

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Post emergent weed control.
2. Monitor all crops for pests.
3. Sort spring N requirements.
4. Get onto weeds in vineyards.
5. Manage ewes post lambing.

## FJs Viticulture breakfast

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> of July from 7.30am for breakfast at the Nuriootpa Sports and Function Centre

Industry Presentations from 8.30 am to 12 noon

Supplier trade display.

RSVP via email to:

[katelyn@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:katelyn@farmerjohns.com.au) or on 0408 571 419

## Chemcert Chemical User Licenses

are required for the purchase of a range of products used in farm productions systems.

Please ensure your license remains current and advise our stores the license number and expiry date relevant to your property.

Chemcert training courses are available across our region on a regular basis.

Please contact Chemcert on: **1800 444 228**

if you or someone in your team require initial training or re-accreditation.



We have just experienced one of the driest seasons on record. All our regional farmers should be commended for the state of our landscape over such a dry period. Modern cropping systems,

including well planned weed control and no till sowing allows our farm lands the ability to withstand these harsh dry conditions without the environmental degradation experienced in the past.

I scan a number of industry news snippets in my over overloaded inbox. Last week I looked at an interesting article that I thought might be worth a mention. The Olam Agri CEO, Sunny Verghese, recently made the comment that “food wars are looming over global stability, as trade barriers and the climate crisis strain supply. Rising restrictions on trade are already amplifying food inflation, leading to an exaggerated demand-supply imbalance. We have fought wars over oil, we will fight bigger wars over food and water”.

Rallies in a number of commodities including cocoa,

coffee and sugar have been driven on the nervousness of climate and an increase in production challenges. Governments are turning toward protectionist policies in an effort to shield domestic markets. We have seen this with the Indonesian ban on palm oil imports and the Indian curb on rice exports. An increased constraint on food supply is going to raise insecurity and geopolitical tensions, particularly for nations that are not self-sufficient such as China. Whilst China stands firm on imposing higher tariffs on exports such as EV it is very unlikely that they will respond with tariffs on staple food imports.”

There is no doubt that the food supply pendulum is swing back in favour of producers. Although we don't necessarily see that reflected in our farm gate prices at the moment, we will certainly see demand rise in the future.

Many people view agriculture as a “basic”, uninteresting career but farming is still the biggest job on earth!

Greg Schubert

## Quote of the Month

I've lived in good climate, and it bores the hell out of me. I like weather rather than climate.

- John Steinbeck

## Broadacre

Despite sowing beginning way back in April we are finally seeing the transition to a fresh green landscape. Soils had been very dry for a long time so required some initial moisture to even dampen the profile but “top ups” have finally provided sufficient moisture to spur germination. There is a noticeable variation in crop emergence across soil types, also influenced by marginal moisture levels and in recent weeks, some heavy frost events. Subsequent to a few rain fronts during June, most crops have had enough moisture to promote germination and have finally started to move forward a bit more seriously. The dry conditions have obviously impacted the activity of pre-emergent herbicides. Unfortunately, soil moisture is a basic requirement for effective weed control with products such as Sakura and propyzamide. Consequently, weed shoots, especially ryegrass seedlings, have pushed through what would have normally been a robust barrier and emerged in a relatively healthy condition.

There has obviously been a lift in demand for products suited to managing these weed populations as post emergent challenges. Ryegrass is obviously the biggest issue for most croppers across our market area. It can be targeted with products such as Mateno Complete and Boxer Gold in wheat and barley or Rexade in wheat crops. Intervix and Intercept are also safe to use in any Clearfield cereal variety too.

This Imi technology also has the added benefit of doing a satisfactory job on Brome grass populations in Clearfield crops too. Recent rainfall has reduced plant stresses, providing an ideal spraying environment for the best result possible but cold day time temperatures and frosts aren't ideal for grass herbicides.

Try to pick weather conditions away from frost pressure. Given the amount of “dirty” crops ..cont page 2/

## Seasonal reminders

- Get your head around EID tags and place orders to ensure availability before marking.
- Keep a few pouches of FloPak Plus on hand to treat stock when grass tetany unexpectedly shows up.
- We have a full range of hand pruning tools and accessories in stock including cable ties and wire.

- Century batteries in stock, don't get caught out in the cold – the first start is the best start!!
- Rats and mice will take bait more readily while feed reserves are low - keep up the Storm bait supply around the house and farm yard.
- Take the opportunity to install additional rainwater storage with a new Polymaster tank or two.

- Stay warm and keep your socks dry over the winter season – full range of wet weather clothing and rubber boots in stock.
- Gallagher electric fencing systems can assist in managing pastures over the difficult late winter and spring season. Call us for on farm consults.
- Return all Chep pallets, 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro's ASAP.

from page 1... across the southern cropping regions, we are likely to run into supply hurdles on these products as well, please speak to us as a matter of priority - it might be a case of the early bird catches the worm! In seasons such as this one, the value of soil moisture retention as a result of effective summer weed control are again highlighted. Some dry sown crops are more advanced on the back of stored moisture from early Dec 23 and Feb 24 rain events.

**Insect pests** will be a focus as their activity also grows over the next few weeks. Most of the insects that cause crop damage also enjoy the habitat that modern stubble retention practices provide. Millipedes and Slater numbers have continued to rise year on year to the point they need to now be considered as a serious threat to some crops. Our agro's have identified early infestations where stubble loads are bigger, but are yet to observe any major crop feeding at this time.

Ongoing monitoring is essential and treatment should be carried out as soon as any damage does take place.

Slugs were also a major problem last season and while we don't expect their populations to be at those levels again this season, slug numbers do have the potential to build as top soils finally start to get wet. Canola growers are advised to remain proactive with initial snail and slug baiting programs in order to negate the risk of any early impact.

Our agronomists will continue to routinely monitor canola, lentils and pulses as well as cereals and advise on any actions deemed necessary to manage insect pests.

While it's not raining and yield potential has decreased, **crops will still require some nitrogen** when it starts to rain. The issue we are faced with at the moment is that none of the fertiliser companies are willing to take risk and bring an additional vessel of urea with a port call into Adelaide.

We have continued to flag supply as an issue but it is now reality - if we have a good spring, there will not be enough urea in the country.

This will quickly knock onto Easy N and Sulphate of Ammonia supply. Please contact any of the FJs team about any additional requirements as soon as possible.

**Utrisha N** is a new product to consider that might assist plants nitrogen requirements over the growing season. Utrisha N is a naturally occurring bacteria which extracts nitrogen from the air and converts it to a usable form for the plant. Once applied as a foliar to the crop, Utrisha N provides a constant supply of nitrogen to the plant reducing the dependency of late season nitrogen applications.

Utrisha N has a fit across most crops and pastures. Have a chat to our agro's about the potential of this exciting new product.

## Pasture

New season pastures are slowly establishing subsequent to recent rain events. As the weather remains cold progress will be slow. **Continue to check all pastures for any pest pressure** as RLEM and Lucerne Flea can seriously impact stressed pastures early in the season.

**Weeds** always seem to progress quicker than the required pasture species and should be treated as soon as possible ensuring legumes have reached safe growth stages. Some more mature broadleaf weeds such as Salvation Jane have survived since the early February rains. They should also be addressed as soon as practical to negate their ongoing impact.

It would be prudent to sort any **spring topdressing** product as we continue to experience tight supplies of most nutrition products. Speak to any of the FJ agro's for all other pasture related matters.

## Citrus & Orchard

**Alion and Katana are two new pre-emergent herbicides** registered for use in citrus and olives and have a good fit for a range of weeds we continue to battle. A local trial in the Ramco region has demonstrated that Alion will provide very good control on most problem Please contact our Ramco store if you were unable to attend the Alion trial site early in June and would like to still check it out.

We have provided an **update on our fertiliser position** in the broadacre segment earlier in this newsletter. However, it would be prudent to touch base with any of the FJ team to ensure that your basic spring and summer nutrition program are covered for all citrus, stone and pome fruit. Recent increases in shipping rates, port congestion and loading lead times have all impacted supply of raw material into Australia. This is very likely to ramp up supply pressure in the months ahead. Please speak to our team as a matter of urgency to sort any summer horti nutrition programs.

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**Pruning** will continue across our region's vineyards for a little while yet. There has been a fair shift from locally based pruning contractors to utilising the more available contractors based outside of our wine production regions. This change has also elevated the level of bio security risk that might come with additional entry and exit of workers undertaking these roles. Foot baths may be a worthwhile consideration when these crews initially enter new vineyards. The expanding incidence of Eutypa and other fungal trunk infections can also be negated with the use of wound dressings and sealants at the time of pruning, preventing the entry of spores into fresh wounds. **Bud dissections** will also be a complimentary method of refining the pruning method to manage vine health and the crop load. With consideration in reducing production while preserving quality, exploring bud viability this season might be a beneficial learning experience. **Robust weed management programs** start early in the season. Herbicide results are far more reliable when weeds are young and actively growing. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, rotate actives with different modes of action to reduce the onset of herbicide resistance. Roundup/glyphosate has been the "go to" option for a very long time including multiple application in the same year. Incorporate pre-emergent herbicides into the weed management plan to reduce the reliance on knockdown herbicides that have typically been applied when weeds are quite mature. **Two new pre-emergent herbicides, Alion from Bayer and Katana from Agnova have new modes of action.** They

each have a fit in local programs to target problem weeds. They should be considered for inclusion to reduce weed populations in the 2024 season. Catch up with our agro's to review your weed control plan, to assess the range of weeds you are targeting and ensure appropriate actives are included. We have been talking about the impact of nematodes for many years but high populations have become apparent in a number of vineyards in recent seasons. Nematodes will generally only be recognised as a problem once they impact the vines health. As with most pests, they should be identified and treated prior to any damage occurring, thus preserving both the plant and the produce being grown. Testing for nematodes and other virus's is a relatively straightforward task that our agro's can sort for any suspect block. Testing over dormancy provides an adequate window to formulate a strategy to combat any issues that are unearthed. **Soil nutrition is a regular topic of conversation** over the counter in our stores. Most fertiliser products are likely to be under a supply cloud during the second half of the year. It would therefore be prudent to determine what your production goals are and then plan a program to achieve these goals in a cost-effective manner. Soil test results form the foundation blocks of any nutrition program. Inputs can then be sourced based on the **actual requirements** rather than purchased ad-hock based on previous habits. Any required nutrient can also be added to other ameliorants such as composts and mulch to minimise traffic in the mid row. Below average rainfall for the year to date might suggest that subsoil recharge may be more difficult to achieve over the few months remaining before the viti seasons starts again. **Irrigation management** will become an important vineyard tool as salinity and nutrient applications rely on a level of leaching through the profile. Planning irrigations on the back of rain events will enhance the recharge process over the coming weeks. Strategically installed moisture monitoring sites are beneficial in helping to understand different soil profile habits on your property and the effect of rainfall events on those soils. They will help in making accurate and informed irrigation decisions. **Mulches will also assist with water conservation.** Mulch has long-term durability and also assists with weed suppression and aids in soil insulation over the summer extreme temperatures. As a natural product, they offer a slow-release source of organic matter. Most mulch products are currently readily available from processor stockpiles and can be dropped on property in time for early spring applications. Obviously access onto blocks is an important consideration as winter progresses and the risk of increased wet weather. Drop into see our agros about all of these viti related matters or to arrange any of the testing services mentioned, for quotes and installations of moisture monitoring systems or to simply get out of the cold for a short time!!

**COMING SOON**

**Alion**

**A HERBICIDE THAT STAYS ACTIVE FOR LONGER**

**GROUP 20 Herbicide**

Alion® 500 SC is a selective, pre-emergent herbicide that controls a wide range of grass and broadleaf weeds in citrus, almonds, grapes and along fence lines. Alion allows flexible control time with a variable application rate offering up to 10 months pre-emergence weed control.

To see the full list of weeds or more information visit [crop.bayer.com.au/alion](http://crop.bayer.com.au/alion) or speak to your local Bayer representative.

[crop.bayer.com.au/alion](http://crop.bayer.com.au/alion)

BayerCropScience Pty Ltd ABN 87 000 225 022, Level 4, 100 Bunnwood Rd, Hawthorn, VIC 3122. Technical enquiries: 1800 854 475 enquiries.us@bayer.com © 2024 the Bayer Group. Alion® is a Registered Trademark of the Bayer Group. © 2024 the Bayer Group. \*No application for registration of Alion in orange or full orange plus varieties has been submitted.

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**A NEW WAY TO SLASH WEEDS**

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## Animal Production & General Merchandise

Most breeding ewe flocks across our region have either completed lambing or are at the tail end of the lambing season. As we all continue to wait for the new season paddock feed to get legs, **focus needs to remain on maintaining the health of ewes post lambing**. Providing additional sources of protein and energy to supplement feed rations and the last of poor-quality hay will assist the ewe with milk production and body condition.

Loose licks from TRAC and Performance Feeds or blocks will all cover this requirement and can be selected with budget constraints in mind if feed purchase costs have also blown out a little.

Please contact any of the FJ team to discuss the most appropriate options for your flock.

**Grass tetany has been a problem over the last few weeks** on a number of properties in the Adelaide Hills. Cows in peak lactation and ewes 4-6 weeks after lambing are most at risk. Cattle and sheep grazing grass dominant pastures or young, fresh forage cereal will be most vulnerable to grass tetany as these species are lower in magnesium than legumes. The situation can be exacerbated subsequent to applications of potash or nitrogen which also promotes a flush of soft, lush growth. Inclement weather that increases both stress to plant and animal as well as decreasing feed intake can bring on outbreaks of grass tetany. Additionally, older stock are less able to mobilise magnesium into the blood making them more susceptible to grass tetany than younger stock.

Performance Feeds MagPlus or TRAC Hi Mag Assist both have high level of magnesium to assist in the prevention of grass tetany and manage stock over this critical time.

**EID Tags are on the horizon.** Sheep producers will be well aware that all sheep or goats born after January 2025 are required to have an EID tag applied. In addition, all sheep and goats sold after January 2027 will be required to have an EID tag attached at the time of sale. This provides a two year lead in period for all stock that have currently been identified with an historical ear tag. These animals may be sold within this period without an EID tag. A rebate is available to assist producers transition from their current tagging program to the EID identification system. The rebate represents approximately 50% of the cost and is into the purchase price of the tags. We recommend that sheep producers use the new EID tags (Black for 2024 and white for 2025) on ewes or terminal's so to begin a base for record keeping as we head toward the mandatory 2027 year. Tag readers won't be compulsory but they will certainly assist for on farm records and book keeping purposes, making life much easier!

Applications for the RCCF **Farm Fire Units are now open for round 3**. The RCCF will reimburse approved purchases or a portion of a purchase from \$200 to \$3,000. This will allow for the purchase of smaller items such as good quality first aid kits and UHF radios, but also a significant portion of a new farm firefighting unit.

Applications including relevant supporting documentation must be submitted prior to the application close date of 5.00pm (ACST) on Friday 9 August 2024.

Link to Application - <https://forms.sa.gov.au/#/form/66724306ce4adc623a938f61>

**Polymaster**

Offer only available 1 June - 31 August 2024

**Bulk Buy Special - 22,500L Water Tanks!**

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\* Buy 2 or more RWT22500 Water Tanks and save \$375 per tank. Promotional price of \$3,125 each (normally \$3,500).

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**TIMES HAVE CHANGED WITH FLEXOLT.**

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MSD Animal Health

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08 8562 1311

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