue is funded through the federal government's 'Caring for our Country' program.

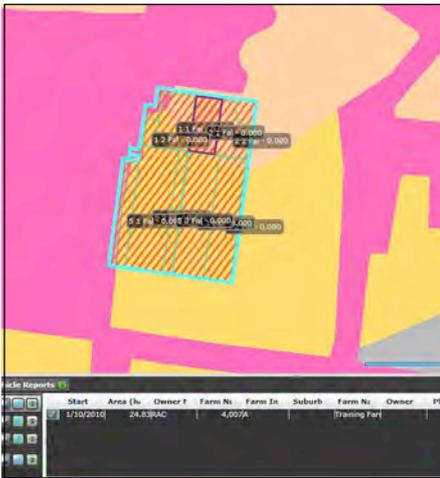


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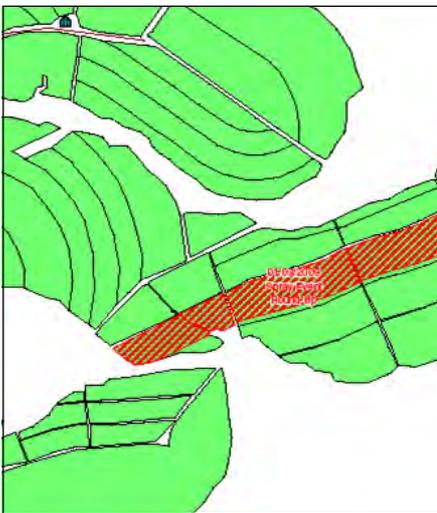




Aerial photo of a paddock



Changing soils across a paddock



Reef Catchments

Reef Catchments is the regional NRM body who oversees the Reef Rescue program in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region on behalf of the federal government.

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This will result in more efficient use of chemicals and less chance of over application resulting in run off into streams and waterways.

When using AgDat, growers enter the data via a secure logon through a web interface to the server housed at secure local CDN's. Each grower creates their own unique log on and only they can access and view their own property and information. All grower information is separate and cannot be viewed by anyone with a log on. Information entered into AgDat can be exported to an Excel spread sheet which can be kept as a hard copy for records and used as evidence of compliance for Reef Regulations.

While AgDat information needs to be entered while at a home PC or laptop, currently being developed is an AgDat remote unit which allows growers to record applications in the field. The remote unit which looks similar to GPS monitors common in tractors today allows growers to enter data from easy to use drop down options as it is done.

Growers are provided with all the options in the remote unit available in the AgDat programme which is transferred back to the web interface through an internal Sim Card. "Allowing growers to enter information as it is occurring will have huge time saving benefits for growers," said Kevin.

The remote unit has a GPS tracking built into it to record exactly where on their property the grower has been working. This eliminates the possibility of covering any area with more than is desired. Growers can then log on from their home computer and see the work they have done that day.

"We have had good feedback from the growers that have been trialling the unit," said Mr Moore. The AgDat remote unit is eligible under Reef Rescue's Water Quality Grants with growers eligible for up to 50% funding.

As part of the support role funded through Reef Rescue, Kevin Moore has been working to develop further the potential of the AgDat system and to provide support to growers that might want to start using AgDat.

Currently Kevin is organising AgDat training courses for growers that wish to learn how to use the web based system. These courses, also funded through Reef Rescue, are being run by CANEGROWERS and have been oversubscribed to date. "More courses will be run in the future," said Kevin.

If you are interested in finding out more about AgDat contact Kevin Moore from AgriServ on ph (07) 4968 6835 email: kmoore@maps.org.au