

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Apply sunscreen to vines!
2. Get on top of summer weeds.
3. Order fertiliser for 2024 now.
4. Vaccinate sheep before stubbles.
5. Keep an eye out for flies!

Thanks very much for your support in 2023.

Please join us for drinks and a BBQ at the Nuri store on Tuesday 19th Dec from 3pm to 5pm, or at the Ramco Footy Club on Thursday the 21st Dec from 6pm

Details for client functions at Blyth and Murray Bridge stores to follow.



Although it doesn't seem like we have clocked up 12 months in 2023, Christmas is just around the corner!

The big rainfall tallies across our entire patch earlier this week came as a bit of a surprise. Obviously, we would have all preferred to receive these sorts of totals a few months ago! The upside is our very dry soil profiles has rapidly soaked this moisture up allowing harvest to continue with minimal damage and time. Upon reflection, 2023 has been a particularly challenging year especially after a couple very strong seasons in all farming segments.

We began the year with an extended horti season and prolonged grape harvest and further evidence of the serious oversupply in wine grape production. An uncertain opening break and very dry spring have tested winter croppers, whilst graziers have had to come to terms with vastly reduced livestock prices year on year.

Our agro's work with many of you day-to-day and

have close relationships with the majority of clients. We know that our team also "feel the pain" in these challenging circumstances. As has been the case over the course of time, agriculture will continue to present all its participants with rewards and dish out a regular kick in the backside too. It is up to all those individuals involved to determine for themselves how those challenges are met and dealt with, physically, emotionally or financially.

Greg Schubert

The Farmer Johns team trust that you are able to celebrate a safe and happy Christmas and New Year season, spending some special, quality time with the important people in your lives. We also thank you for your friendship and custom over the last 12 months and trust that 2024 provides just reward for you all in terms of personal achievement, satisfaction and also financially.

"We are in this growing business together".

Quote of the Month

"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month!"

- Theodore Roosevelt

Viticulture

Most vineyards will have completed flowering with some wine grapes heading toward pea size. A few later blocks may still be at the tail end of flowering. There is **still an opportunity to take petiole samples** on these later vines to check the nutritional status of the blocks. Petiole results can subsequently be compared to recent soil sample results to provide an accurate assessment of available nutrients. Both surplus and deficiencies can be addressed in any applications going forward.

Routine applications of zinc and manganese are applied to most vineyards prior to flowering. It is well known that these two elements are generally deficient in many local soils. They are also very important in the flowering and fruit set growth stages.

Calcium should also be included in spray applications post flowering. Calcium applied to developing berries will not only increase skin strength and elasticity but also improve grape quality as well. In order to get the best benefit, calcium should be applied at pre bunch closure.

We have received our lime allocations for the 2023/24 season. Suppliers of quality lime have struggled to keep up timely production in recent seasons. It would therefore be in order to discuss your soil ameliorants with our agro's now including products such as dolomite lime and gypsum for post-harvest and autumn applications.

Our agronomy team are well qualified to assist you with all crop nutrition programs, product orders and delivery scheduling to suit your on farm logistics, do not hesitate to contact them at any time .cont page 2/



Seasonal reminders

- Dry feed supplements will assist livestock to utilise the dry feed still present in the paddock and will assist in maintain ewe condition prior to joining.
- Protect summer crops from birds with an Avix Bird Laser. Effective for all species and allows access to blocks subsequent to rain.

- We have stocks of personal sun protection for all your staff – hats, sunscreen and shaded safety glasses.
- Check all farm fire protection equipment is in good working order. We have a range of pumps and fire-fighting units on hand and stock fire hoses, nozzles and fittings.
- Full range of dog and cat food in stock for all working dogs and pets.

- Stay in front of vermin, bait with Storm, Bromakil and Tomcat or Bunny Bait for rabbits while feed reserves are low.
- Don't put up with slow starts, car, truck and machinery batteries in stock.
- Please return all Chep pallets to avoid additional hire fees and 110ltr Enviro drums and 1000ltr shuttles.

"with you in the **GROWING** business"

from page 1.... Subsequent to recent heavy rainfall events, many growers are facing the quandary of how to manage vineyards containing unsold fruit. Any disease outbreaks in these **latent blocks can potentially become a source of infection** for adjacent, valuable fruit. Although a realistic and viable approach needs to be taken, a basic cover program utilising copper and sulphur is viewed as the preferred base option.

Given the minimal approach made by many growers so far this season, there is also a higher likelihood of seeing some infections going forward. This situation may also improve the prospects of finding a home for additional parcels of "clean" grapes closer to harvest. The decision to participate in this "potential" opportunity needs to be made now prior to any disease and pest infestation.

There are still some Light Brown Apple Moth evident in many locations across the region. Last year minor populations caused some significant damage in tighter bunched varieties quite early in the season. Subsequent Botrytis activity was a lot worse where this early damage had taken place and the disease spread far more quickly where open wounds provided entry points for botrytis spores. Although very dry conditions to this point of the season, last weeks rainfall may increase the potential for some early botrytis infections.

It may be prudent to discuss the likelihood of this scenario occurring in your vineyard and some steps to adhere to in order to reduce the incidence. The Bureau's long-range forecast still indicates hot and dry conditions over the January and February period despite the recent rain event and cooler days. No doubt there will also be a level of moisture stress coinciding at that time of the season as soil reserves run down as well.

Providing some level of heat relief to the vine over this ripening period will improve both yield and fruit quality. Consider Kelp applications over the coming weeks to build the vines resilience to heat. We recommend Super Kelp from Sustainable Farming Systems as an ideal source of betains and anti-oxidants that assist plants deal with heat and improve root growth.

BioForge from Stoller has also been a valuable tool in assisting plants to deal with heat and extended dry weather events. Vines retain canopy density, cover and colour when BioForge is applied in advance of anticipated elevated temperatures. The benefits of any applications now will be evident deeper into the season when conditions become tough.

Surround can also be applied to plant canopies in conjunction with Super Kelp. Surround is an inert kaolin clay product that basically acts as a sun barrier once sprayed onto the canopy. The white residual sunscreen visible on the leaf once applied can reduce the temperature within the vine canopy by up to 8°C. This is a significant margin when considering a mid to high 30°C day and the vines capacity to continue photosynthesising. Local experience has proven the worth of both kelp applications and Surround in assisting vines.

Soil moisture management over the remainder of the season will be a key driver in the success of the season and the resulting fruit quality. Most wine producers have reevaluated their production parameters based on the oversupply of fruit. Individual growers need to focus their efforts on improving fruit quality in order to satisfy these requirements. Our agro's can assist in structuring a suitable moisture management plan to assist in achieving these goals.

Citrus and Orchard

A good summer rain will generally provide benefits to all summer crops. However, rain also increases disease risk if crops aren't protected or suffer physical damage (hail) as a result of these weather events. Last weeks front was probably unexpected. Cover sprays may need to be re-applied to ensure ongoing disease protection.

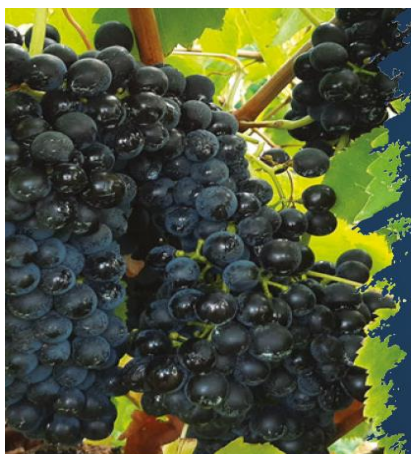
Snails will become active after a decent rain, moving from their summer aestivation to foraging on the cool damp soil surface. The recent wet spell may provide an opportunity to reduce snail populations while they are active and mobile on the ground. This may especially be the case where drip irrigations are used in the orchard. A combination of strategies using trunk spraying with copper and as well as Metarex ground baits will provide robust control.

Speak with our Ramco team to ensure the correct application is undertaken to avoid diminishing the result!

A minimal number of warm days has resulted in insect pressure remaining at a high level. Continue to monitor crops and establish adequate threshold levels. Both early Red and Brown Scale have been detected. Coupled with continued Katydid and Looper presence has kept orchardist on their toes.

Conditions are also conducive for Mealy Bug to also establish. It may become necessary to use a broad spectrum systemic and knockdown insecticide such as Trivor. This situation may be pertinent especially in orchards that are needing a rotational break from the standard Gall Wasp treatments. Typically, these would usually take effect and help carry us over the Christmas and New Year period and into late Red Scale territory. However, the need to rotate away every two to three years will put extra pressure on those blocks.

Give us a call if you require any assistance in identifying or scouting for insect pests.



Energise your crops with Mega-Kel-P®



Mega-Kel-P® combines the biostimulation of Australian Bull Kelp with a tailored nutrient package for foliar application, specifically designed to improve vine health.

- Accelerates root growth
- Increases fruit retention
- Improves fruit sizing
- Improves resilience to environmental stress

* Mega-Kel-P is a registered trademark of Omnia Specialities (Australia) Pty Ltd. FJGP0723

03 5133 9118
omnia.com.au

 **omnia**
NUTRIOLOGY®
"the science of growing"

"with you in the GROWING business"

Broadacre

Summer weed control will be a focus for most croppers subsequent to substantial rainfall totals last week and additional showers on the forecast. Product mixes will vary depending on weed profile but give consideration to temperature, humidity and wind on the droplet life and the potential for off target drift when applying herbicides with an inversion risk. Nozzle selection is also critical in maximising the herbicide applied without impacting your neighbours or susceptible summer crops. **No boom spray** should still have flat fan nozzles. Every spray rig should have nozzles that can produce a VC droplet suitable for applying hormone products during summer.

Those paddocks that were subject to robust weed control last summer certainly outperformed those left for stock feed. Some species are declared noxious weeds (Skelton Weed) and should be targeted for eradication and not viewed as a valuable feed source! Talk to our agro's about tank mix options that might also assist in reducing subsequent summer applications. Considerations will include weed species, size and density, seasonal timing, planned rotations etc.

2,4-D continues to be a really important product for farmers in Australia. **DROPZONE is the future of 2,4-D herbicides**, it is a more efficacious 2,4-D amine with a world-first innovative formulation providing low drift, low odour and faster brownout. Most importantly, it minimises the potential for drift while having low odour. DROPZONE offers Australian growers an exciting new 2,4-D technology that ensures the maximum number of effective droplets reach the target weed. The key factor in DROPZONE's performance is Nufarm's unique droplet optimisation formulation.

Growers are familiar with the challenges of spray drift. Droplets that are less than 150 microns can be ineffective and have an increased potential to drift. This is why it is now legislated that all 2,4-D is required to be applied through a minimum, very coarse spray.

The new DROPZONE technology means more spray volume at the ideal size. DROPZONE delivers up to 96% of spray volume in the ideal micron zone with a very coarse spray quality while reducing the

potential for drift. Field testing showed superior speed of control and final efficacy compared to existing 2,4-D Amine products on the market. In addition, these benefits carry over into tank mixes of other products typically used in summer fallow applications, like CRUCIAL. DROPZONE is highly compatible and very simple to use. The new product is also a **low odour formulation**.

This is another demonstration of Nufarm's continued 2,4-D stewardship for Australian agriculture.

Plan your 2024 cropping season by placing early seed orders to ensure your preferred canola and cereal varieties and volumes are available.

While we have had some rain, we still haven't had enough to **avoid issues with Clearfield herbicide residues**. All areas are short of rainfall to achieve the safe planting of non-Clearfield cereals in 2024. Alternative suitable seed varieties should be sourced for the sowing program including the new Clearfield wheat Tomahawk. We have a limited volume available for sale.

Please have a discussion with your FJs agro to clear up any doubt about herbicide residues and avoid issues at sowing.

Global fertiliser prices are stable at the moment with changes in the Australian dollar and shipping costs giving the most variability on current quotes. China have export restrictions on phosphate fertiliser in place to assist in managing their domestic prices. While this action stays in play the chances of any price reductions on our imports are very limited. If you would like early supply of fertiliser for February or March delivery, now is an appropriate time to commit to your fertiliser requirement for the 2024 planting season. Compound fertiliser supply is a major concern for us at the moment with many unknowns about what supply volume may come from China. If you have used the GAIN range or Granulock SS in the past we may need to look at alternative products. We do have some options for a MAP sulphur compound.

Nitrogen products (Urea and SOA) have eased, this is also being reflected in our market. **Talk to our team about your fertiliser requirements now!**

Pasture

Some **summer weeds** will also be germinating in pasture paddocks. These can be cleaned up with a targeted, non-residual herbicide to ensure subsequent autumn germinations aren't compromised.

Please flag your **interest for aerial top dressing planned** for late summer/early autumn. Discuss options best suited for your farms and to provide adequate time for soil analysis and the collation of maps and spreading logistics.

Subsequent to the dry finish to spring, hay reserves will be in play over the summer period. **Hay that is intended to be sold should be tested** to ensure a fair trade is made for both the vendor and buyer. Please contact any of the FJs team for kits to have hay samples processed.

SEEDS OF TRIUMPH PRESENTS

"I CRIED WHEN I SAW THE YIELD BOOST!" ★★★★★

"POWERFUL ACTION THAT JUST KEEPS ON GOING!" ★★★★★

VIVA SYSTIVA!

Give your seeds the star treatment.

As the biggest star in cereal seed treatment, Systiva can keep beating the blotches and other disease threats in barley - and wheat - to set up another triumphant ending to another successful season.

Scan here to learn more or contact your local BASF representative on 1800 558 399

BASF
We create chemistry

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS.
© Copyright BASF 2023. All Rights Reserved. BASF 21471 123

ALL-NEW 2,4-D INNOVATION, FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.

Nufarm

AUSTRALIAN THROUGH & THROUGH

Nufarm DROPZONE

"with you in the *GROWING* business"

Animal Health & General Merchandise

Stubbles will become available for grazing as the grain harvest continues. Most mixed farming businesses will utilise stubble to finish the current lamb drop or take the opportunity to buy in lambs whilst prices are low and graze out stubble residue. Sheep need a minimum of three to six weeks for the rumen microbes to fully adjust to a **sudden change of diet or risk losses from Pulpy Kidney**. Therefore, it is important that livestock are protected against Pulpy Kidney prior to their introduction to fresh stubbles. The disease can cause sudden death to healthy and good body condition score sheep with little or no warning. Pulpy Kidney is caused by the bacteria *Clostridium perfringens* Type D and the toxin that is produced. The bacteria and toxin can exist in small amounts in the gut of healthy animals with normal movement of material through the intestine minimising the bacteria and toxin to very low levels when no disease occurs. Sudden alterations to the gut environment may allow these bacteria to multiply rapidly and produce high levels of toxin, resulting in disease and death. Any stock destined to be moved onto grain or fresh stubbles post-harvest should receive a Glanvac 3in1 fourteen days before hand for previously vaccinated animals. A booster should also be given to naive animals another four to six weeks prior. A well-managed introduction to grain and fresh stubbles will allow adequate rumen adjustment and subsequently maximise the animal's performance.

Sheep grazing stubble are also at risk of contracting Scabby Mouth. Physical symptoms include painful scabs around the lips, mouth, face, feet and udders of nursing ewes. Scabby Mouth will be more common in lambs with naturally rough stubble residues providing a trigger to begin infections. Order Scabby Mouth vaccine in advance as delays in production have hindered availability.

Improving feed conversion of dry and green feed and reducing trace elements deficiencies will result in improved livestock performance from low value feed. Performance Feeds, TRAC and Beachport Minerals have a range of products that can be incorporated into the summer livestock feed plan and assist in achieving your turn off targets for both sheep and cattle.

Contact our store staff for further information on all livestock nutrition options.

It is also important to keep in mind over summer Sheep and cattle can be affected by heat stress.

Many clients will recall the issues that **Barbers Pole** caused last summer. Recent rainfall may see it rear its ugly head again. Typically, their activity will begin two to three weeks after >18°C days and >10-15mm of summer rain. Adults can become 'inhibited' and resume activity when external environmental conditions become more favourable. Female Barbers Pole worms are prolific egg layers, laying up to 10,000 eggs per day meaning the worms numbers increase rapidly and so can deaths. Barbers Pole is a blood sucking parasite resulting in lambs appearing to be weaker or lacking energy, their eyelids and gums may appear white and a bottle jaw may appear. Monitoring for Barbers Pole with faecal worm egg counts is the most accurate method of determining their presence and obviously being vigilant for physical symptoms.

Flies will thrive when temperatures are between 15°- 38°C and heavy rainfall coincides with low wind speeds, last week was a perfect example! Sheep with body or breech wrinkles and obviously dirty urine and daggy backsides are highly susceptible. Infected sheep should be treated with an appropriate product such as Extinosad aerosol, Eliminator or Deadmag. Ensure the wool is shorn well back from the infected region to stop maggots bridging onto untreated skin. Always read the label to check that any product withholding period complies with your livestock sale plan or talk to our team for advice on the best option for your flock

Rural Plus®

- ✓ High quality
- ✓ Easy to install
- ✓ Used for Rural, Horticulture, Landscaping



Find out more



Vinidex
by allixis

StormFLO® Rural

- ✓ Uses recyclable PE & 100% recyclable
- ✓ Lightweight
- ✓ Used for Stormwater and Drainage



Find out more



AUSTRALIAN
MADE
& 100% RECYCLABLE

www.vinidex.com.au

Farmer Johns

53 Railway Terrace
Nuriootpa SA 5355
Phone 08 8562 1311

General Manager

Greg Schubert - 0412 739 396
greg@farmerjohns.com.au

Chief Operating Officer

Gavin Keller - 0417 886 038
gavin@farmerjohns.com.au

All Account queries:

Phone 08 8562 1311
Dee Hunter
dee@farmerjohns.com.au

Blyth

22 Harley Street
Branch Manager
Dylan Pratt - 0432 571 653
dylan@farmerjohns.com.au

General Sales for Blyth
salesblyth@farmerjohns.com.au

Murray Bridge

190 Thomas Street
08 8532 5264
Branch Manager
Ashley Clothier - 0488 128 169
ashley@farmerjohns.com.au

General Sales for Murray Bridge
salesmb@farmerjohns.com.au

Nuriootpa

53 Railway Terrace
Phone 08 8562 1311

General Sales for Nuriootpa
sales@farmerjohns.com.au

Ramco

422 Ramco Road
08 8541 4222
Branch Manager
Shaun Pick - 0408 068 190
shaunpick@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Ramco
salesramco@farmerjohns.com.au

“with you in the *GROWING* business”