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Agribusiness

RURAL confidence has weakened as Australia's farmers anxiously wait to see how the agricultural season will unfold, says the latest quarterly Rabobank Rural Confidence Survey. The survey found 36pc of the country's primary producers expected the agricultural economy to improve over the next 12 months. Significantly, 28pc of producers actually expected conditions to worsen over the next 12 months.

● **Nervous note to new survey, p17**

Cropping

ABUNDABERG-born chemist has helped develop a sugar-based artificial mineral that could sponge up oil spills and replace cyanide in gold mining. In what is great news for canegrowers, Mick Moylan, a research chemist and PhD student at the University of Melbourne, is helping university colleagues develop a new class of materials that could spawn an industry for custom catalysts, molecular sieves and materials for nanotechnology.

● **Sugar sponge hopes, p23**

Livestock

ANOTHER significant development in the animal identification and traceability field came recently when a new product providing secure lifelong identification for cattle was launched. Fast, accurate and permanent animal identification is now possible using the novel combination of an ear tag and a DNA sample collector matched with a unique code. Ear tag manufacturer Allflex has developed the new DNA tag in association with a Brisbane biotechnology company.

● **DNA traceback, p37**

sheep

AUSTRALIAN annual budget development and rise to \$96 million disappear altogether. The WoolPo released details of five possible le on the amount of development and conducts in future will take place by f October and Nove

● **AWI levy hangs**

Dynamic duo drives transport industry

SATURDAY will be a red-letter day for Terry and Daphne Nolan, Gattton's first family of trucking, the operators of Nolan's Interstate Transport, will join an elite group when they are inducted into the Shell Rimula National Road Transport Hall of Fame in Alice Springs.

It's a fitting tribute to a family business whose cornerstone philosophy, 'In pursuit of excellence, with pride and professionalism', is emblazoned on a monument outside their Gattton administration building.

The Nolans are among trucking magnates, manufacturers, importers and associated bodies, workshop operators and individuals to be inducted as part of the annual celebration of Australia's road transport pioneers.

The Hall of Fame ceremony is part of a jam-packed weekend of road transport celebrations expected to attract thousands of trucking pioneers and local heroes to Australia's red centre.

Fellow Queenslander Barry Clough, a trucking enthusiast, who with a fleet of Internationals ran an earthmoving business, will also be honoured. Like his father Ewan, Barry is a great lover of the transport industry and devotes much of his time now that he is retired restoring the classic trucks of yesteryear to their former glory. - **Story: REBECCA WINTER. Picture: RODNEY GREEN.**



with
MARK PHELPS
Editor

SH

A glass ha

FARMERS - they're a resilient a long time between Darling Downs graingrowers crop. Now, with the prospect harvest dangling within arm's temperatures and the first plague are dampening prospe

But Warra farmer Stuart opting to view the glass as snag a decent fall of rain, he barley can reap almost four to and his confidence has been the prospect of returns in the v

But Mr Schostakowski, farmers, is aware of the threats his chickens - yet. In the me, carton of Carlton Mid-Strength way.

● **Full story p5.**



WHOOPES! THE CATTLE