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A quick global urea summary as the issues shifts to supply rather than price

- The closure of the Strait of Hormuz is creating a situation quite unlike anything seen before in urea markets.
- Australia imports 100% of its annual urea requirement with about 70% of that comes from Arabian Gulf (AG) producers. The remaining 30% is largely from SE Asia.
- The AG produces 30% of global urea exports annually.
- In addition, India makes over 30 million tonnes per year domestically.
- The AG also sells gas to countries such as India, China and Pakistan. A large portion of that gas is used for domestic urea production. There is no gas coming out of the AG now - no gas supply = no domestic urea production.....
- 50% of India's population are reliant on agricultural production for their livelihood. The Indian government will now need to replace their lost urea production with a lot more from a source that is now reduced by 40%.
- Urea will still find its way to Australia as our importers work available supply. Pre-booked cargos coming from usual SE Asian sources will still arrive. But it's hard to see how adequate quantities will be sourced to replace what has been lost.
- Even if the Strait of Hormuz reopens tomorrow it will take some time for plants to be restarted and damaged infrastructure to be repaired and contracted backlogs filled.



What a difference a bit of rain makes for the soul! Some reasonable falls in the northern areas of our region toward the end of February and a decent follow up last weekend.

Unfortunately, a big rain event early in vintage hasn't been ideal with some split berries across ripening vineyards and some damage to onion crops that are being harvested at the moment as well. I am sure most will agree that any rain is certainly better than the months of no rain we have endured for a long time!

Other "big events" coming up this month include the Australian F1 (everyone has their hopes on Piastris but...), a close SA state election in the middle of March and the AFL footy season fires up next week.

However, the really big-ticket item that looks likely to disrupt our 2026 seasons plans is the dust up going on in the Middle East. Despite the publicity from US president Trump that the war is only going to last a few weeks, I suspect we are likely to see some major shifts in product supply and pricing directly linked to ag

inputs and supply timelines. A fair chunk of our crop nutrition products are sourced out of the Middle East, particularly the nitrogen products we use over the course of the growing season. In addition, approximately one third of the cost base in agchem production is directly linked to the oil industry. Every \$10 cost increase for a barrel of oil adds around 2% to the base cost of production in agchem.

There are a range of views as to how long the Middle East conflict may last. I do expect that we will see some short-term impact to our primary production industry anyway.

I can assure all FJs clients that we will endeavour to manage appropriate supplies to ensure all on farm activities can proceed in a timely manner as the season progresses.

I therefore urge all clients to co-operate with our team in having fertiliser and agchem orders locked away. Further, I suggest it would also be prudent to get your early product requirements home on the farm as soon as possible to avoid any issues in the event the supply channels do tighten up in the weeks ahead.

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.
- George Bernard Shaw

Broadacre

Fertiliser is the big talking point for all winter cropping clients at the moment. It has also consumed a fair amount of the FJs team waking hours in recent weeks as well.

Supply has looked a little tight all the way through summer and since our offers back in early January, the situation hadn't changed too much. However, we are now in uncharted territory!

Fortunately, most growers have placed orders for the initial supply of sowing or starter fertiliser at relatively comfortable prices before the current spike. In crop nitrogen supply has become much more complicated and challenging. Most will know that a large volume of global urea is sourced from the Middle East. This supply has been seriously compromised by the conflict in the region, ramping up the base nutrient price as well as shipping costs.

We have contracted volumes of SOA and Urea as they have been offered to us as we endeavour to manage supply for you and your programs. However, we are also mindful that there has to be a line in the sand in regards to an upper-level price where the product cost becomes excessive for anticipated gross margin calculations.

Please continue to liaise with our store teams as you also work hard to finalise your crops nutritional inputs within parameters that will suit your operation.

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Seasonal reminders

- **Crucial is the complete glyphosate package in one drum and will take care of even hard to kill weeds!**
- **Protect the house with a safe residual insecticide such as Ficam or Coopex to keep on top of the autumn invasion of millipedes, earwigs and spiders.**
- **Bait rabbit populations now.**

- **Castrol oils will keep your engines in top order over the harvest and horti season. Call our stores to sort all your lube requirements.**
- **Switch from dry feed loose licks to high magnesium supplements to prep ewes for cows due to begin calving.**
- **We have a full range of turf care products available for your lawns.**

- **Get yourself a new pair of Rossi work boots for 2026. Rossi boots are still made in Adelaide!**
- **Rats and mice are active around farm yards and houses. Use Storm, Talon or Bromakil grain or blocks. Keep pets safe by securing baits inside rat and mouse bait stations.**
- **Please return all Chep pallets. 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro's.**

from page 1/...Despite recent rain events, herbicide residues may still be an issue in some paddocks heading into the sowing season. Moisture is generally required to assist agchem products applied in crop to break down in the soil profile. Very low rainfall totals in the second half of 2025 across the majority of our winter cropping zone will mean some herbicides will still be viable on the ground. **It may be prudent to consider undertaking a simple Field Bioassay.** Plant a small area of the susceptible crop four to six weeks before desired planting date ensure enough moisture is applied (hand irrigation etc) and note any subsequent symptoms of injury once germination occurs. Check in with any of the FJs agro's for further guidance on your sowing plans.

The early germination that has taken place across the entire central region of our state provides winter croppers the best opportunity to clean up weeds than has been the case for many years.

Slower germinating species should be given time to emerge and develop adequate leaf area to take up the applied herbicides. Robust knockdown rates with an appropriate spike added to the tank (determined by the weed spectrum) will ensure a complete and satisfactory result.

Mixed cropping and grazing enterprise managers will be looking at the "green feed" coming on and weighing up the cost to handfeed versus utilising this new seasons growth. This is a fair consideration but the fact remains that conserving early soil moisture will be demonstrated by increased production in any subsequent cropping program. Volunteer cereals could be preserved for forage by using an appropriate selective herbicide. Most selective herbicide options will have labelled plant back considerations applicable to the approaching cropping season.

Care should always be taken to ensure any precautions on the product label followed to avoid off target damage to summer horti crops that may be in close proximity.

Seed options for the approaching winter cropping program are in hand. As is the norm now, new cereal and pulse options are being offered from the various breeders. Local suitability needs to be carefully considered to ensure your program continues to improve prior to opting for a new variety.

Seed integrity is also a concern, especially for seed traded "over the fence". Having a **simple test to confirm lmi tolerance** completed on samples sourced might be a prudent insurance premium before the seed goes into the ground! We can organise the test and would certainly advise this for anyone helping a fellow farmer out.

Demand for canola seed has increased this season. Some options are becoming a little more difficult to source however alternatives for most are still available. Stronger global nitrogen pricing may see a little late shift away from cereals in some rotations to negate the added financial impact of urea applications.

Utrisha N might be a suitable nitrogen source over the cropping season this year. We expect this sentiment to be a common view across the southern cropping zone so encourage all growers to **take a token volume of Utrisha N early in the season** to avoid any supply issues when the product is needed.

Regular discussions take place about the pro's and con's of various seed dressing options each season. There is no doubt that seed treated with one of the new, more robust and complete seed dressings outperforms seed that has an older outdated option applied. Early protection from soil, root and leaf diseases will provide the best base for the crop to reach full yield potential over the duration of the growing season.

Pasture

Autumn pastures have been a focus over the last week or so as graziers consider their most cost-effective feed options to regenerate paddock that have suffered through 3 consecutive poor spring periods.

Soil nutrition and historic weed spectrum might help in the decision. Soil testing jobs should be completed now to provide time to make any meaningful nutritional amendments prior to sowing. The current germination of weeds does provide an opportunity to clean paddocks however seed banks may still present some challenges to emerging pastures.

We have good supplies of annual and perennial pastures on hand. Please lock in a time with one of our agro's to sort your pasture requirements before the pressure really ramps up. Autumn topdressing including aerial applications on range grazing country is also being planned for April once aero commitments over the fire season concludes.

Please contact our store to pursue spreading for your block.

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Viticulture

Vintage is well under way in the Riverland and getting a little more serious in the Barossa. The very hot weeks in January and early February impacted some blocks but also helped catch up the season timing a little. Most vigneron were looking forward to a straightforward vintage and seeing the difficult dry season put to bed! However, last week's rain events have changed the focus for all grape growers. Serious rainfall totals have prompted berry splitting to various levels across most regions. A wide range of treatment options have been in play to assist in preserving fruit integrity. Withholding periods, fruit ripeness and expected time to harvest as well as the destination and associated winery preferences will all be part of the decision process. Products that might be part of this discussion include Serenade Opti, Serifel, Botector and Novellus. PMS

+Tartaric or Malic acid may be more suited to blocks that are on the cusp of harvest. Continue monitoring those blocks that have been impacted to identify if further fruit degradation does occur. In addition, carefully monitor for the early signs of typical fungal infections such as botrytis or powdery mildew as these conditions persist over the weeks of vintage.

Post-harvest nutrition supplementation is an important part of year-round vine management. Another long and dry season has maintained pressure on the overall health of many vineyards. Although the recent rain events has offered some moisture relief limited vines have been stressed for some time. Replenishing carbohydrate and nutrient reserves prior to dormancy will ensure strong shoot and bunch growth in the first few weeks after budburst in springtime later this year. **Soil test results are an accurate tool to more specifically amend any deficiencies that exist in the vineyard.** We understand that most vigneron budgets will be tight, so suggest basic nutrition options that may include applications of Easy N or Tech MAP to assist the vineyard recover from the dry 2025 season. FJs stock a full suite of liquid and granular products for all horticultural crops suited to a fertigation program. Please talk to our viti agro team for assistance in formulating a specific post-harvest nutrition plan for your individual situation.

Cover cropping programs will also be on the agenda over the next month or so. Orders for fertiliser should be sorted to ensure timely supply. We have good stocks of seed available ex our stores. We understand that limitations will exist as growers prioritise the spend on blocks that are contracted and offer some financial security going forward.

Orchard Citrus and Horticulture

Foliar applied nutrition programs have continued during the last month. There may be an opportunity to slot a final nutrient application into some blocks to promote further sizing prior to colour. Currently fruit size has reached 60 – 70mm in most orange varieties while mandarins are pushing through the 40 - 45mm range.

Recent weather events may increase insect pest pressure in Riverland orchards. Regular monitoring should be undertaken to ensure any early pest activity is noted and obviously treated once pest threshold levels are surpassed. Our agronomy team can assist with orchard inspections and appropriate pesticide recommendations suited specifically for your situation and orchards pest profile.

Weather conditions across the country have promoted similar pest environments in all citrus regions at the moment. As a consequence of these favourable conditions, we also expect a lift in demand for agchem products such as Movento and Trivor. Increased demand may put short term pressure on product supply.

We encourage all our growers take a proactive approach to sourcing products such as Movento or Trivor and ensuring some product is in your shed when you need it!

Post harvest nutrition has also been administered to orchards subsequent to the stone fruit harvest being completed. Blends can be formulated to overcome and deficiencies that have been highlighted on recent tissue and soil test results.

Recent rain events have also prompted a germination of weeds in most crops. Herbicides will be much more effective if applied whilst weeds are small and actively growing. Check in with either Mete Gunhan or Georgie Pater for these or any other orchard related matter.

"How to" of autumn pasture renovation

BARENBRUG

Situation
What condition is your pasture in and why?

Plan
What needs to be done depending on the condition of your pasture

Process
How to renovate and manage your pastures throughout the season

Seed
What species and varieties to use and sowing rates based annual rainfall

Scan for your free in-depth resources

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Animal Production & General Merch

Successful autumn lambing starts with preparation and attention to ewe health. An investment in pre-lambing care directly translates to improved lamb survival, higher birth weights, and better productivity in your flock. Ensuring your **ewes are properly vaccinated before lambing is essential.** Newborn lambs rely on immunity being delivered through the consumption of colostrum (first milk). Pre-lambing vaccinations have been shown to improve important

antibody levels within the colostrum. This means pre lambing vaccinations benefit both ewes and their unborn lambs during the critical lambing period. **GlanEry 7in1 B12** is the most convenient and comprehensive protection available covering 5 clostridial diseases as well as Cheesy Gland (CLA) and Erysipelas Arthritis and as the product name indicates comes with the addition of Vitamin B12.

Parasite burden, in particular gastro-intestinal worms, can significantly impact ewe health and lead to reduced birth rates and lighter lambs. Ewes have greater susceptibility to internal worms around the lambing period. This is due to a phenomenon known as periparturient relaxation of immunity, during which ewes lose much of their developed resistance to parasite burdens over the lambing period. Use regular fecal egg counts to determine the best parasite management plan. It is important that properties monitor for pest resistance and understand the limitation of some products. Speak to the FJs store teams for advice including the use of using multi-active or combination products, method of application, the role of drench rotation and selecting from reliable options like **Starteck, Q-Drench, or Decto-V** to support effective parasite control.

Monitoring ewe body condition is a powerful tool to optimise lambing outcomes. Aim for a **Body Condition Score of 3** at lambing. Regular assessments allow you to adapt feeding and management ensuring each ewe is in optimum condition to deliver and care for her lambs.

Finally, nutrition is the foundation of healthy and productive ewes. Access to high quality pasture and supplementary feeds rich in energy, protein and essential minerals, particularly in later pregnancy, will support a ewe's higher nutritional needs. This will improve lamb survival and decrease ewe mortality over the lambing period. We stock and recommend MagPlus or TRAC's Dry Feed loose lick supplements.

Carefully selecting lambing paddocks for young lambs is important.

Ideally these paddocks will be well-drained and offer ample feed and shelter. Minimise stocking rates and parasite risk by rotating paddocks or moving ewes onto fresh ground ahead of lambing. The creation of low worm burden pastures can take longer (up to 6 months) than most sheep producers anticipate. The **Wormboss** website is also available to assist in your flock management decision making over the lambing period.

Foot rot has become a common problem in local sheep flocks. On farm control should combine both of foot baths and an annual vaccination. Following two vaccinations of Cooper Footvax at least 6 weeks apart, sheep are protected against footrot for up to 10-12 weeks for merinos and up to 16 weeks for British breeds. Effective immunity is developed after the second dose. Given that the protection provided by the vaccine is short term, timing of a vaccination program is critical. The booster vaccination needs to be timed just before the expected start of the spread period so sheep have high levels of immunity when they are most susceptible to getting footrot.

Talk to the FJs store staff about all your vaccination requirements.

Livestock handling facilities should be a safe work environment for all on farm staff and visiting agents etc. **Arrowquip** offer a full-on farm design and construction service for new and renovated yard jobs.

Give any of the FJs team a call to sort a free consultation for your yard project.

PRE-LAMB PROGRAM

EVERY EWE, EVERY YEAR

PREVIOUSLY UNVACCINATED EWES	ALL EWES
JOINING TO 8 WEEKS PRIOR TO LAMBING	4 WEEKS BEFORE LAMBING
 1st "Priming" dose	 2nd "Booster" dose Annual "Booster" dose

STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF FOOTROT!







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