

mackay area productivity services



2019

Field Day
Booklet

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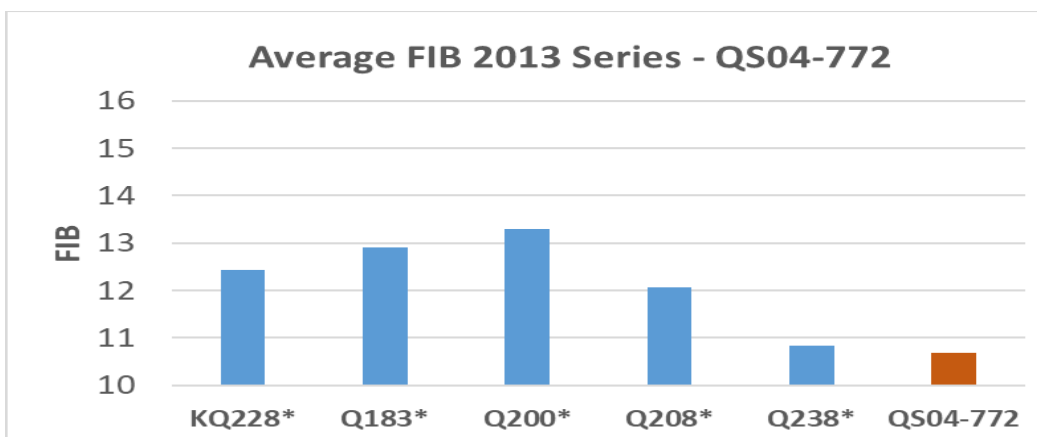
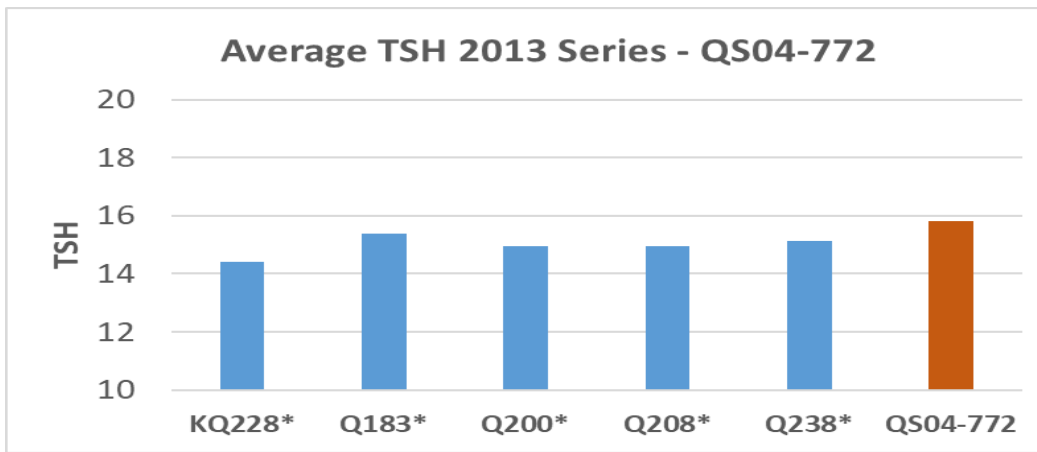
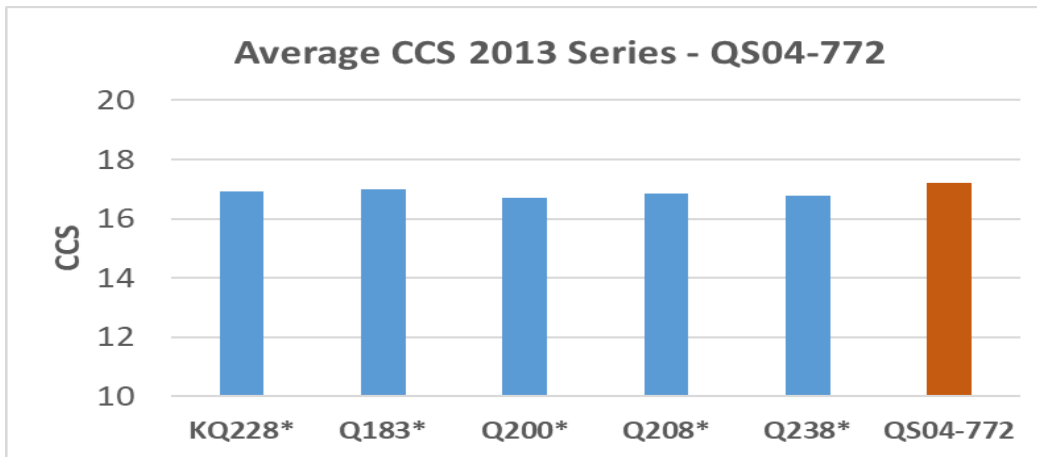
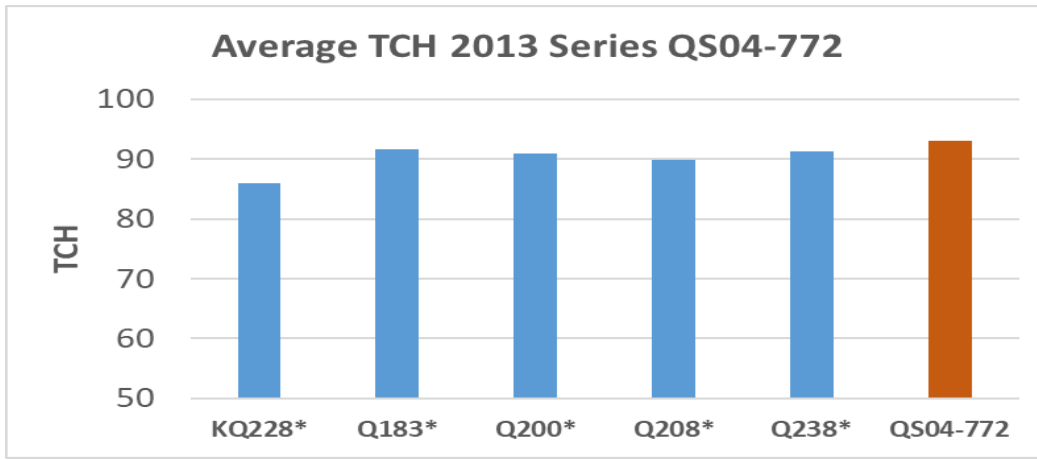


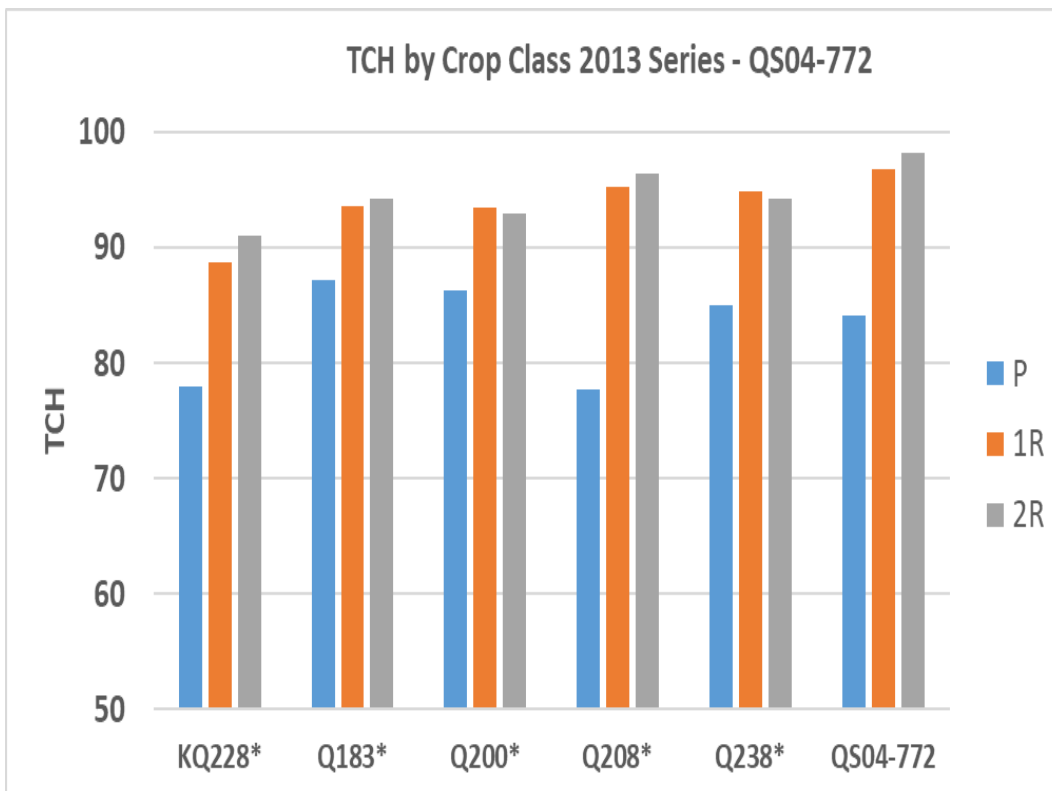
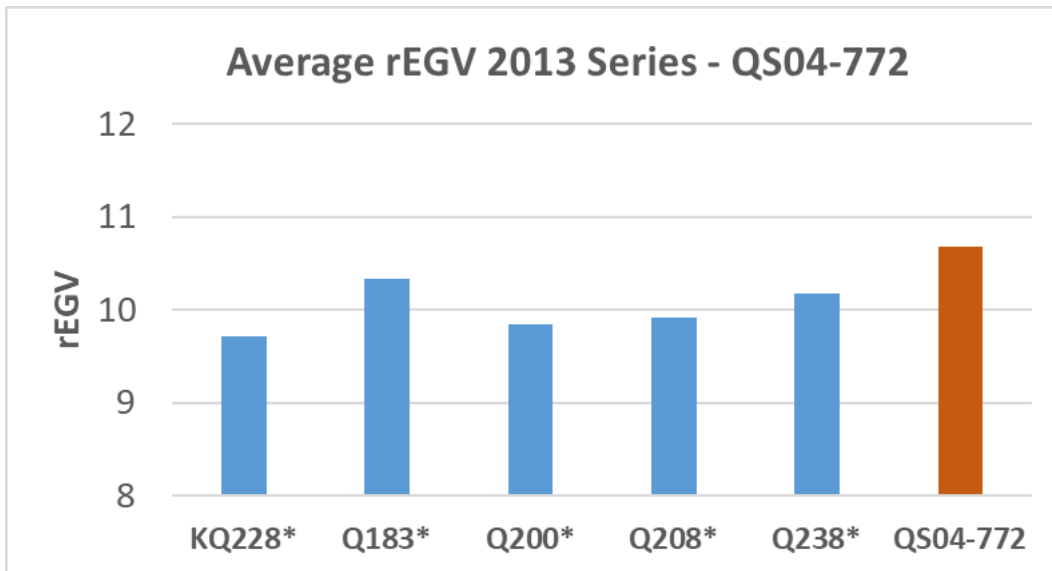
EHS Harvester Fronts

The role of the crop dividers is to align lodged cane of the row being harvested into the throat of the harvester and ultimately to the basecutters and roller train. The crop dividers also act to separate cane from the adjacent row and prevent this cane from becoming entrained with the harvested row. In order to achieve the actions of lift, align and separate, manufacturers have developed various configurations of crop dividers for example two crop dividers per side, straight spirals, tapered spirals, various inclination angles and cut-off saws between the spirals. It is difficult to find the best crop divider design because of the conditions in which crop dividers operate – green, burnt, medium to large to heavy crops, lodged in one direction, lodged in many directions, various ground speeds, harvesting with the direction of lodging and harvesting into the direction of lodging. EHS Manufacturing have developed a modification to the crop divider design – the aim of the modification is to provide more time to lift the crop before acting to align the cane into the throat and/or separate cane from adjacent rows. This has been achieved by the addition of a short, shallow angle spiral on each side, located between the existing spirals. SRA has fitted the EHS harvester fronts to three of its harvesters in order to test the benefits of the modified crop divider arrangement. The SRA Mackay harvester will be on site at the field day and you will have a chance to see them for yourself and hear how they work from Steve Lawn (EHS Manufacturing) and Scott Matsen (SRA Mackay).

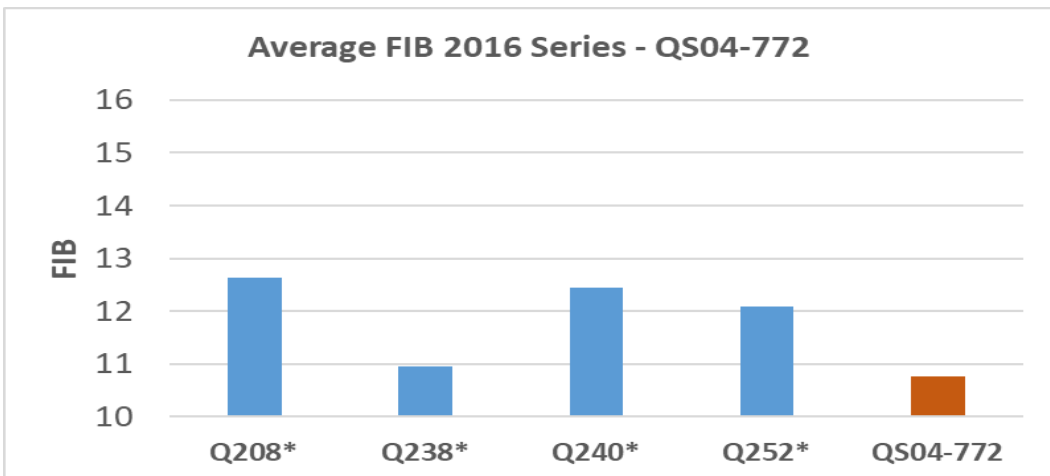
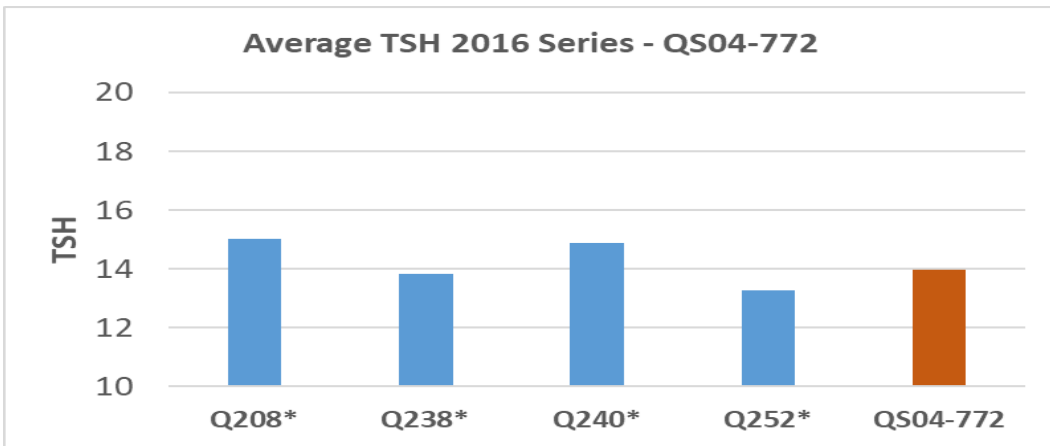
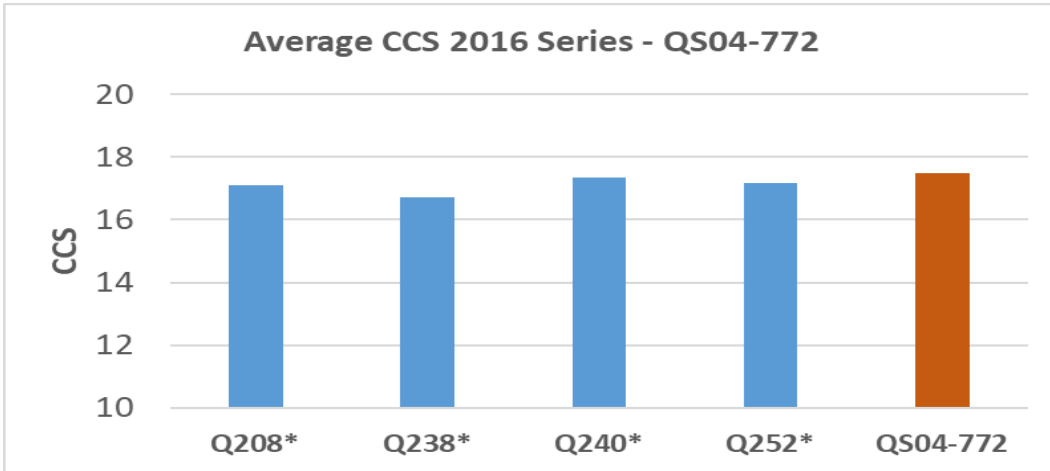
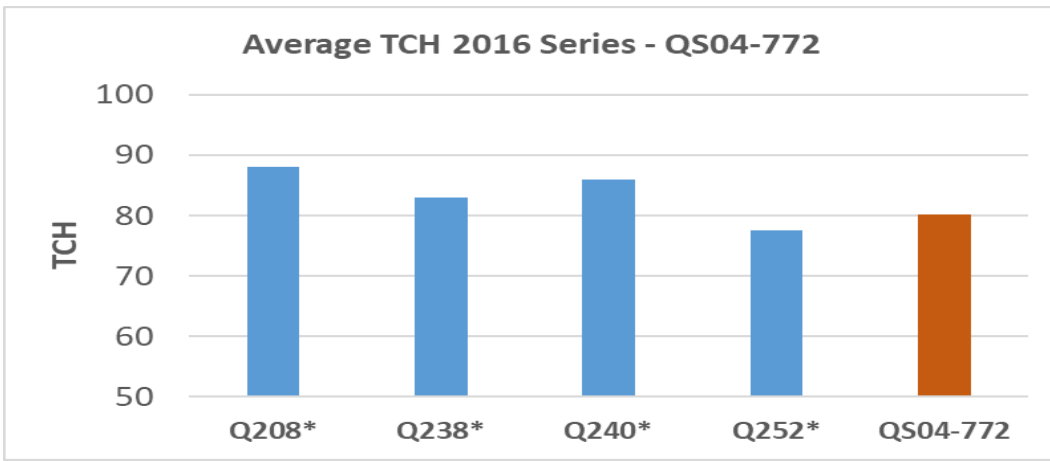


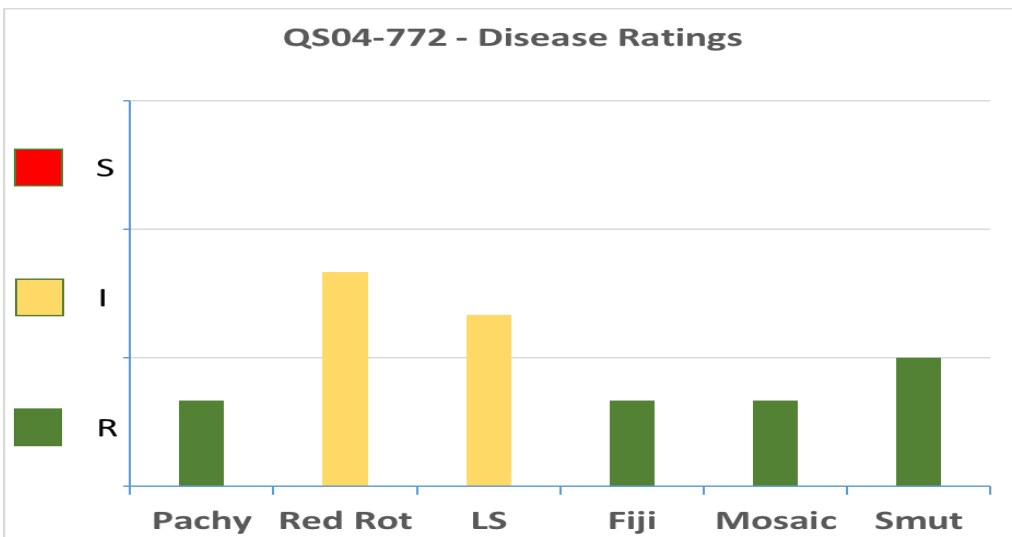
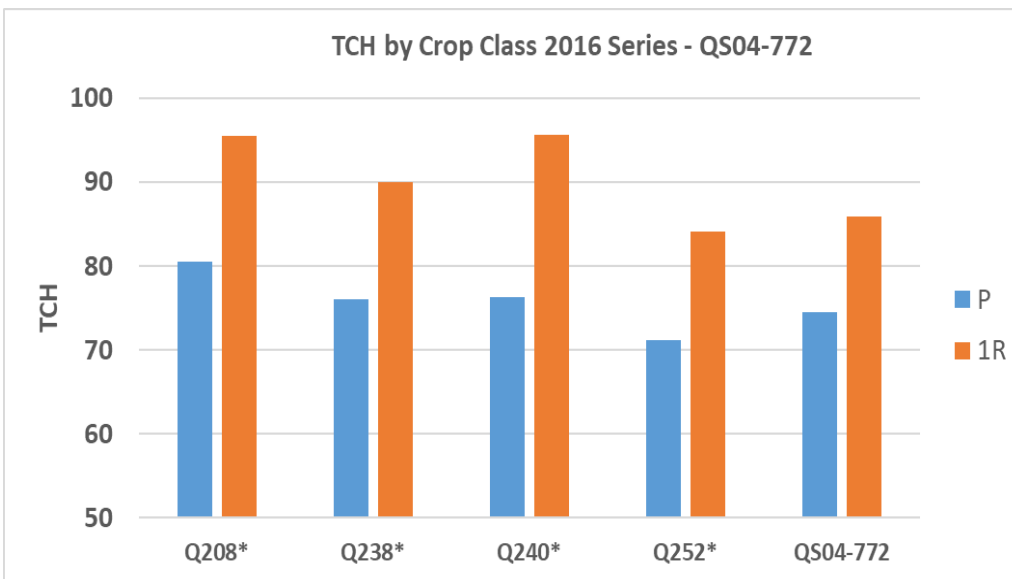
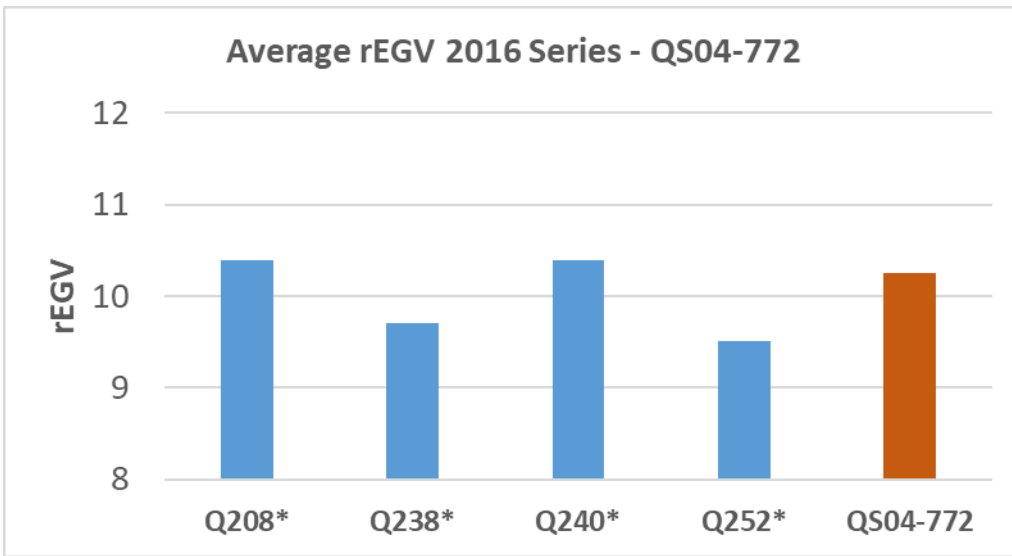
QS04-772 (QS91-7179 x CP72-2086) MAPS Distribution – 2020



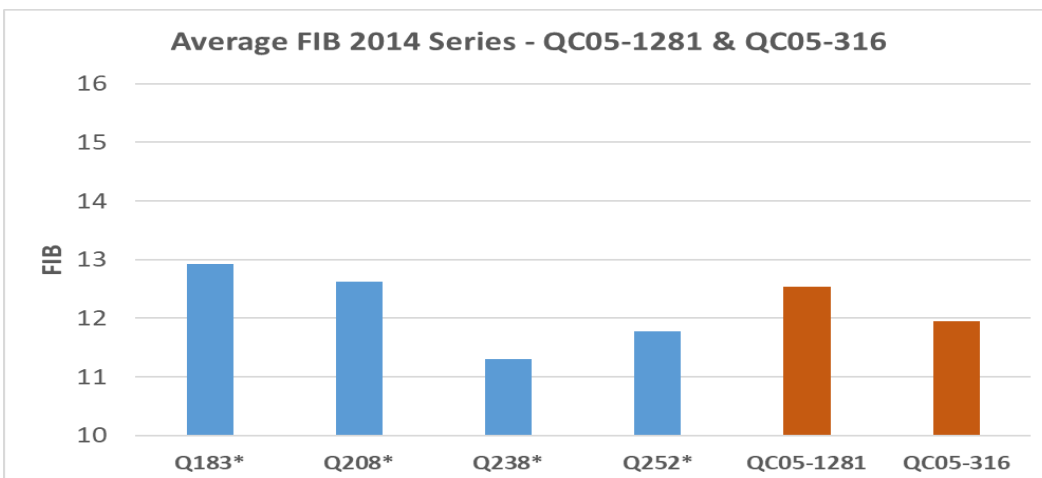
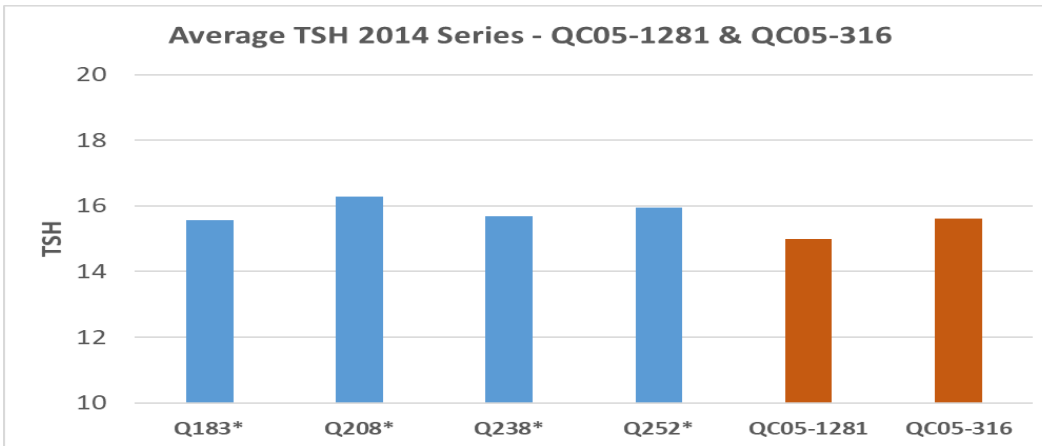
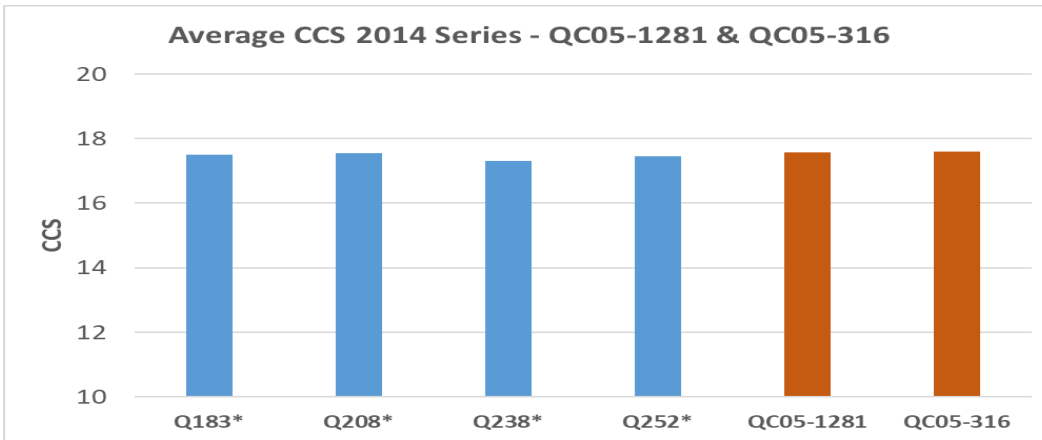
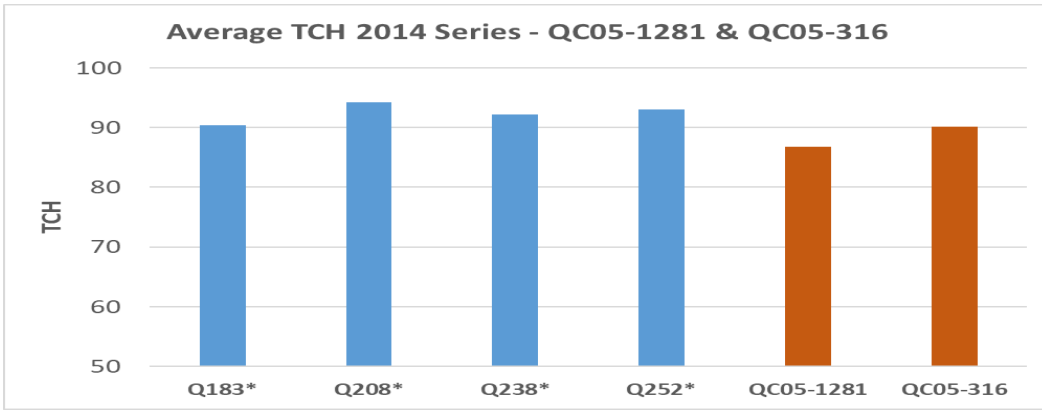


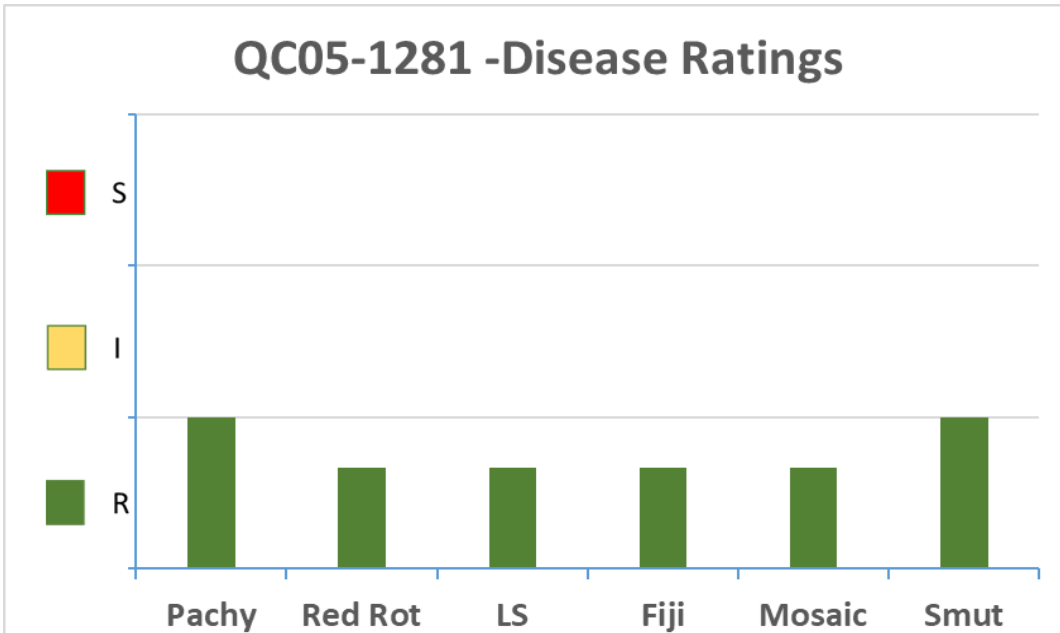
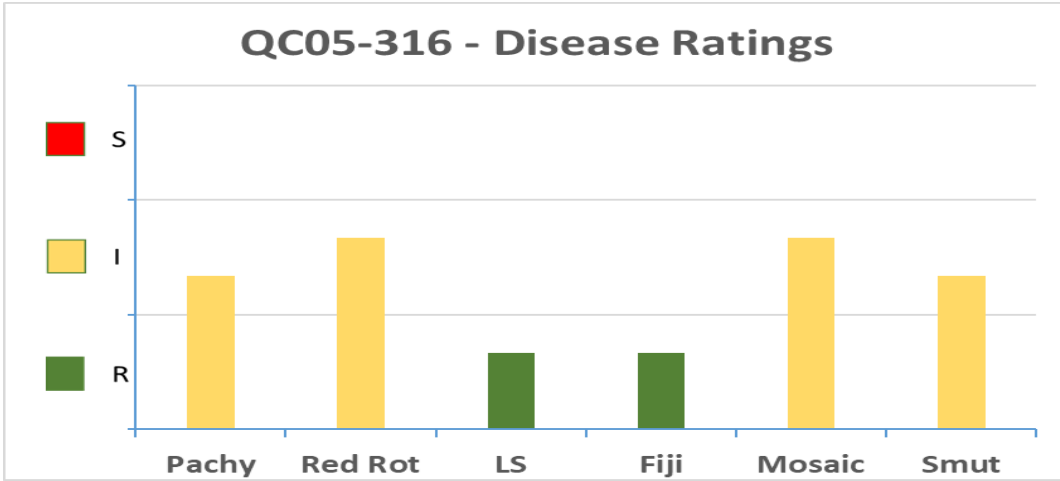
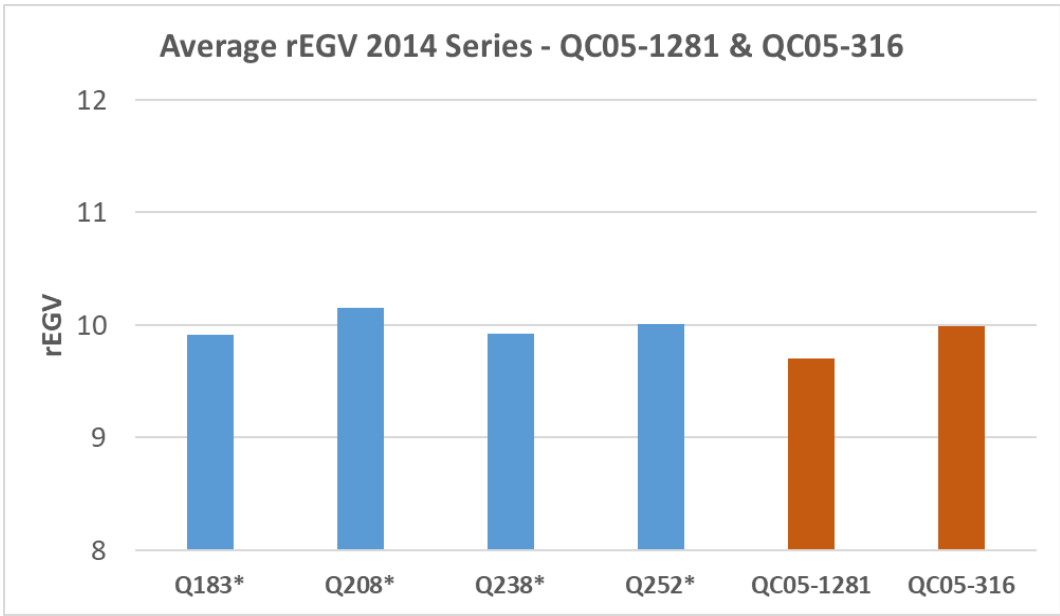
Key for graphs
 TCH - tonnes cane / ha
 FIB - fibre
 TSH - tonnes sugar / ha
 rEGV - Relative Economic Genetic Value



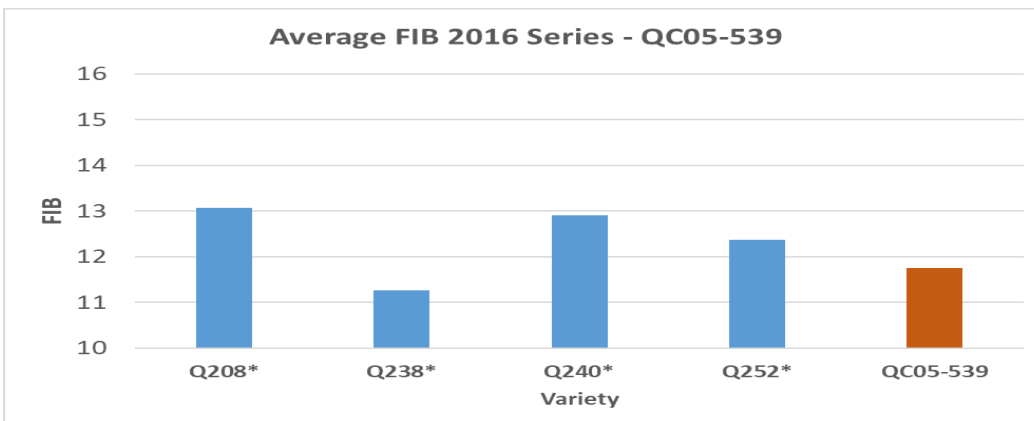
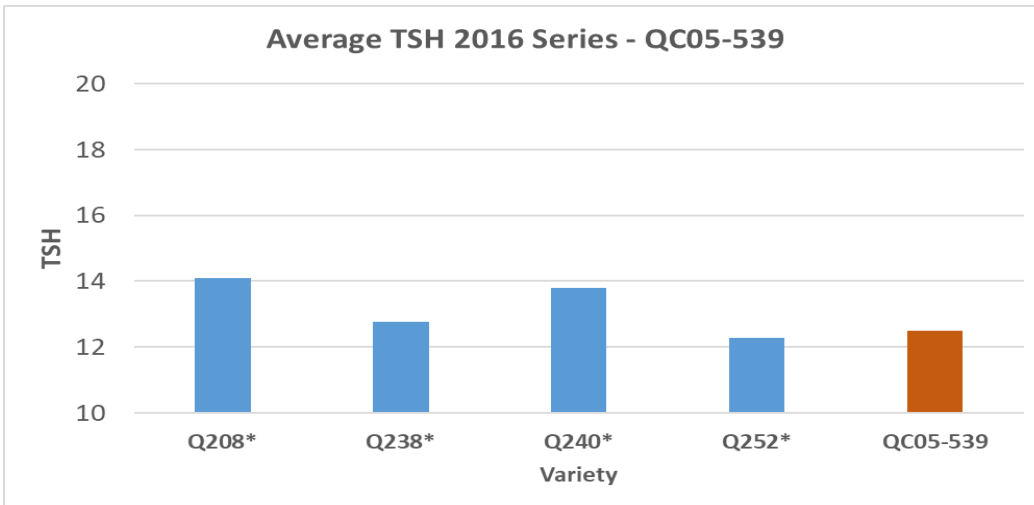
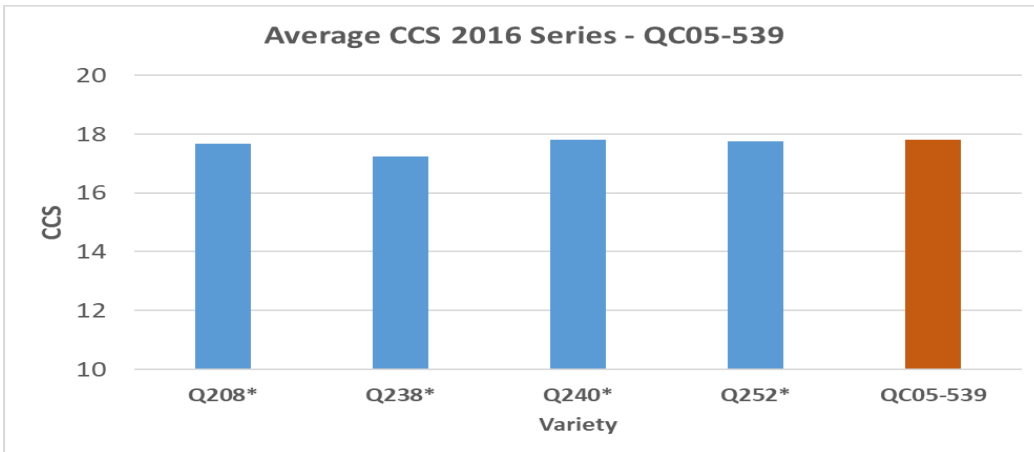
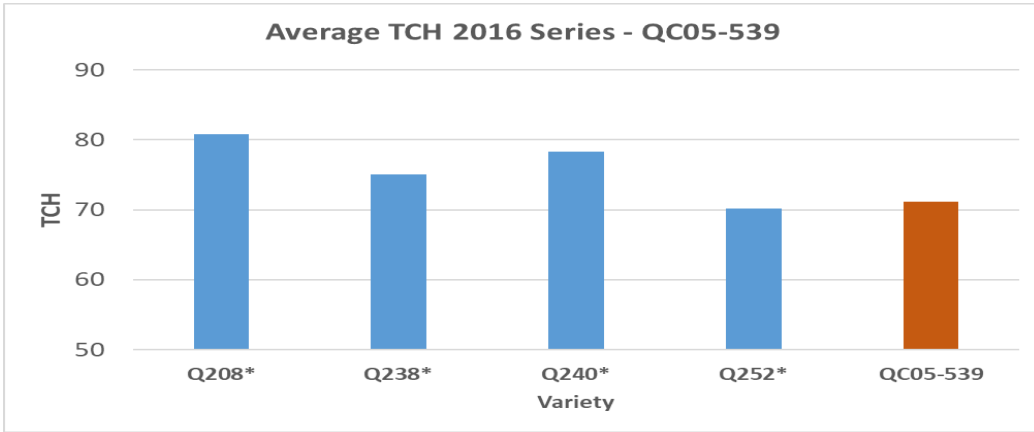


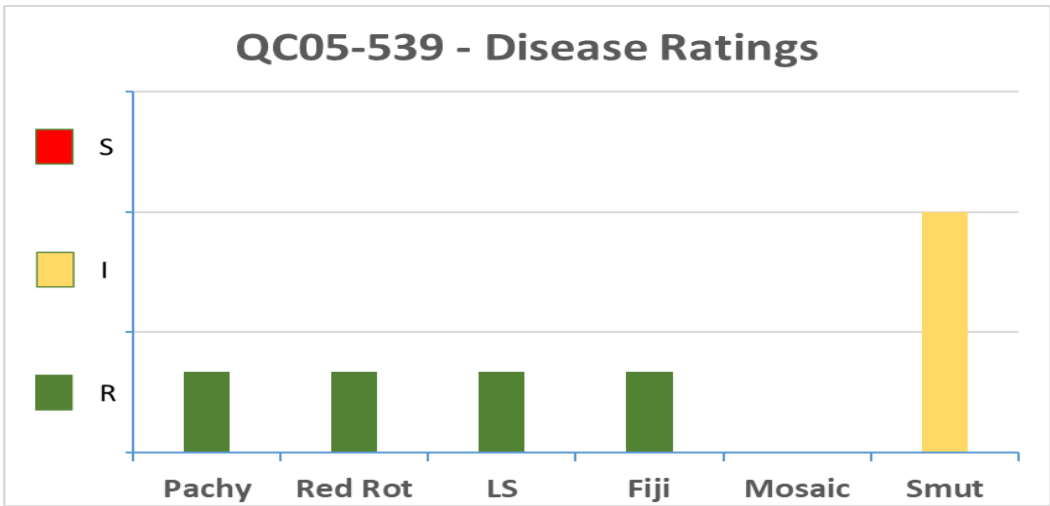
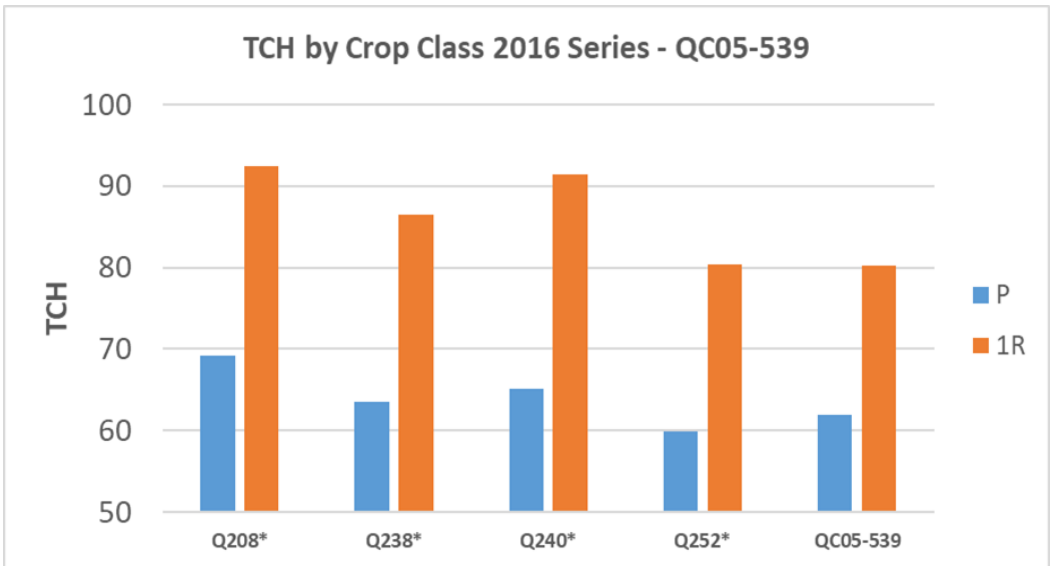
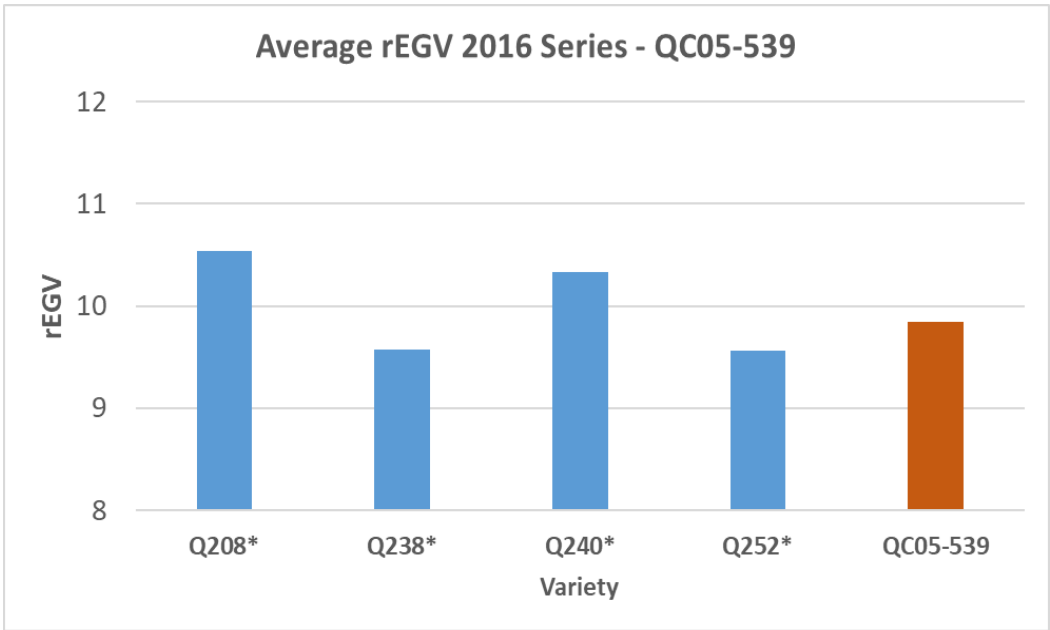
QC05-1281 (QS87-7427 x QC82 x 954)
QC05-316 (QC82-663 x Q205) MAPS Distribution – 2019



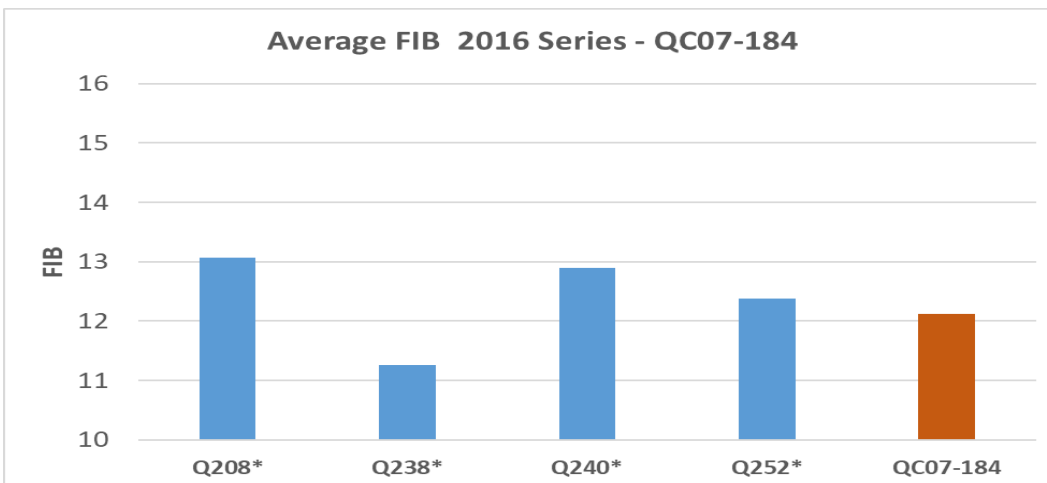
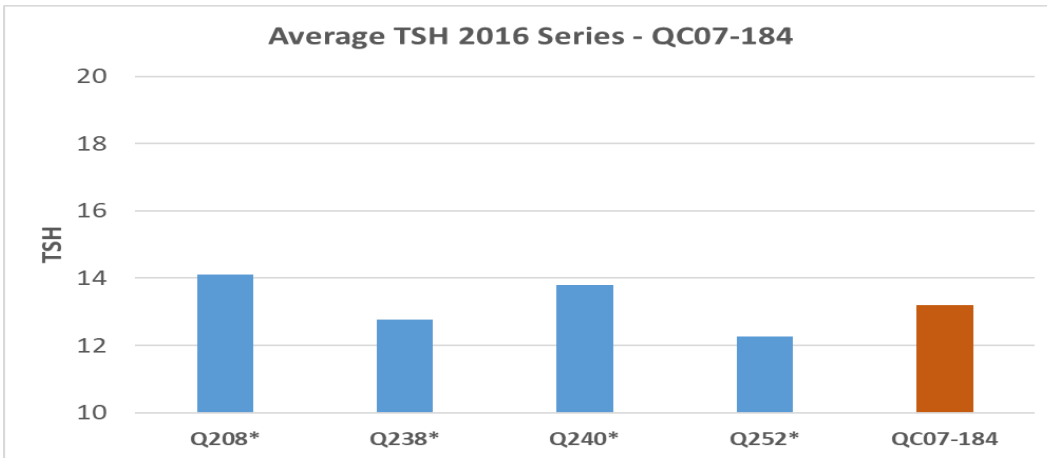
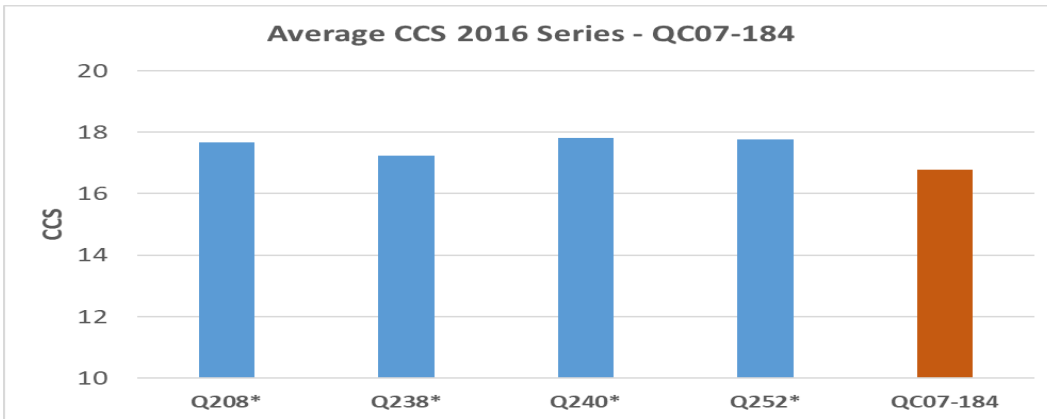
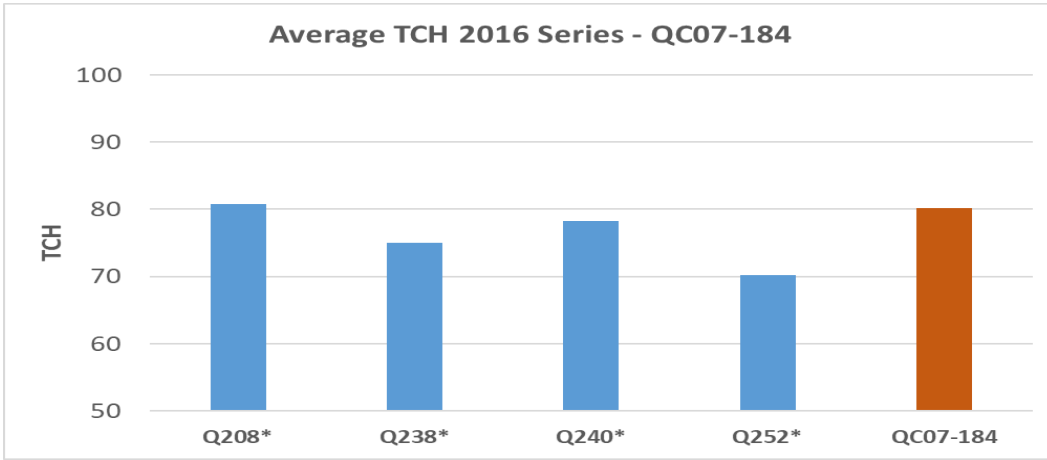


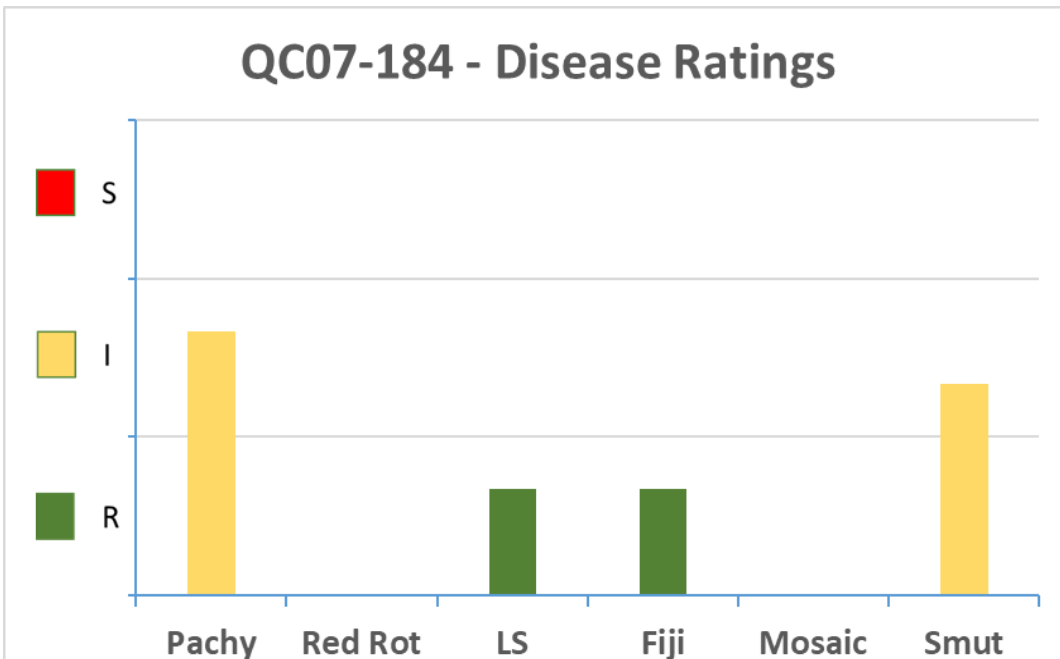
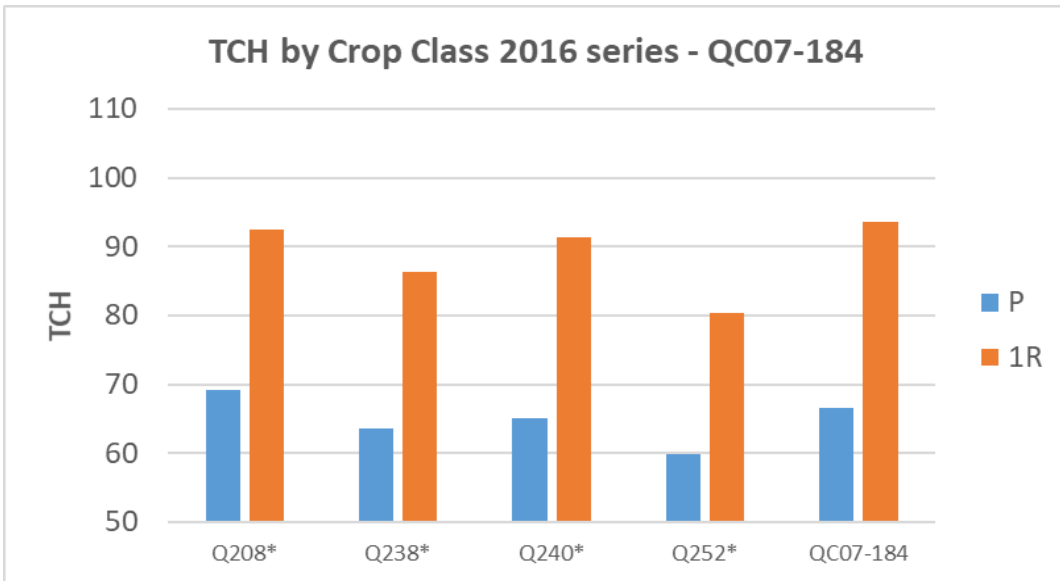
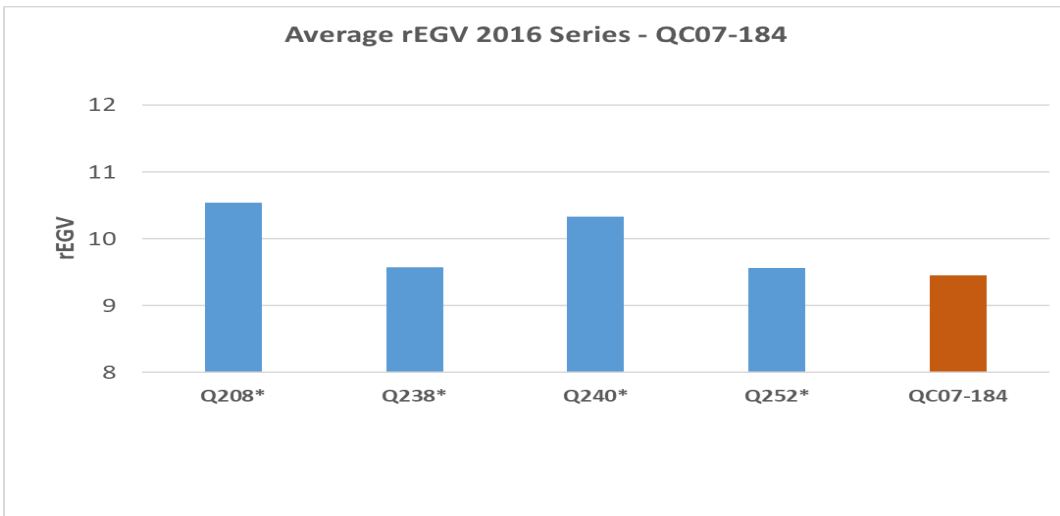
QC05-539 (QC90-289 x Q172)



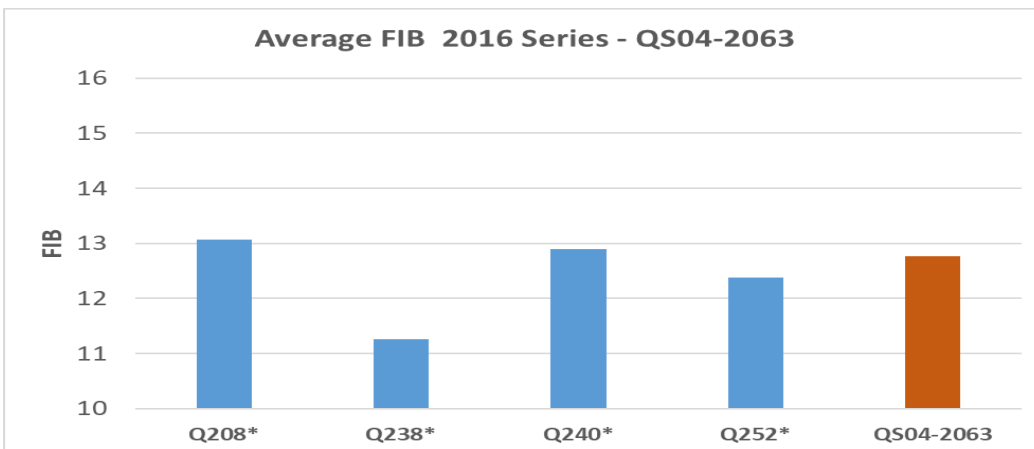
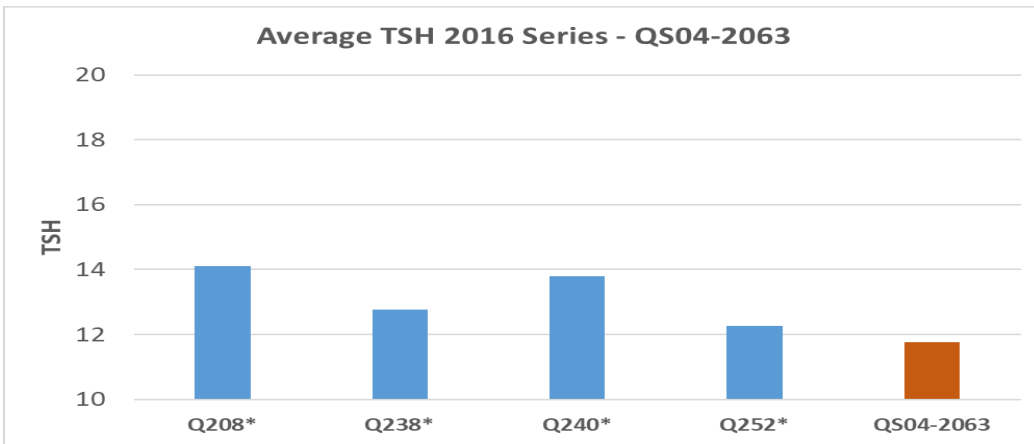
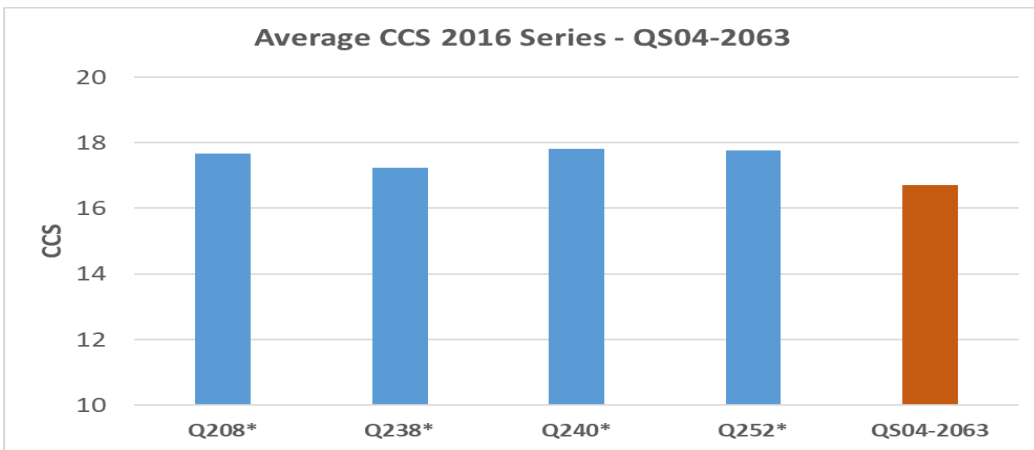
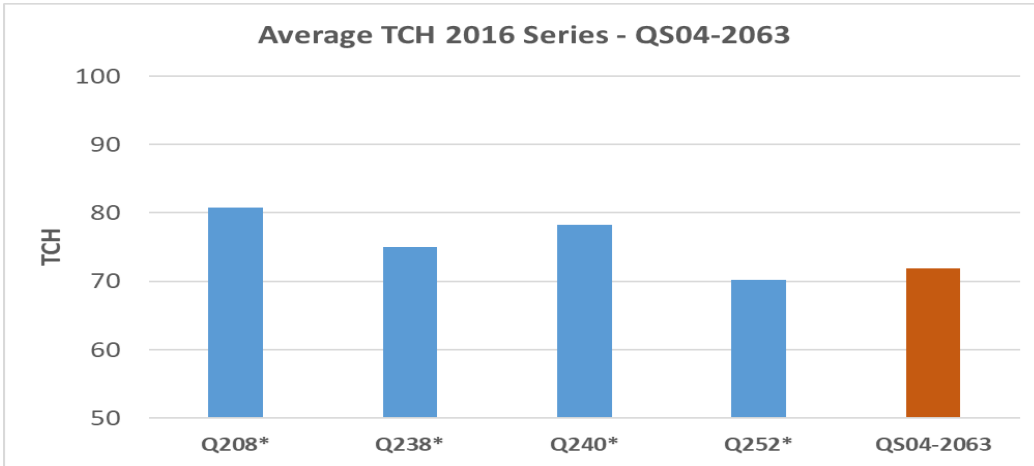


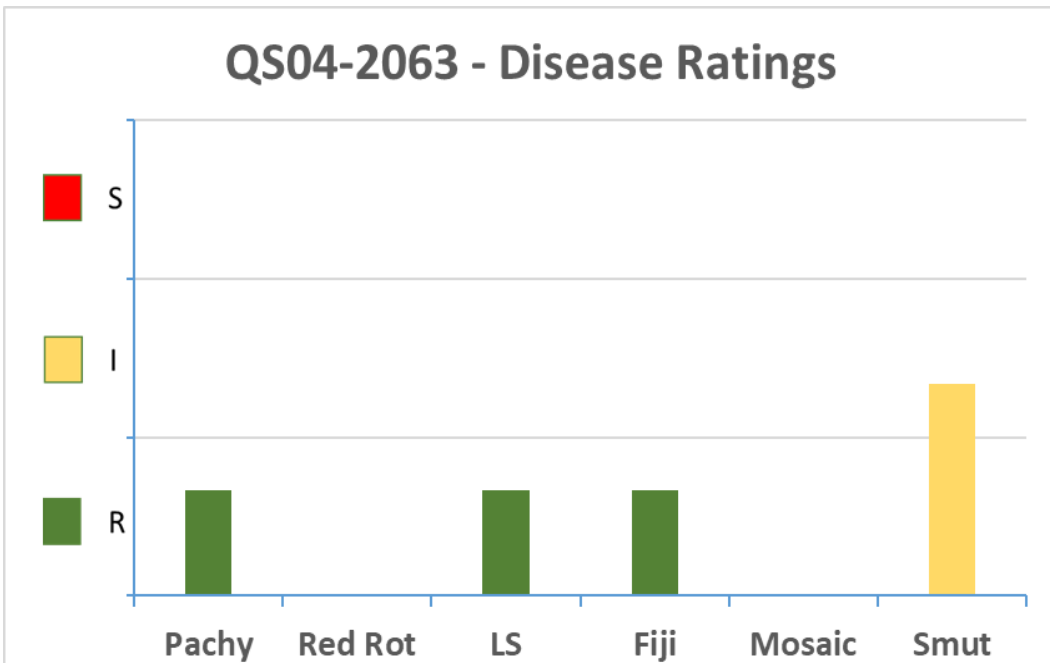
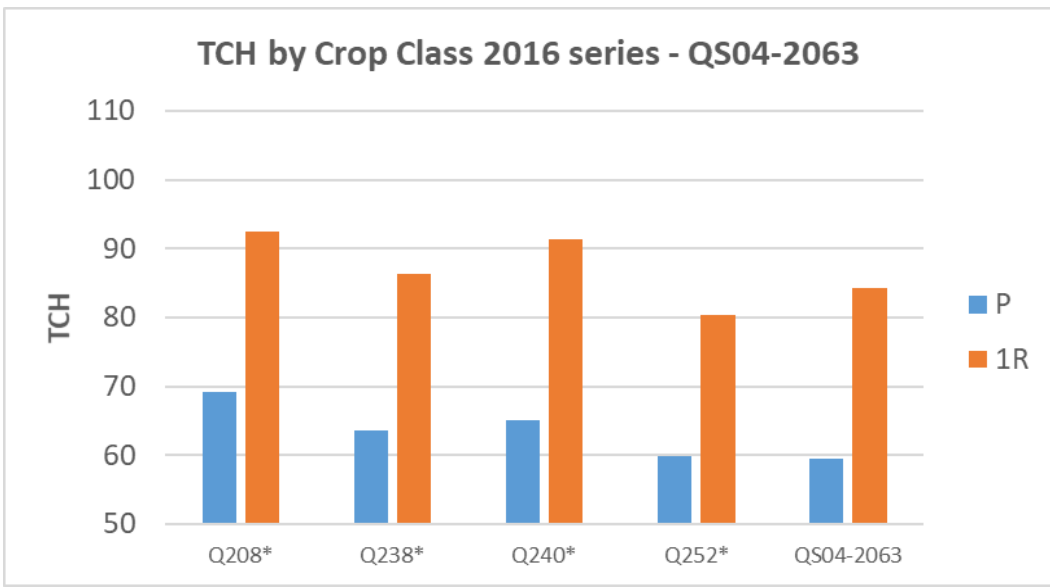
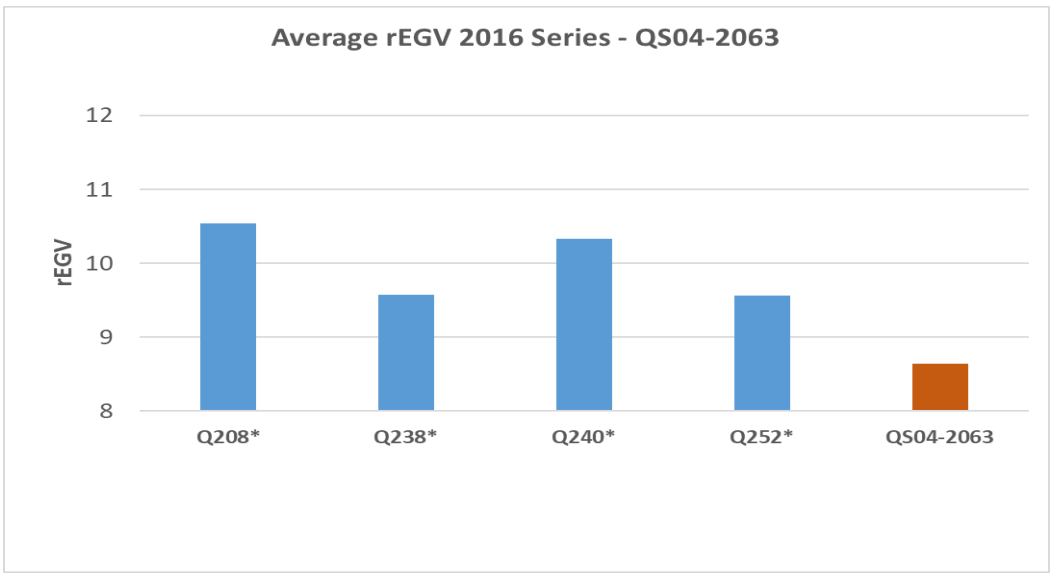
QC07-184 (QS90-6006 x BN81-1394)



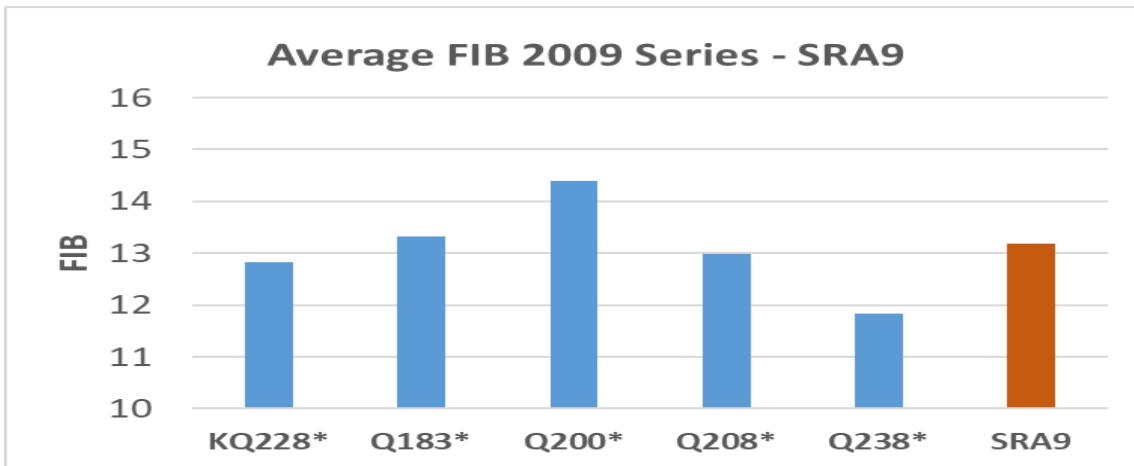
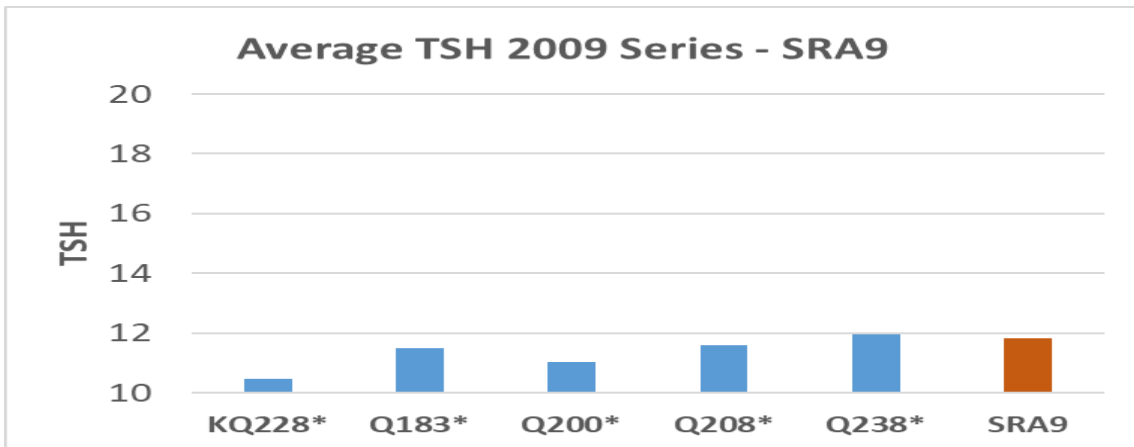
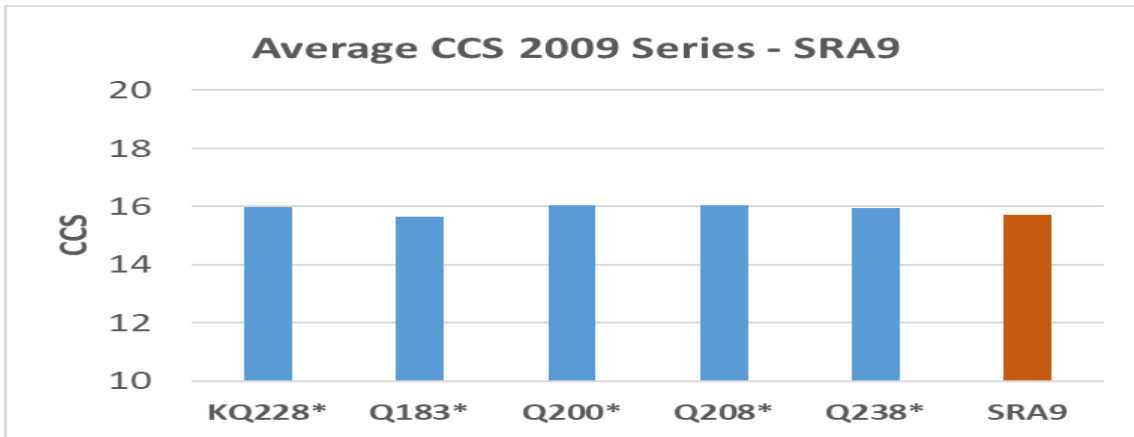
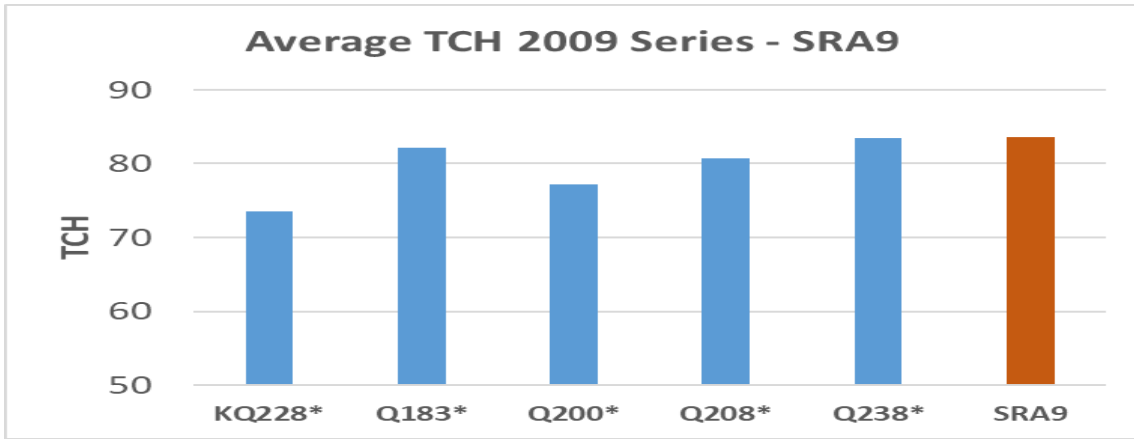


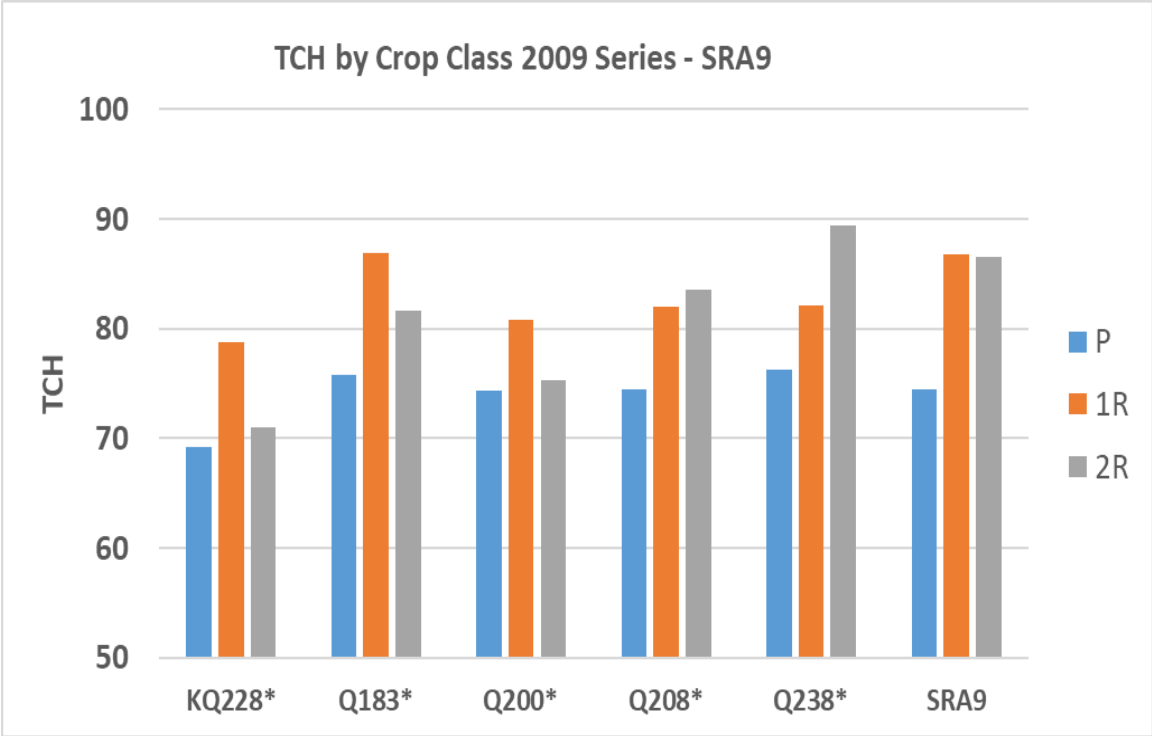
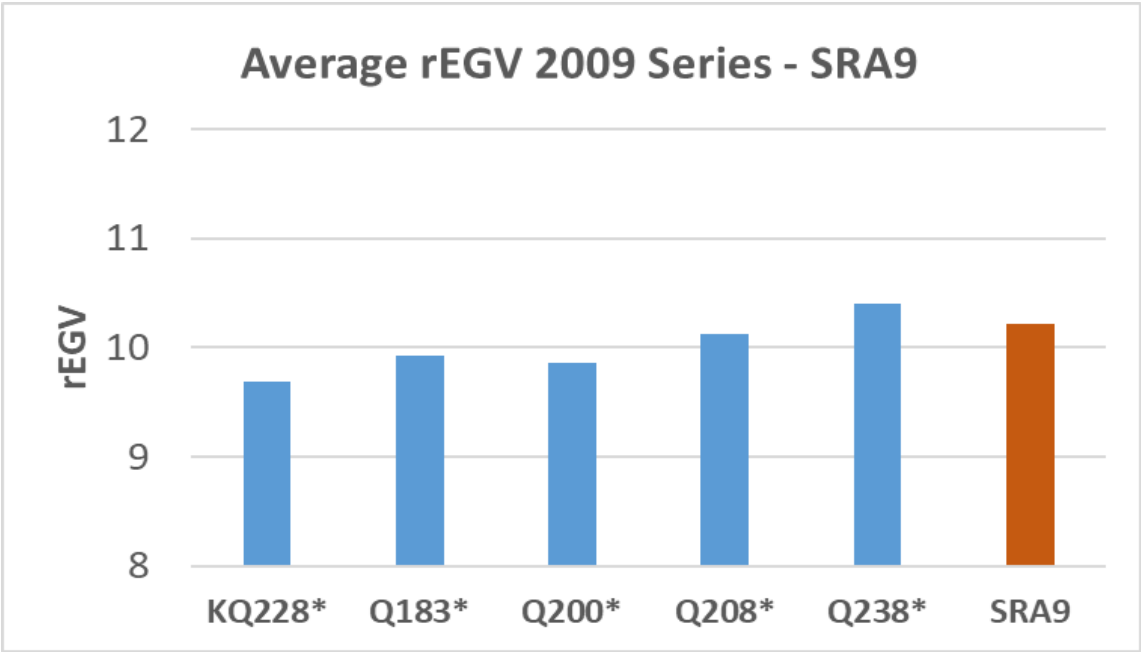
QS04-2063 (H74-4527 x Q155)

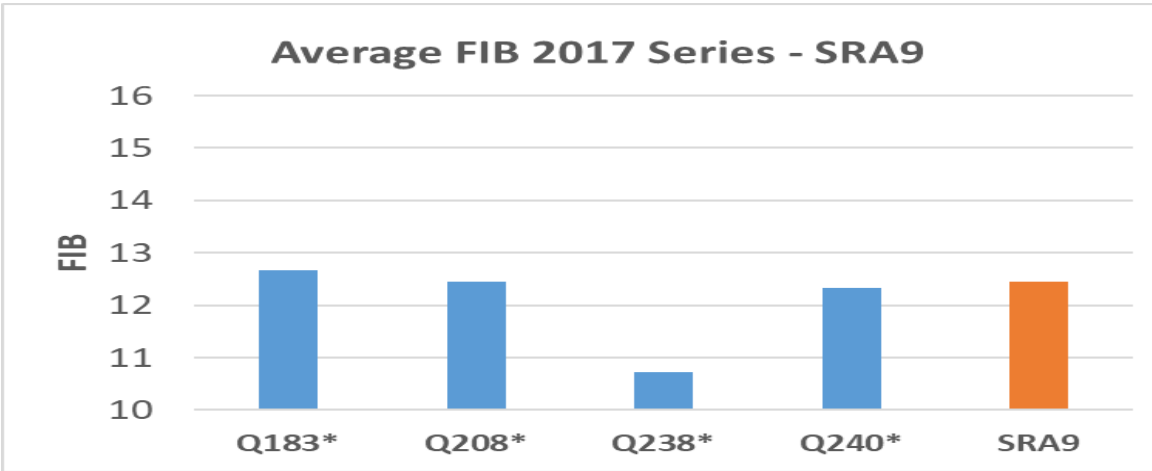
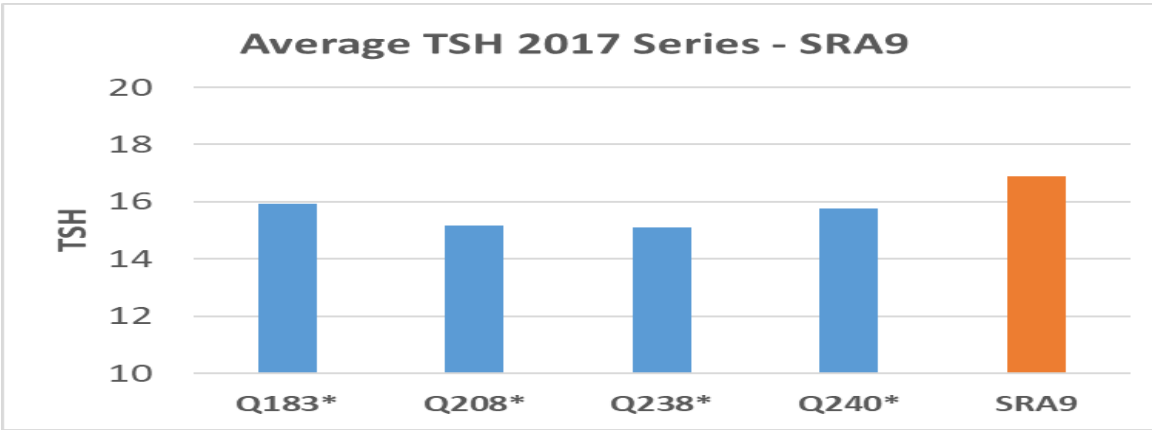
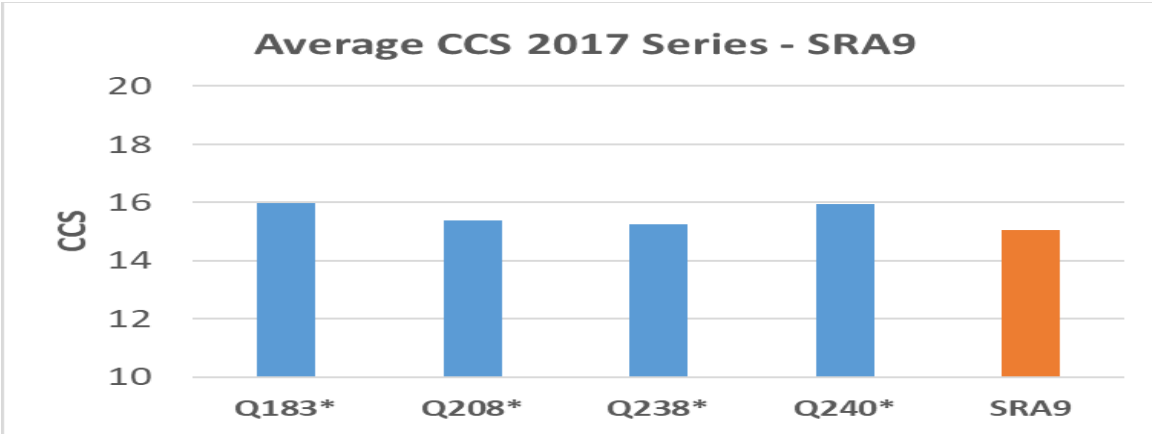
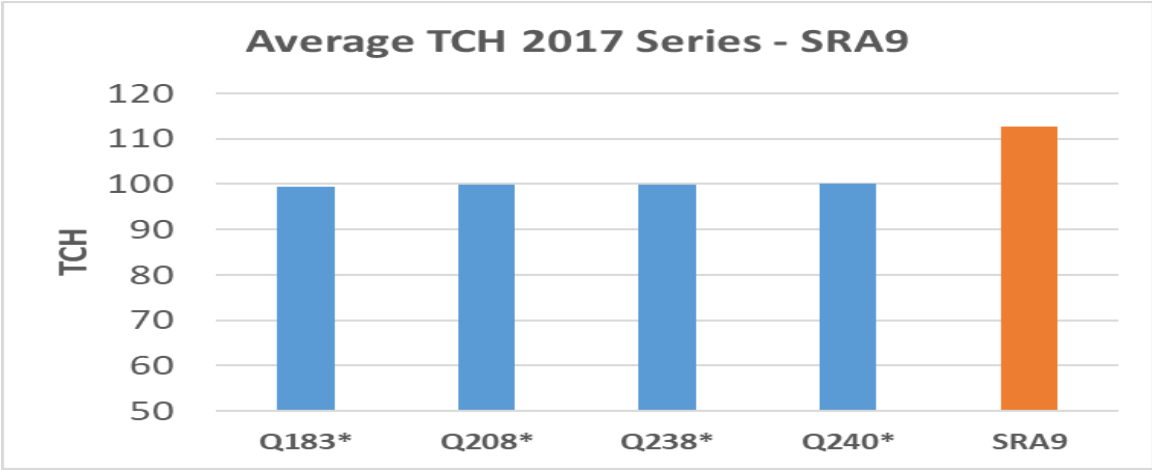


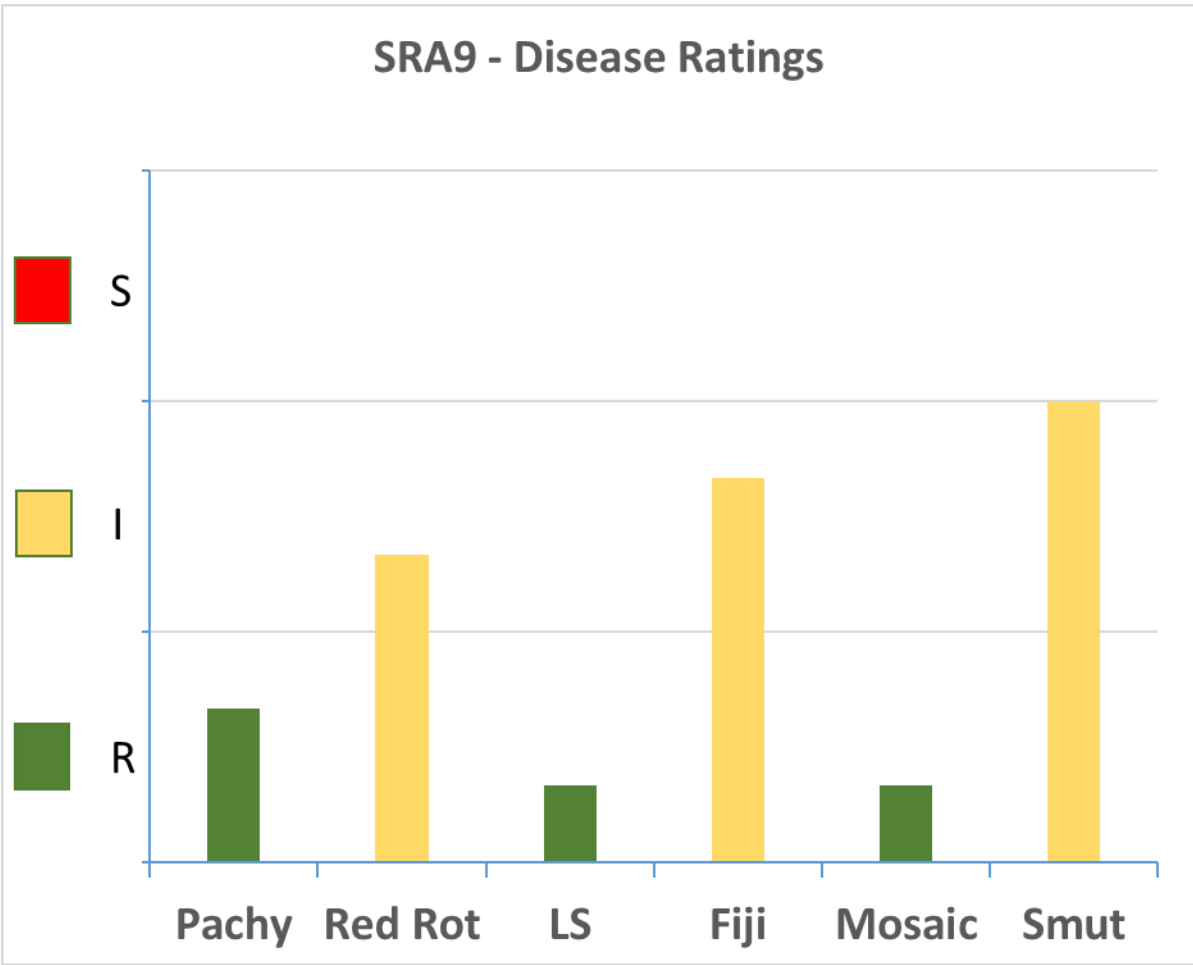
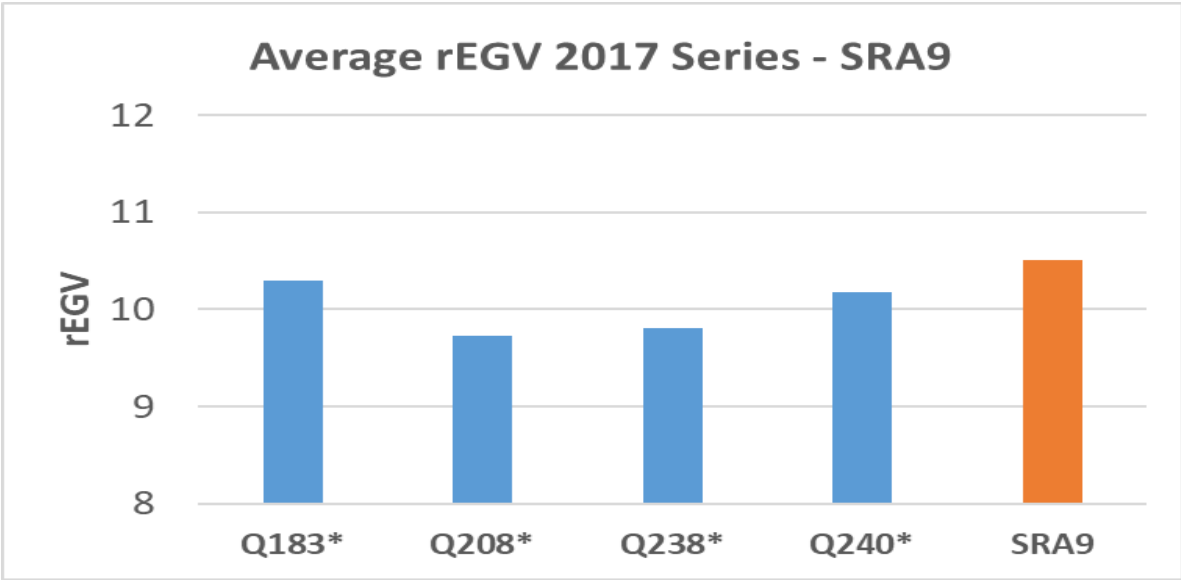


SRA9 (QN81-289 x Q166)

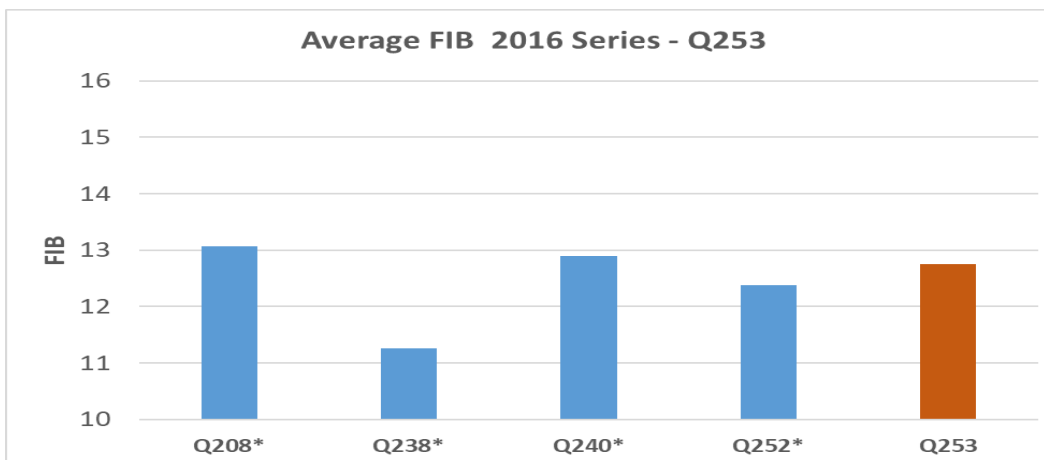
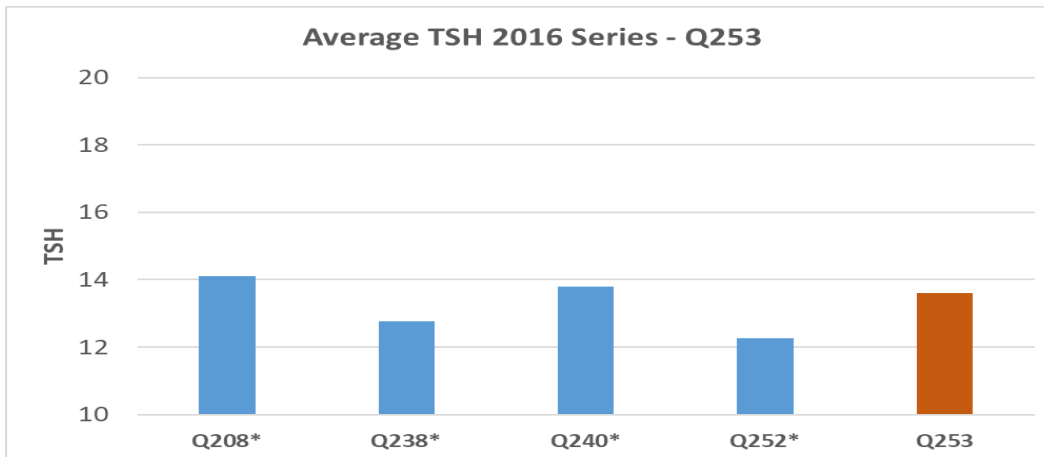
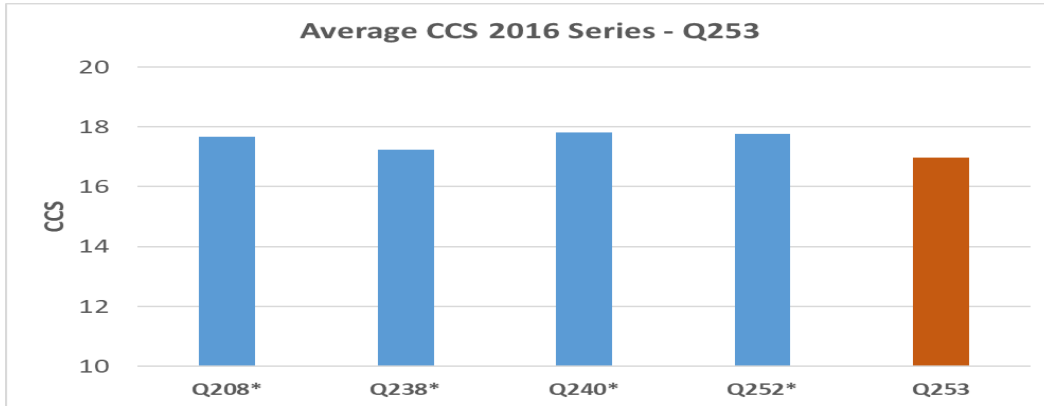
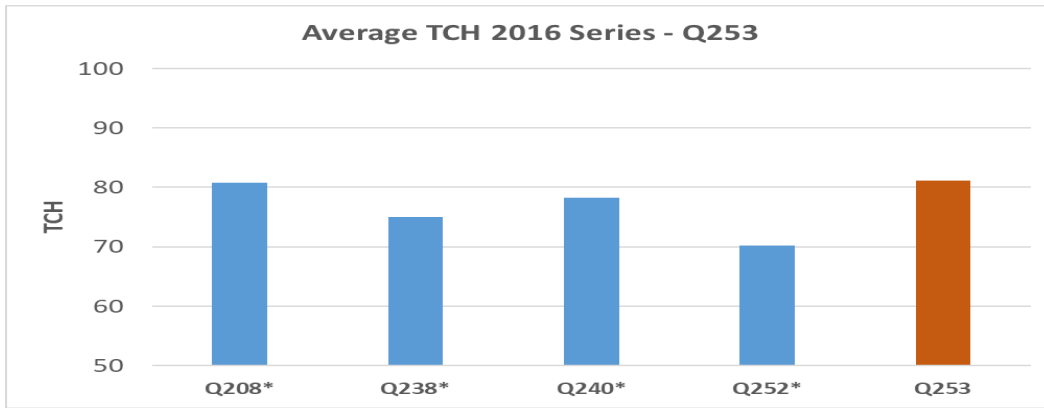


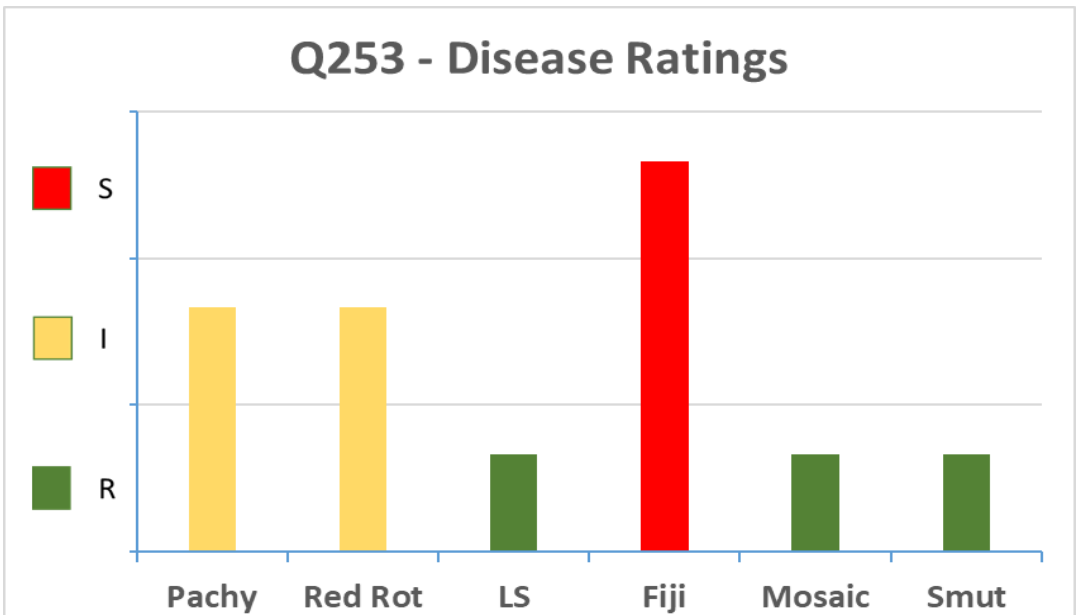
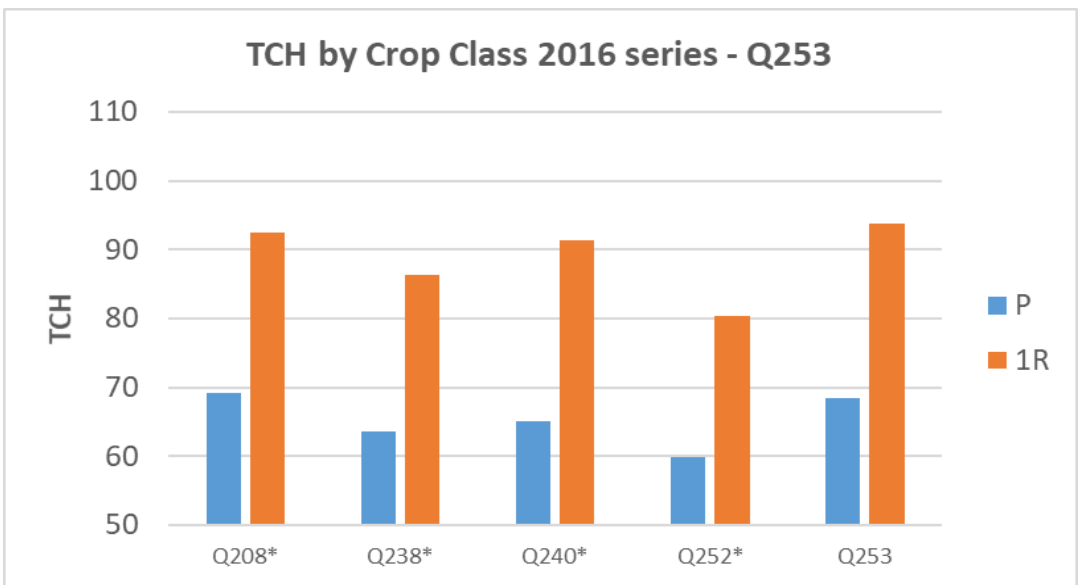
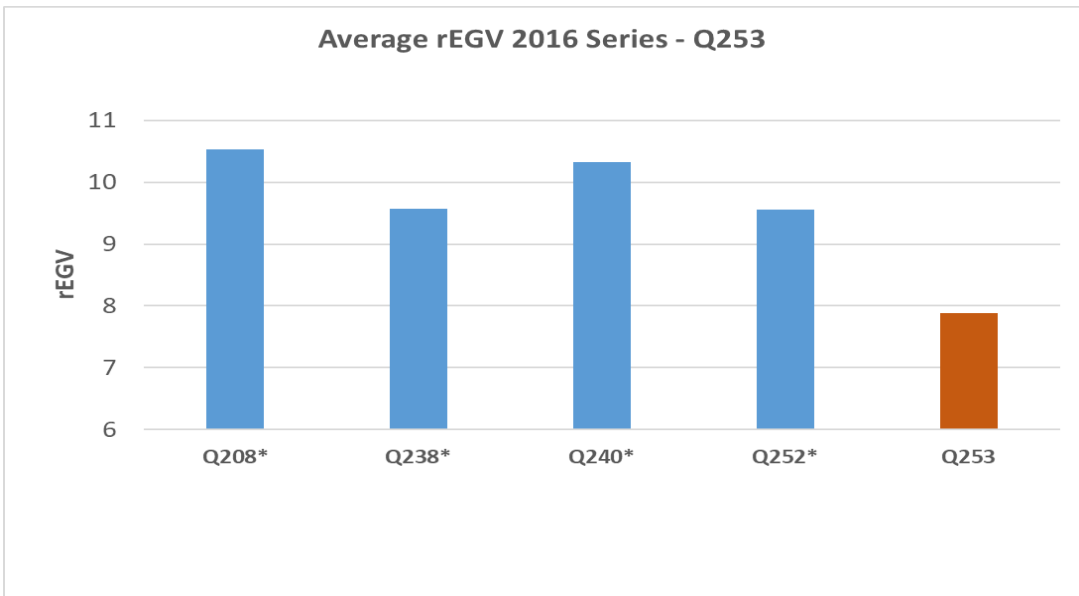




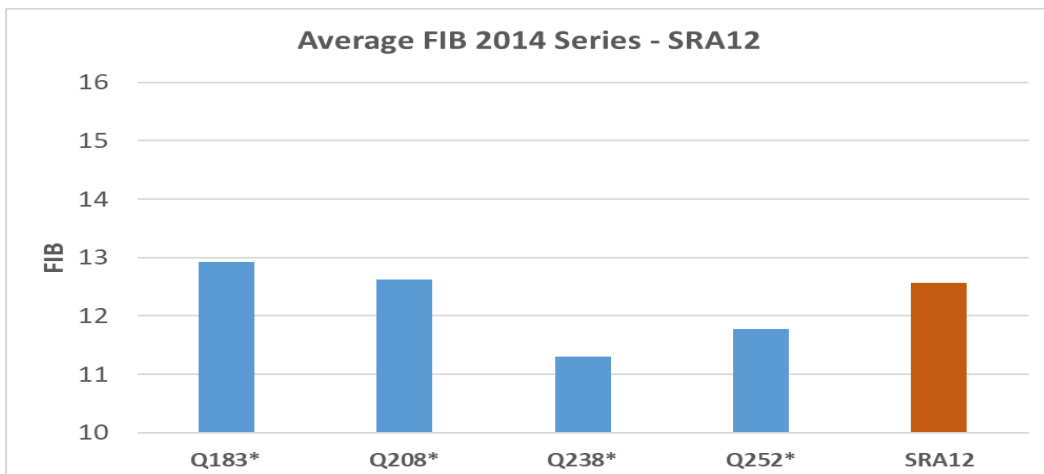
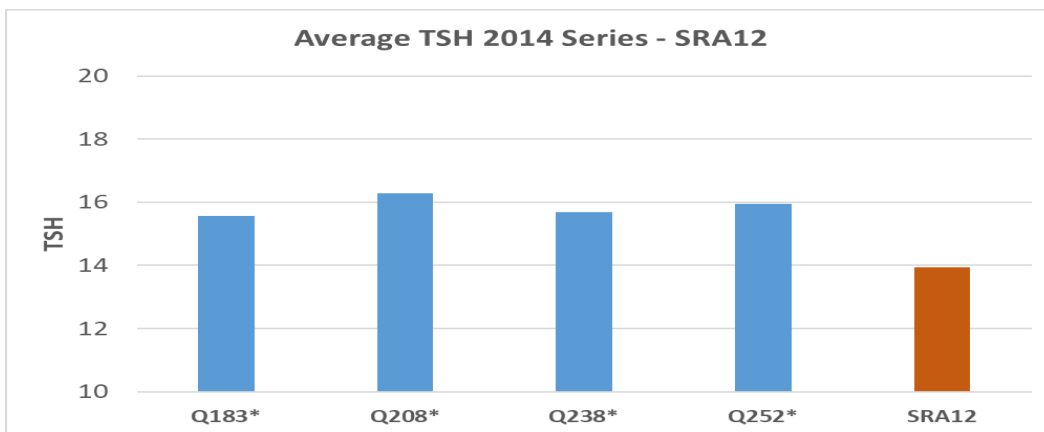
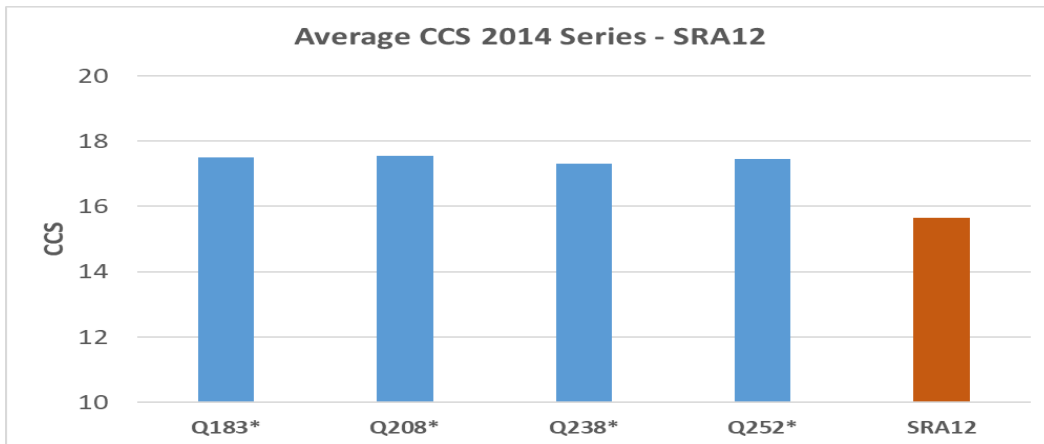
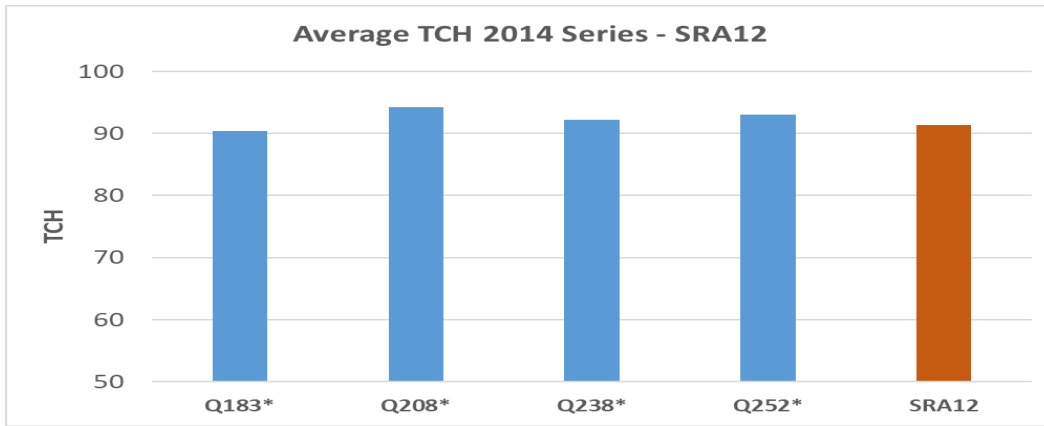


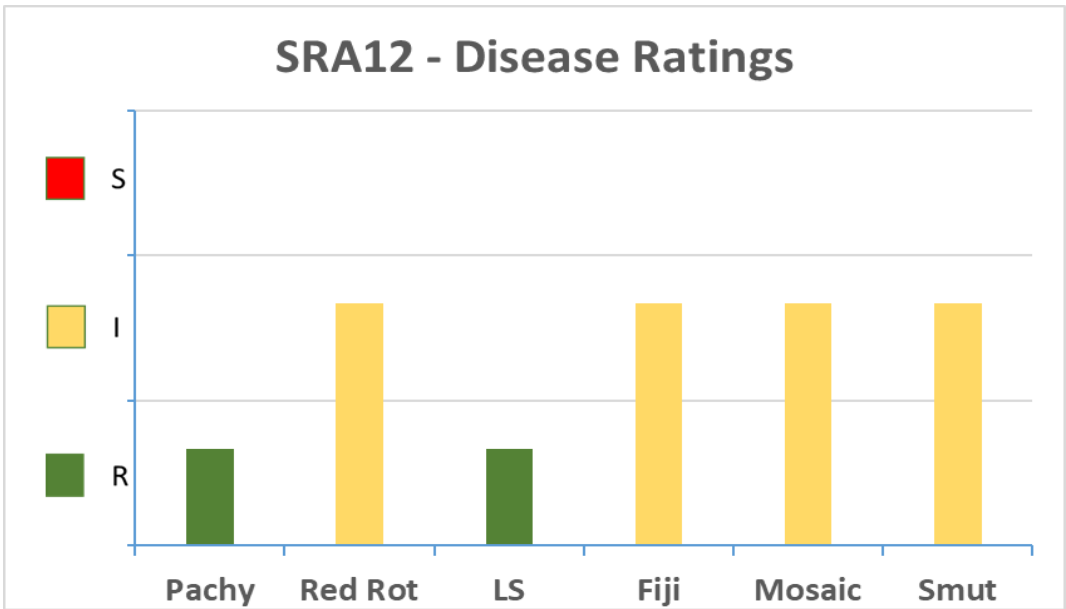
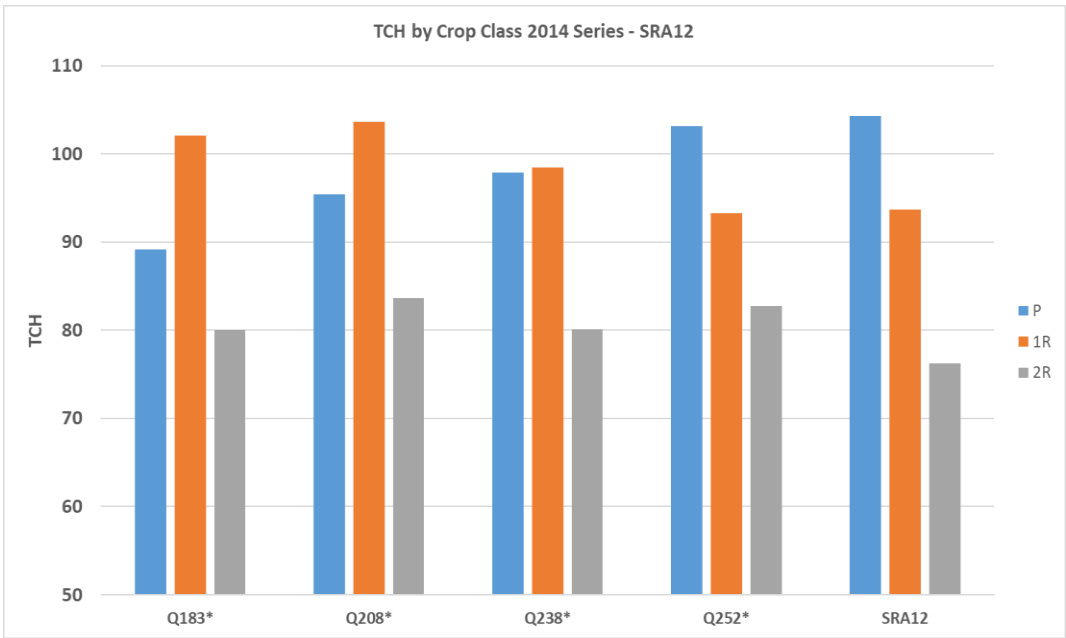
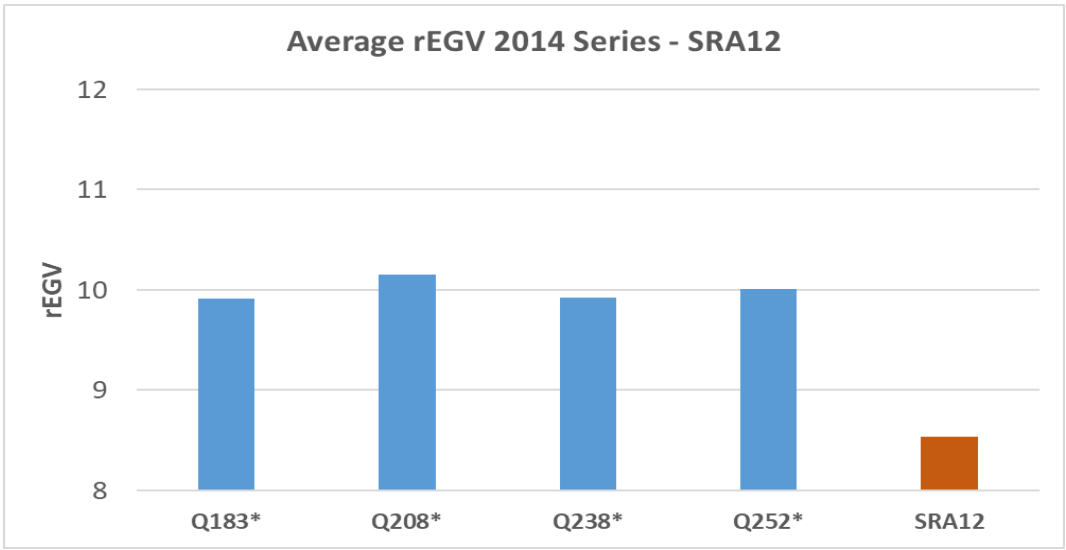
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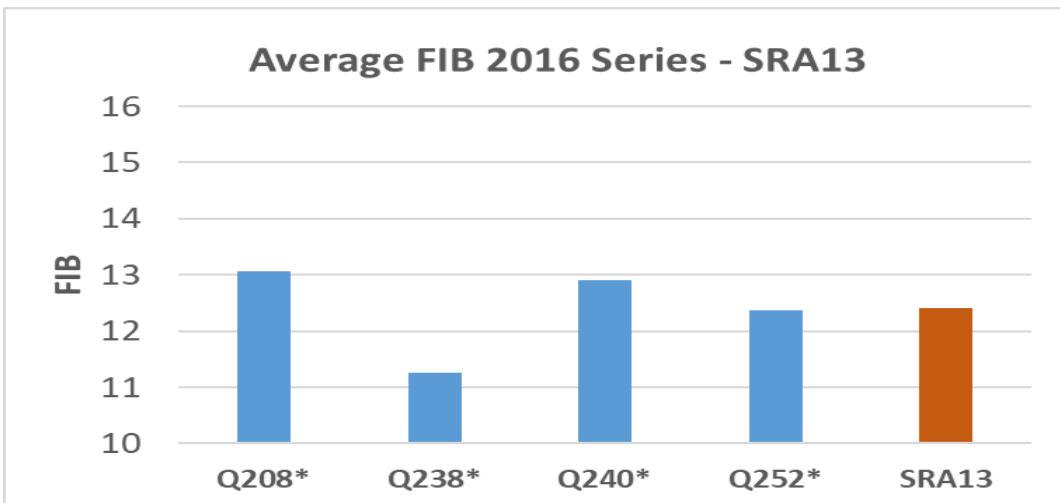
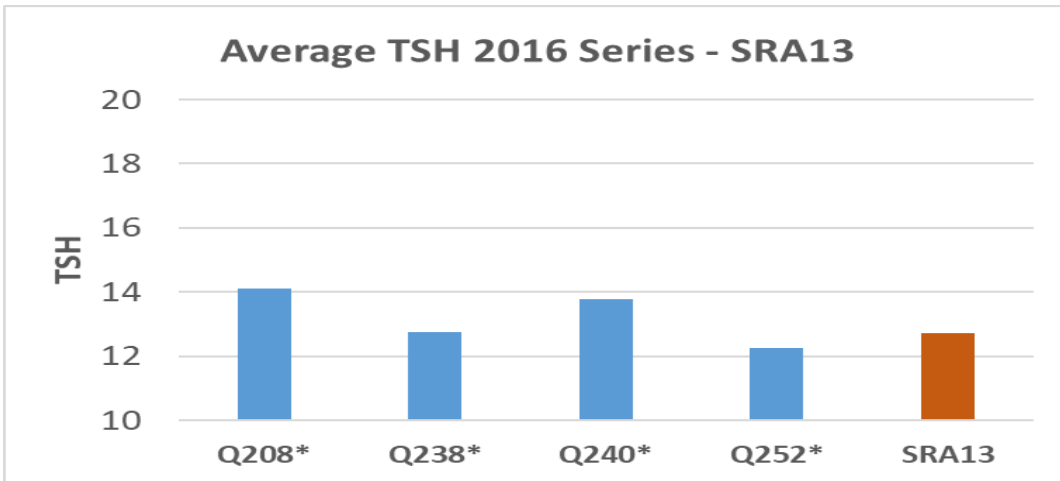
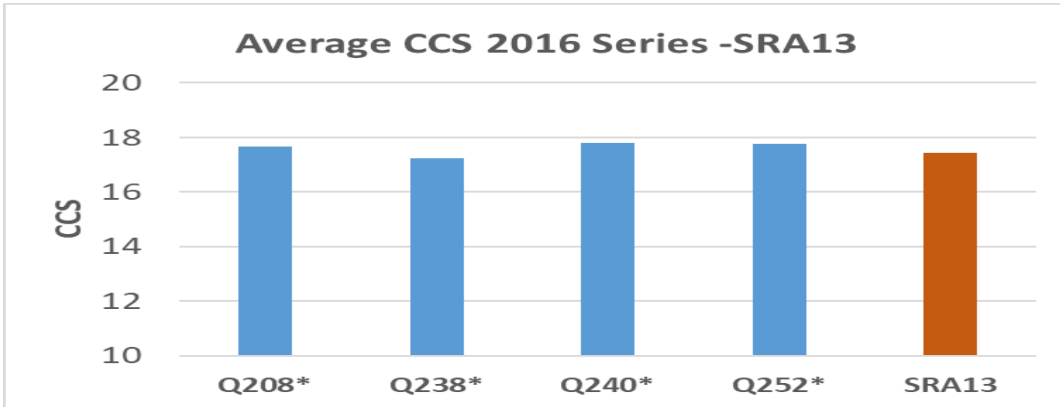
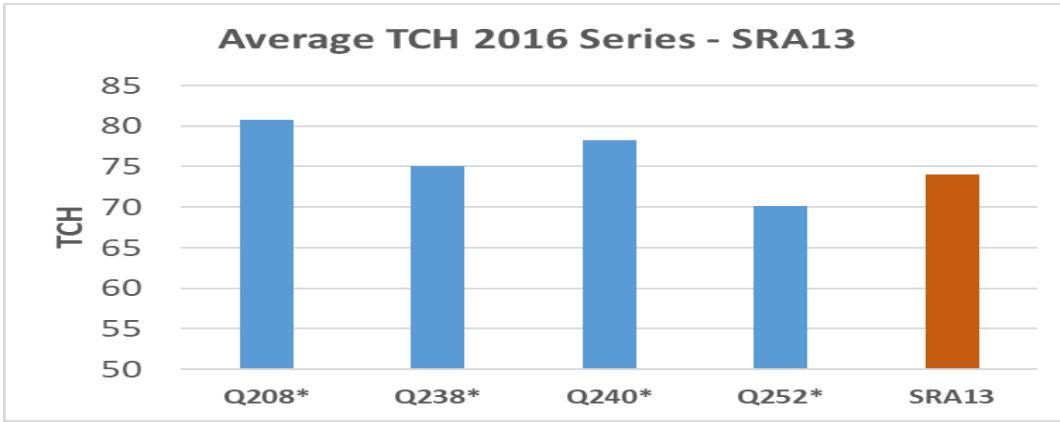


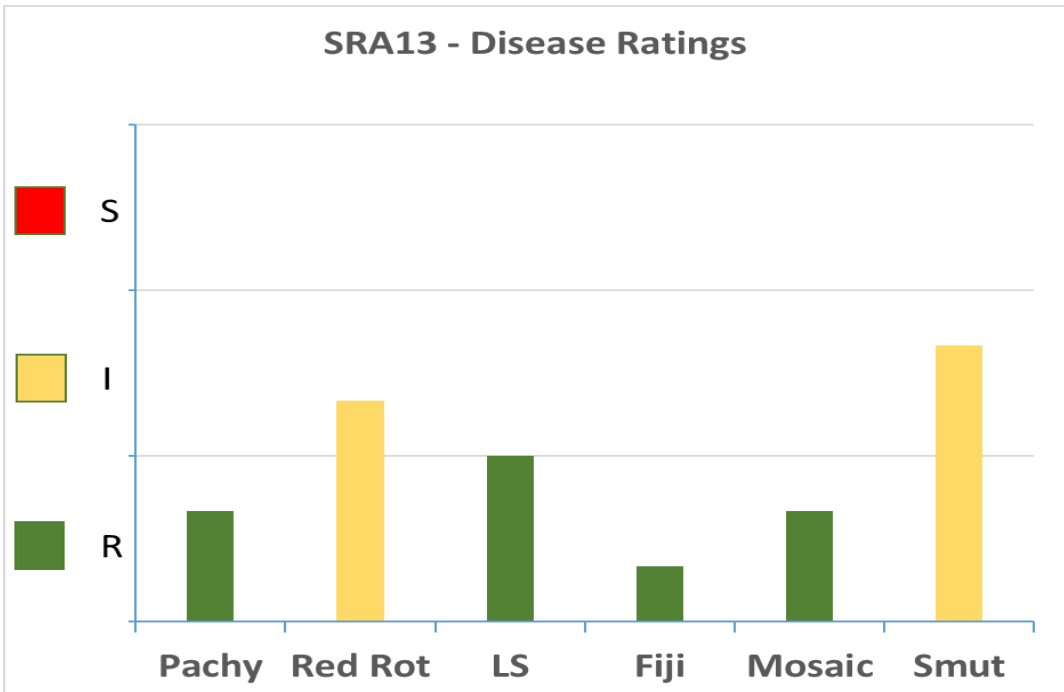
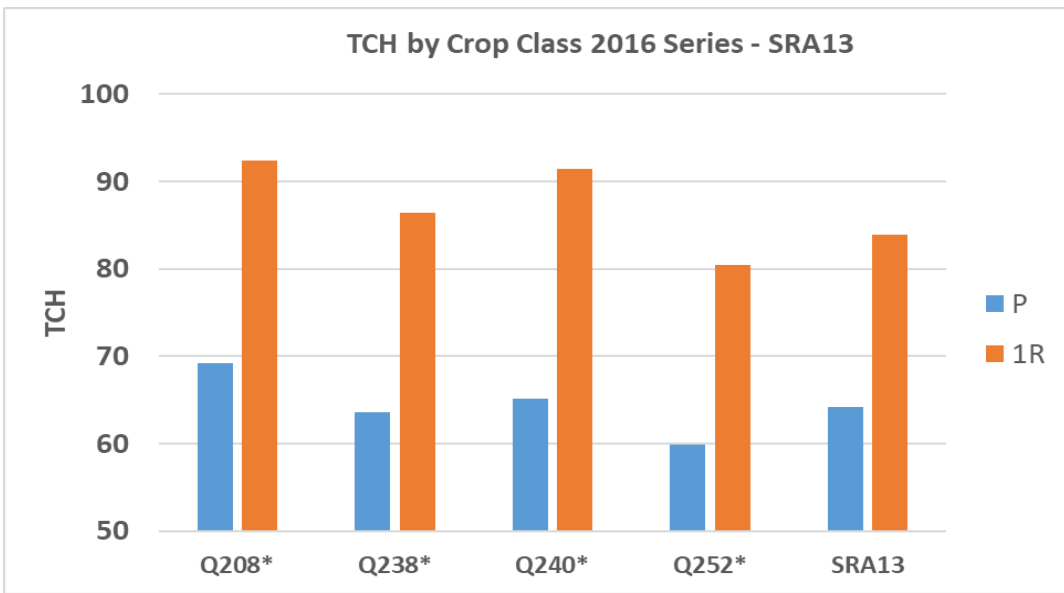
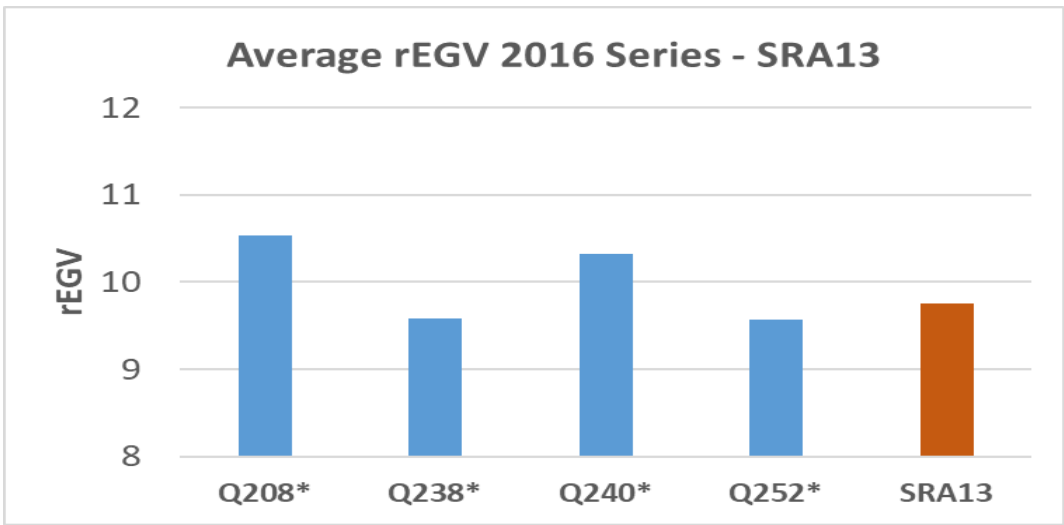
SRA12 (Q233 x QC90-289)





SRA13 (QC88-284 x QC90-289)







Irrigation Efficiency Training

CANEGROWERS Mackay invites irrigators to have a subsidised irrigation efficiency audit conducted on their farm to identify cost effective opportunities for improvement.

The audits are conducted by Ron Coomer* who systematically identifies inefficiencies across the entire irrigation system and the average cost of these to growers. He then provides a list of recommendations for improvement. Some of these are very simple and low cost to assist the grower to achieve operational efficiency. Typical payback periods are less than 12 months.

There are many ways to achieve significant improvements to irrigations systems, and these vary from farm to farm. Sometimes it's a simple case of installing a Variable Speed Drive (VSD) on irrigation pumps or utilising unused bores, changing tariffs or using more available water. Growers

who can apply more water, at a more affordable cost, will achieve increases in yield and profitability.

From the audit comparison growers will be able to see a breakdown of their operation including available pumps, bores and water, application methods and rates, hours to apply, power costs, water costs, estimate of costs per ML applied and estimated tonnes of cane from increased water use efficiency.

The power costs savings can be improved even further with the installation of solar systems. Advice is included in the project as well as the necessary approvals to connect the solar system to the Ergon power network. Solar panels and systems (up to 30 kW per metering point on farm) currently attract a 70% government rebate depending on the installation.



We can help you to:

- Reduce irrigation power costs
- Increase Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE)
- Meet Best Management Practice benchmarks for irrigation
- Achieve automated record keeping



*Ron has been conducting irrigation efficiency audits since early 2016 and is contracted by CANEGROWERS Mackay. For more information phone John Eden on 4944 2605 or Ron Coomer on 0448 134 073.



Funded by the Federal Government's Regional Jobs and Investment Packages (RJIP)

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (DAF). COASTAL FARMING SYSTEMS TEAM

NOZZLE DEMONSTRATION (2,4-D LABEL CHANGES)

The popular broadleaf herbicide 2,4-D (and 2,4-D containing products such as Tordon 75-D) underwent some label changes last year that affect sugarcane growers in the Mackay district. These changes relate to the droplet sizes produced by grower's boom spray equipment, the setbacks to waterways and terrestrial vegetation. There is also restrictions concerning aerial spraying of 2,4-D and 2,4-D containing products. A nozzle demonstration by Jack Robertson (DAF Extension Officer) will show the droplet sizes required to be compliant with the new label conditions as well as a walkthrough of old and new 2,4-D labels to assist growers in understanding these changes. Growers will be able to see different nozzles demonstrated on the nozzle patternator.



Fig 1: Jack Robertson, DAF Extension Officer / Nozzle demo.

DRONES IN AGRICULTURE

In recent years there has been rapid and significant development in precision agriculture (PA). Much of this can be attributed to the rise of digital agriculture. Remote sensing, particularly by drones, has provided detailed mapping at an unprecedented scale. Paddocks can now be divided into management units better suited to variable rate application and zonal tillage.

The rise (no pun intended) of easy to fly and affordable consumer level drones has facilitated high-resolution paddock mapping. These machines allow growers and land managers to undertake activities that were previously conducted by a few specialists. For example, crop variability across a cane block can now be assessed in minutes. This variability may relate to soil constraints on yield, weed pressure, weather event damage and many other factors.

The old saying that you can't manage what you have not measured comes to the fore here. By knowing the different zones within a paddock boots can be put on the ground to start evaluating the cause. Once the cause is understood specific activities can be undertaken zonally. Management units can go from the whole block to just the zones that require the input or activity.

Matching inputs of products such as lime, fertiliser, mud, ash, pesticides and herbicides not only save grower's money but also helps to improve Great Barrier Reef water quality. In this presentation, Marcus will introduce growers to the technology and explain the sort of equipment and software required to undertake a mapping exercise.



Fig. 2: Marcus Bulstrode, DAF Extension Officer / Spray Drone.