

# Case Study

## Type of Farming System

Both conventional and organic practices used.

## Products used in trial



## Background

The McCarty family have been farming on their East Palmerston property since 1935 and has been in production of bananas since the year 2002. Luke McCarty is a third generation farmer and the original land was cleared by his grandfather Jack McDonald in 1935.

This farming has both organic and conventional practices and the Bactivate program has been implemented across the farm.

During a new plant up of banana bits (corms) in 2013 in block 6A Luke McCarty was the first in the area to use Bioboost Plus and Bactivate in the plant drill. The objective was to treat for nematodes, cane grub and borers that can have devastating effects on the corms as they emerge. Applying BioBoost plus beforehand and Bactivate under each banana bit and Bactivate broadcast across each row was the method that emerged to prove the most outstanding results.



*Tree on the left planted with the Bactivate program and trees on the right without. All trees planted the same day.*

Farmer's Name: Luke McCarty  
Business Name: McCarty Bananas  
Crops grown: Cavendish Bananas

### Farm Data

Location: East Palmerston  
Area: North Queensland  
Established: 1965



*McCarty Bananas displaying outstanding results using the Bactivate program.*

## Outcomes and Benefits

Luke commented "In the blocks where the Bactivate program was used to treat borer, nematode and cane grub the result was fantastic". Further to the great results achieved it is now 3 years on and with the continued use of the Bactivate program Luke commented "Incredibly we are still picking into fourth ratoon on this block with **no** chemical input"

The entire McCarty farm has now been under program for 3 years applying Bactivate every 6 months in a granular form and Bactivate Bioboost Plus and Bactivate Seaweed Solution every 8 weeks.

***"In the blocks where the Bactivate program was used to treat borer, nematode and cane grub the result was great".***

***“Incredibly we are still picking fruit into fourth ratoon on this block with NO chemical input”***

At the Tully and District Show Luke McCarty recently won first prize for Best 3 Clusters and first prize for Best 6 singles in bananas in 2015.

The farmer, Luke McCarty using the program on other parts of the farm under conventional growing techniques and seen the results of a far “more malleable and permeable soils and vigour in the root system” evident when barring out of suckers is done when required.

The Bactivate products and programs are used across many different farms across North Queensland in varying crops.



*Luke McCarty on his East Palmerston Banana farm with one of the emerging bunches under program.*

