

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Stay on top of insects in all crops.
2. Look out for early fungal diseases.
3. Push pastures with ProGibb.
4. Sort out the spray program early.
5. New oral lice control for sheep.

We have an employment opportunity at our Ramco store. We require a Liquid Nutrition Process Worker for the approaching horti season.

This role is responsible for the operation of our liquid nutrition blending plant at the Ramco premises.
Please contact our Manager Shaun Pick.

Welcome to our new staff members at our Nuriootpa store



Mark Valente

Store Sales



Dave Robertson

Store Sales



A run of very frosty mornings during July tested out the morning exercise regime!! A few clear weeks in July have allowed later cropping programs to be finalised and provided ideal

spraying conditions for herbicide applications in all segments. Farm Safety 2023 was featured in various media publications and on TV during the week of the 16th to 23rd July 2023. In 2020 over 80% of fatalities on farms were males, 62% were aged over 45 and nearly 14% were kids under 15 years of age. Many more kids required hospital treatment with drowning, quad bikes and machinery taking a lead role in reported incidents. Just as is the case on our roads, many of these injuries are caused by accidents. However, a vast majority of injuries are preventable and come as a result of poor decisions and choices. Mishaps are more likely to occur when operators are tired and stressed or simply careless. Everyone on farms - owners, managers and

employees, need to take a higher level of responsibility in ensuring farm-based injuries are significantly reduced. I encourage all farm businesses to conduct regular "checks" around their properties to clean up any hazards. We do a monthly "walk through" at all our FJs sites with a simple checklist covering off such basic things as tripping hazards, pallet and product storage and security, clear entries and emergency exits and any equipment is in good order etc. Farm Safe training can start at a very early age, ensuring kids also grow up with robust awareness and good safety habits around the farm. Call any of our stores to get hold of a Kids Safety Champ kit that can be used to engage with young people around farm safety. The kits enable a conversation to support an entire culture of farm safety and assist raising awareness in a fun and educational way. We only have a limited number - be quick!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence — then success is sure."

- Mark Twain

Broadacre

Fertiliser

All nitrogen products continue to be a supply challenge, with few positive changes to the messages we have communicated previously. We continue to explore all supply avenues as we work to provide a nitrogen option for our customers who still require product for the winter cropping season.

Pests continue to be an issue in many winter crops. The wet spring in 2022 coupled with a very mild summer and larger stubble loads has provided a perfect breeding ground for slugs, snails, slaters, millipedes and earwigs.

Slugs particularly have caused significant concern. New hatchings have maintained populations at elevated levels resulting in continued damage in crops including those that may have been baited several times. Continue to monitor for damage and to assist in determining ongoing control to limit further impact.

Added to this, Lucerne flea and Red Legged Earth mite continue to build in numbers. Significant damage has already occurred in canola and lentils this season. Be proactive with insecticide applications in these susceptible fields. Pyrinex Super is proving to be an ideal option when these hard to control insects are present in high numbers.

Septoria is the main disease we are seeing in wheat at the moment. However, stripe rust has been reported in wheat in the South East, so the threat is real and needs to be consideredcont page 2

Seasonal reminders

- Grass tetany and bloat can cause stock losses. Use TRAC and Performance Feeds products for all livestock.
- Continue to bait for rats and mice around the house and farm sheds with Talon, Storm and Tomcat bait. We have bait stations in stock to protect pets and natives.

- **Special offer on Uncle Albers dog food. Range of dog and cat food always in stock.**
- **Get the lawn and garden ready for spring with Neutrog's Rapid Raiser, Upsurge and SeaMungus. We keep a full range of Neutrog product in stock.**
- **Century Batteries for a reliable start on those cold frosty mornings.**

- **Castrol oil in stock – call our stores for all lube quotes for all your farm machinery services.**
- **We stock a full range of ammo at our Nuri store. Give us a call to sort the spring ammo supply.**
- **We are starting to take seed orders for 2024 – please get on the front foot and let us know your preferred varieties and quantities.**

from page 1... in our forward planning. Adding a fungicide to the spray tank when applying post emergent herbicides in wheat for the control of Septoria, Eyespot, Powdery mildew and Rust will provide early disease management. Epoxiconazole (Opus / Soprano / Tangent) is the most cost-effective fungicide for these early tank mix applications.

Some **fungicide resistance is present in a number of regions**. It is important to manage the development of resistance across all our chemical options - herbicides, fungicides and insecticides.

If an early Epoxiconazole based fungicide has been applied, rotating to an alternative active to subsequently control Powdery mildew is necessary to reduce the onset of resistance. Larger canopies will benefit with a more robust product such as an SDHI (Aviator XPro) or strobiluron (Opera) based active. These offer longer protection over this critical protection period.

Net Blotch is just beginning to show up in barley. Throttle, Bumper, Prosaro or Amistar Xtra are all robust products registered for use on barley diseases.

Fungicide application on oats needs to be considered if hay crops are destined for feedlots. Many of the fungicide products registered for oats have an Export Slaughter Interval which is accepted by hay exporters but doesn't necessarily meet the time frames for domestic hay consumption.

Maxentis from Adama is very strong on oat diseases with long lasting protection. It doesn't have an ESI and so will not restrict any hay marketing opportunities into the livestock market locally.

Pulse diseases - a level of Ascochyta can be found in lentils grown on a tight rotation. These programs will require a higher level of priority to ensure the lentils are protected prior to a major rain event or in selecting the best fungicide before canopy closure. Miravis Star slots into this requirement very, very well. Black Spot is evident at low levels in field peas. The initial fungicide for Black Spot control in peas should be Veritas Opti at 400ml hectare.

Beans are generally clean to this point in the season, obviously regular monitoring should still be part of the routine. However, anyone growing Bendock beans should be aware of their shift to "very susceptible" and so a more proactive approach needs to be undertaken in order to remain in front of any disease outbreaks.

Canola crops are beginning to flower. Consider the potential for Aerial Blackleg or Sclerotinia and the yield penalty these diseases can cause. A "routine" fungicide at 10% flower can prove very beneficial in high yielding canola crops. There is evidence of White Leaf Spot but only at low levels. Our agro's currently advice is to continue to monitor and assess the rate of new infection before making the decision to spray for it.

Weed control ranges from early post emergent to later control due to the staggered sowing over seeding. Mateno Complete applied in front of recent rain bands have proved an excellent tool for rye grass control. A small window still exists for later sown crops. Tares are an emerging issue in some of our regions. Tares are exceedingly difficult to impossible to clean out of wheat and barley at harvest with low thresholds causing rejected loads in recent seasons. Action should therefore be a priority on crops that have infestations of tares, Kamba is a very good option for this task.

As always, our agro's are available to assist in all winter cropping matters including pest and disease identification and to support your crop monitoring efforts. Please do not hesitate in giving them a call.

Pasture

Spring pasture management is at a critical time at the moment. The current low red meat prices on offer are causing some angst for producers. Low grid and market prices have seen producers preferring to hold stock on farm for longer. This has caused a tightened feed availability and short of sacrificing a crop the alternative is to grow more feed!

It is therefore critical to remove any foraging pests that are restricting pasture growth on the farm.

Fertiliser applications will generally increase growth rates, but be mindful of the nitrate spike which occurs 12-20 days after application and the grazing risk that this presents.

ProGibb could also be applied to pastures and vetch to bring on an early flush of feed over the next few weeks. Consider replacing poor performing pastures with a spring sown brassica to produce high quality feed that will finish stock. Spring sowing in high rainfall environments is a very sound option.

Talk to our team about the best pasture options for your job.



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Viticulture

Good seasons will mask many issues in the vineyard including a number of viruses that can severely impact the vine and ultimately fruit quality and yield. Virus testing is recommended if any topworking is planned in the vineyard. Always use Greenseal on major cuts and wounds when undertaking these jobs as well.

Assess Eutypa damage. It may be opportune to undertake a more accurate assessment of the level of cordon decline due to Eutypa, especially in blocks that contain fruit that cannot be sold.

Reconstructing the architecture of your vines and removing diseased trunks and cordons can really be a stop gap before removing and replanting.

Assess the block with an app called GrapeAssess which will provide a very accurate overview of non-productive

fruiting areas in your vineyard - the results may surprise!

Our agro's can assist with this or conduct the count if required.

Phomopsis is a problem in many vineyards particularly in years when there is a higher prevalence of cold, wet conditions. Monitoring now for the telltale scarred rods and spurs is an essential part of keeping a check on Phomopsis. If Phomopsis is present prepare an action plan to reduce the impact of the disease with early sprays starting at 50 % budburst with products such as Delan. Our agro's can also assist in identifying these symptoms if you are unsure and provide support in formulating a plan to manage the disease.

Weeds, always more weeds! There are increased populations of hard to control Ryegrass, or in many cases, impossible to control Ryegrass.

Continued pressure on our well-known knockdown herbicides has seen increased failures with unconfirmed reports of Paraquat resistance as well as field failure on Group 1 (A) herbicides.

We urge all growers to review their herbicide program carefully before any additional spring knockdowns are applied. Consider using some alternate chemistry including Groups 3, 12 and 29 as pre-emergent products to address these resistant weeds from a different angle of attack.

While weed control required some persistence in years past, results were generally satisfactory. Herbicide resistance has now changed that expectation. Please take weed control very seriously. It is an area of vineyard management that takes an enormous amount of time and financial resource without quantifying the collective result. It will become an even more formidable task when we run out of options!

Spring is rapidly approaching and so it is almost time to pull out the fungicide units again! Last season was a bit of a wake-up call for most local growers seeing late season fungal outbreaks across most of the Barossa.

Unfortunately, this was a real reflection on how well (or not) fungicides are applied in local vineyards. As a region, generally speaking we don't rate that well! Despite numerous application workshops and field demo's, we don't see those processes carried out in the field.

We MUST get the product to the vine tissue and ensure that adequate coverage is achieved. Calibration should be a priority for all growers prior to the first spray being applied. Once the season gets underway, recalibrations should be managed to coincide with the development of the canopy.

Our team of viti agro's are here to help but it's too late when fungicides have failed as a result of poor application. Give this area of the management plan a workover this season and take the theory into practice!

Mulch and other soil amendments should be ordered and due to arrive on farm. It isn't too late to get these sorted but plan to have spreading take place before the warm weather arrives. Mulch will assist in soil moisture retention, weed control and build soil health.

Please give our team a call to discuss any of these matters in more detail relevant to your circumstance.

Citrus and Orchard

Citrus foliar applications have started and will focus on priming for bud initiation. This will include a range of trace elements as well as nitrogen additions in tank mixes. Timing of applications and blend contents will be determined by fruit variety and whether or not the crop has been harvested. It is also important that some care is taken to ensure the PH of the tank mix is safe prior to application. If rainfall is forecast over this critical period an Amistar application will also aid in protecting the new crop against potential botrytis infection.

Pruning, hedging and skirting in orchards should be well underway with some blocks already completed. Mulching and routine knockdown herbicides should be completed in readiness for pre-emergent herbicides. This clean ground gives orchardists a good opportunity to assess the requirement for snail baiting programs with problem areas and pest numbers clearly visible. Please give our Ramco store a call if you require any assistance.

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Animal Health & General Merchandise

Shearing season is cranking up across our regions with recently shorn sheep clearly visible in healthy pastures. We have a full range of shearing accessories in stock including woolpacks and branding fluid.

Anecdotally farmers have noticed larger numbers of lice in many flocks this year. These outbreaks are typically being treated with Fennec, Power-Shield or Extinosad as off shears applications. It would certainly be prudent to ensure the lice control product, method and process is reviewed to ensure any local outbreaks are effectively treated while sheep are mustered.

FLEXOLT® Oral Lice Treatment has been launched into the Australia market by MSD Animal Health. This is a very exciting innovation and reflects MSD Animal Health's commitment to the sheep industry and to producers here in Australia.

Flexolt is the first ever oral sheep lousicide treatment. Treating via an oral application will eliminate the application errors that commonly occur with backliners when sheep are moving in a race or "riding" each other, making accurate application difficult.

The product can be safely applied to both sheep and lambs carrying any length wool offering flexible lice control when it suits you rather than being locked into the busy shearing season window.

Flexolt will certainly be a "product of choice" for those graziers dealing with lice outbreaks!

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the FJs team to reserve your supply of this new and exciting product or to determine the most appropriate lice treatment for your flock!

Some farmers are reporting outbreaks of footrot in sheep due to the wetter conditions over recent weeks. It is important to promptly treat this condition to prevent production losses.

Reduced grazing activity in ewes will obviously lead to a chain reaction with lower milk and wool production impacting lamb progress as well.

Infected sheep should be isolated and the footrot bacteria must be killed. Initial foot paring is an unpleasant task (check out the Electrocoup foot paring shear) but will assist healing. Foot baths or antibacterial administration should subsequently be carried out.

Remaining sheep must remain free of disease until the spring spread period, following eradication. We recommend the Polymaster foot bath (in stock at FJs) for this process.

Call our store staff for any additional advice.

Biting lice have also appeared in many mobs of cattle.

Constant rubbing will result in hair loss and also reduces grazing activity. A simple pour on application of Cydectin, Dectomax or Coopers Easy Dose should eliminate these parasites. It is also important to dose to the heaviest animals and always ensure accurate placement of the product according to the label directions.

There have been a few cases of grass tetany this season with some stock losses occurring. High Mag supplements should be available ad-lib to susceptible herds. We stock both the TPM and Performance Feeds loose mixes to remedy deficiencies.

Please call any of the FJs stores to discuss any animal health related matter in more detail and for any product orders.

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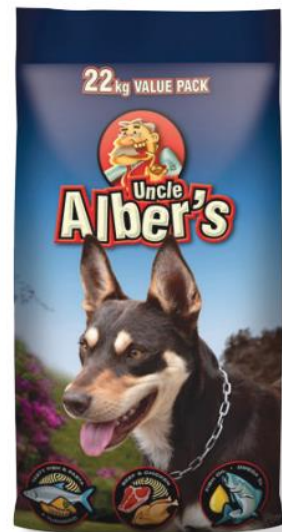
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