

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## End of Financial Year Business Bonus Program

We invite all clients to participate in our EOFY BUSINESS BONUS PROGRAM (T&C's apply)  
Simply deposit a minimum of \$10k on your FJs a/c prior to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. EOFY Business Bonus dollars will be credited at equivalent to 5% per annum to your FJs trading account.

This is calculated monthly using the closing remaining credit value from the pre-June deposit in your FJ's trading account making it very easy to track.

**Call us now!**

**Each month in 2025 we are giving away a prize for the best seasonal farming photo.**

**The monthly winners will be used in the 2026 Farmer Johns calendar.**



**Post your best June farm photos on the FJs Facebook page for a chance to win!**



Marlene and enjoyed a quick trip north in the latter part of May. I jagged a window seat and so had a bird's eye view of the parched Mid and Upper North as our plane headed out

of the state. I think this normally "reliable" part of SA looks pretty ordinary from the road but it appears way worse from the air! We all hope that further forecast rain events in June eventuate and turn our cropping and pasture prospects around sooner rather than later.

Our trip away included attending our AgLink Members meeting. [AgLink](#) is the business group FJs are part of and via forums such as this recent meeting are able to share and network with other major independent businesses from around Australia.

The AgLink meeting "around the grounds" session also provided evidence that although SA is particularly dry, most southern cropping regions south of Forbes in NSW and across Victoria are also dealing with serious soil moisture deficits.

Global agchem pricing is at a significant discount to the last three or four years and supply of all products is very good at the moment. Despite this world view, the tough season has seen our major suppliers tamp the brakes a little in regards to local product supply, particularly into southern ports. I have mentioned previously that the collective forecasts of the retailers in Australia influence the behaviour of importers.

Along with most of our counterparts, we have been a little reluctant to fill our sheds with products that may not be required on farm this season. If the season does turn and there is a decent rain event across the current dry regions cropping activity will no doubt lift substantially. There may be some short supply delays as products are shipped around the country to satisfy a flurry of potential orders.

Incidentally we were in Queensland when they had their coldest May day in 50 years! The school sports day at Springsure felt a bit like the middle of July on the Williamstown oval!

**Greg Schubert**

## Quote of the Month

"There are no problems we cannot solve together, and very few that we can solve by ourselves."

- Lyndon Johnson

## Broadacre

Clearly a challenging start to the season, but things are looking more positive on the rainfall front as we head into June. **Last seasons' experience with post emergent weed management and mid-season frost events** has prompted a level of hesitancy in sowing all crops into dry soils. There are a few sowing programs already completed.

There are a few customers that have been fortunate enough to sneak a knockdown herbicide in after heavier isolated rainfall prompted weed germinations. Typically, paraquat has been used to target 1-2 leaf ryegrass in these situations. However, some isolated areas that experienced moderate rain falls over the Easter weekend have had to tackle more established ryegrass, volunteer cereals, and wild radish. Glyphosate with the addition of a spike such as Terrador or Voraxor has been the preferred tank mix on these more established weeds.

Aside from these isolated pockets, the majority of paddocks this year have gone in dry with zero knockdowns, **meaning that there will be significant pressure placed on the pre-emergent chemistries** used in front of the seeder. Most croppers spent some time staring at the ceiling last year when their weed issues became more apparent later in June and July! The forecast for June this season looks a little more promising and although this will equate to a later break it will certainly be a big tick in terms of getting more value out of the pre-emergent herbicides already sprayed. [cont page 2/](#)

## Seasonal reminders

- FJs carry a range of pet food – call into our stores to check out the monthly specials!
- Use All Clear boom and tank cleaner to ensure crop safety across your spray program.
- Castrol Oils in stock. Give our stores a call to sort your farm service requirements.

- Stay on top of the rat and mouse population around the farm yard. Pellets, granules and blocks in stock.
- We stock a comprehensive range of work and safety boots. Grab a new pair to keep your feet warm and dry over the cold winter months.
- Order new eID tags before the end of June to lock in introductory discounts on tags and applicators.

- Order all your fruit, nut and ornamental trees for the winter planting program. Trees available for all commercial growers as well as hobby and home gardeners – call any of our stores today!
- Return all Chep pallets, 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro's ASAP. We will take empty non-returnable fertiliser and glyph shuttles.

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cont. from page 1/ Products with low solubility such as Sakura, Mateno Complete or Propyzamide will certainly provide a much better weed control than last year when we saw very little activity simply due to a lack of moisture due to marginal and sparse rain events.

Subsequent to crop emergence a good level of caution should be taken prior to applications of post-em herbicides as **there is likely to be a range of crop stages present in the one paddock**. Some products have specific growth stage tolerances for crop safety, for instance, a minimum leaf stage prior to tillering etc. Blocks where a staggered germination is present should be thoroughly assessed before any spray application. This will avoid crop damage to parts of the paddock where the growth stage falls outside of these label recommendations.

**Once out of the ground, crops should be given every opportunity to reach maximum yield potential.** Besides moisture, nutrition and pest and disease management should be on point! Cold conditions will see early insect pests on the move. **Red Legged Earth Mite (RLEM) are already evident in stressed legume and cereal crops.** An early insecticide application will eradicate any pests present and provide protection against further hatchings in the weeks ahead.

Look out for Cutworm and Lucerne Flea as well or ask one of the FJs agro's to check paddocks if you need a fresh set of eyes.

**In addition to weeds, pests and diseases, the most important part of crop production is obviously nutrition.**

Products such as Zinc Manganese and Copper (ZMC) are important to overcome any deficiencies in the paddock. These products are generally applied in a tank mix but should always be confirmed to ensure compatibilities are ok. There are a large range of foliar applied products in the market. Some formulations will provide superior results to others – this is a “get what you pay for” space as well. Check soil and tissue tests with our agro's for best results. The final word for this month – **stick some Utrisha N in the tank to provide enhanced nitrogen management to your crops.** This might be the best move this season given the uncertainty of rain events and the guesswork involved in timing nitrogen applications!

## Pasture

Unfortunately, most grazing properties have remained dry across the majority of our region during April with a few small pockets of dryland pastures germinating after isolated heavier rain during the last few weeks. Follow up moisture will determine how these earlier pastures continue to develop in the weeks ahead. Promoting early pasture growth should be a key focus in all grazing enterprises and **it's not too late to lock in a Custom Pasture Blend aimed at filling the early feed gap** to meet livestock nutritional requirements. Promoting early pasture growth should be a key focus in all grazing enterprises. Pasture options might also offer opportunities if you are considering modifying the winter cropping program. In addition to the forage produced, pastures provide soil cover and depending on the species, can be excellent producers of nitrogen, enhancing soil fertility with proven long-term benefits. Irrigated pastures sown over the last few weeks have had the benefit of warm soils and adequate moisture resulting in rapid establishment.

All emerging **seedlings should be protected** with a bare earth or early post emergent insecticide application targeting Red Legged Earth Mite, Aphids and grubs.

There are a host of new IPM insecticide products being introduced into all segments of agriculture as our industry strives to replace old, outdated chemistries. Some of these new products are ideally suited to the pasture and therefore represents a great opportunity to talk to our agro's about the options that line up with your production goals crop by crop and paddock by paddock.



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## Viticulture

Pruning is well underway after an extended autumn when vines were very slow to lose their leaves. The pruning operation provides an important opportunity to inspect vines more closely than can happen over the other months of the year. Any evidence of **Scale activity** can be noted while there are no leaves on the vines. These insidious pests have slowly become a more serious issue in many vineyards in the Barossa. Note their location so that they can be given the attention they require later in the season.

**Lookout for evidence of Eutypa** and other trunk related disease and any

insect pests that may be at work in the vineyard too. The photo (at right) is an example of **Vine Borer activity** and illustrates the damage they are capable of once established.

Give any of our horti agro's a call to



assist in determining threshold levels if these pests have only recently been detected on your blocks.

**Treat major pruning wounds** and any storm damaged vines with a reputable wound dressing immediately after pruning before the wounds callous. FJs stock **Omnia's Greenseal wound dressing**. Greenseal also contains a fungicide to protect against the entry of unwanted pathogens in any fresh pruning cuts. Greenseal is available as a paintable liquid or in an aerosol can for easy application. All tools should also be cleaned with a disinfectant after infected vines are pruned in order to confine infections and not spread the disease further into clean parts of the vineyard.

Whilst talking pruning, we stock a comprehensive range of pruning tools including the Electrocoup pruning shear. Our Nuri workshop is also accredited to undertake repair and warranty work on the Electrocoup's and also carry out the annual services which maintain the pro-rata warranty on the tools.

Although the dry start to the season put the brakes on **cover cropping plans**, recent rain events and more robust forecasts over the next week or so have prompted a bit more mid row sowing in vineyards. FJs have a range of options suitable for any remaining cover cropping plans including cereals,

legumes and brassicas. Give any of the FJ store teams a call for any seed and accompanying fertiliser requirements.

These forecast rain events will no doubt prompt a flush of weeds as well.

**Early weed control should be a priority** in all agricultural situations as young plants are far easier to control than older established stands. Most growers are aware that herbicide resistance has become a relatively serious issue in horticulture. Weed management plans should be reviewed to ensure any spray applications provide robust control whilst also taking into account chemical rotations to reduce the risk of resistance. Residual herbicides will reduce the reliance on follow up knockdowns. Despite the dry spring last season Alion from Bayer provided promising results last season. Give any of the FJ agro's a call to sort your weed management plan and appropriate products.

Soil samples are being collected for analysis at the moment. Soil test results are key in formulating a vineyard nutrition program for the next season.

Deficient (or surplus) elements can be incorporated into any applied fertiliser. Ameliorants such as mulch, compost, lime and gypsum should also be sorted.

## Orchard, Citrus and Horticulture

A few late blocks of citrus are still waiting to be picked. Despite recent cooler nights, including a number of frost events, any remaining fruit has been maintained in relatively good condition over the dry close of autumn.

Orchardists have been working with our agronomists and the **Ramco team getting nutrition programs in order for the 2025/26 growing season**. Achieving sustainable yields in the vicinity of 60 to 70 tonnes per hectare each year requires growers replace nutrients removed by the harvested fruit in adequate volumes and to support sustainable nutrient balance for the trees themselves and their ongoing health and development.

We encourage any growers that are yet to finalise fertiliser programs to contact us as soon as possible. This is especially important in the sense that some raw material supply on several important compounds is quite difficult at the moment. Early planning and product ordering will generally mean an on-time supply of any nutrition blends when they are required.

Please contact Mete Gunhan if you would like to discuss any infield agronomy services that Farmer Johns offer including pest, disease and nutrition monitoring for your blocks this year.

Herbicide programs are also being reviewed subsequent to harvest. Weeds obviously use valuable soil moisture and once well-established are also an inconvenient obstruction for other orchard maintenance operations over the course of the season. Alion residual herbicide from Bayer was released last year. Growers that used this new product in comparison to their typical program have been very impressed with the wide range of weeds controlled and also the extended life of its activity once applied. Evidenced by the enquiry we have had from both our orchard and viticulture clients we are likely to see increased use of the product this season.

Ideally, a good knockdown application will clear any new season germinations and the following Alion residual cover will provide robust control in the months ahead. Call any of the FJs team to discuss your herbicide program and ensure resistance weed varieties are kept in check.

**Lock in your End of Financial Year Business Bonus payment and receive 5% per annum bonus on the credit balance!**

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## Animal Production & General Merchandise

The ongoing dry conditions have forced many graziers across our region to reduce stock numbers or destock properties completely. Fodder reserves are tight for remaining livestock. Despite the tough conditions, graziers focus on nutrition over the last few months seems to have been on point as lambing percentages have been surprisingly high. Supplementing poor quality dry feed with either TRAC or Performance Feeds loose licks has assisted both sheep and cattle manage the challenging conditions to this point. The feed gap that will occur over the coming weeks will also be a challenge. **We have current costs on a range of manufactured feeds including pellets for both sheep and cattle as well as feeders for targeted stock intake.**

Subsequent to recent rain events prompting a slow germination, stock are "chasing" the sparse green pick. Nutritional deficiencies such as Grass Tetany, Phalaris Staggers and Pregnancy Toxemia might be more prevalent over the June to August period this season due to the lack of available forage and limited hay supplies. Generally, these conditions are difficult to detect until they occur in the flock or mob. Older cows and ewes are more likely to suffer from mineral deficiencies making them a priority for supplements. Preventative action should be undertaken early to prevent sudden or multiple stock losses. Products such as TPM Boost Go (Grass Optimiser), MagPlus and Beachport Minerals liquids can easily be made available to susceptible stock.

Check in with our store teams and discuss your situation and the best options for your mothers!

Early season lambs are being marked at the moment. Ensure your vaccination plan is in place with the initial priming shot being administered over this time. We have supplies of vaccine including GlanEry and GlanEry with B12, all in a single 1ml dose covering all clostridial diseases as well as providing an important vitamin B12 supplement.

It is also important that a pain relief product is included in the lamb marking process. Products such as Tri-Solfen and Butec will ensure that lambs suffer the minimum stress during marking without any growth setbacks.

Although **fencing projects** aren't necessarily high on the list of maintenance priorities this year, our fencing suppliers are again offering EOFY specials on a comprehensive range of products.

Cyclone products have stood the test of time in all environments over the decades. Give any of our stores a call and check out the deals that Cyclone have over the remainder of June, especially their N-Sure gate deal. We stock a full range of fencing accessories and gate hinge sets for all types of post assemblies.

**Call the FJ team for any other animal health or general merch issues and to sort your EOFY purchases.**

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