

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Apply Surround sunscreen to trees and vines!
2. Clean up summer weeds.
3. Order fertiliser now.
4. Manage livestock nutrition.

Talk to us about

Seasonal Crop Finance

An alternative to a traditional bank overdraft, our seasonal crop inputs facility provides dedicated funding for seed, fertiliser and agrichemicals.

With a fixed repayment after harvest, it will help preserve cash flow during the growing season.

A maximum term of up to 13 months allows you to choose a repayment timing that best suits your cashflow after harvest.

Call for more information

Greg Schubert - 0412 739 396

or

Gavin Keller – 0417 886 038



It seems as though December has become a little closer to February! January probably passed quickly as everyone was deciding whether or not they were going to get involved in an

Australia Day celebration - our family certainly did! I believe we need to remain patriotic to our country and admire and respect the generations who made Australia "home". We should all remember that Australia Day continues to provide everyone an opportunity to celebrate the peace and freedom that many other countries aren't able to! Despite the earlier long-range forecasts warning of a long, hot and dry summer, we have enjoyed a relatively mild summer so far. Vintage is underway in the Barossa and Clare regions and heading toward the closing stages in the earlier Riverland regions. Fertiliser supply has become a little challenging as other factors, such as availability of cargo vessels and shipping routes begin to influence the market here in Australia.

I ask that you please maintain a close communication channel over the next few weeks with your usual FJs contact to ensure that all your requirements are taken care of. Recent long range weather models suggest that we will still cop a bit of hot weather over the remainder of our traditional summer months. However, we also look like getting some additional rainfall over the earlier months of autumn. This would certainly set the winter cropping season up nicely! It might also mean that the ducks will have to be lined up pretty quickly to enable a potentially earlier start. We have had several staff leave FJs early in January. While resignations always put a bit of short-term heat on a business, they also provide an opportunity for new employees. We are seeking a couple staff for our Blyth site and would welcome enquiries from any suitable prospects with a level of retail and ag industry experience – give me a call!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least"

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Viticulture

Disease management in vineyards has been a focus over the last month subsequent to late December and early January rain events. Powdery Mildew infections are still kicking around in a number of vineyards. Late season Botrytis could also be a problem in some vineyards especially where the disease has been present in previous seasons. If Botrytis protection efforts were a little lacklustre around flowering time it would be prudent to keep an eye out in those disease prone spots now.

The FJs agro's can assist in disease identification if another set of eyes is required in your vineyard! A large amount of **Rust Mite** activity is evident throughout the region. The darkening or /bronzing of the vines leaves is a good indicator of mite activity. This effect becomes more prominent after warm weather, especially over the last couple weeks when we have actually had some hotter daytime temperatures.

Rust Mite are best controlled at woolly bud stage, just prior to budburst. Higher rates of sulphur applied at that time of the season will knock down mite populations without impacting foliage or the grape crop.

Grapevine Scale is also becoming more and more of an issue in local vineyards. Increased ant activity in the canopy will be a good indicator of the Scale populations.

Scale are sap sucking insects that may also spread viruses between vines. They also produce honeydew, which can become a growth medium for Sooty Mould late in the season. Sooty Mould can negatively impact grape quality. It is therefore important to manage scale to minimise ...cont page 2/

New staff member at FJs Georgia Pater



Georgia Pater has joined our Nuri store team. She has a Bachelor of Ag degree and looks forward to building her ag career with us.

Seasonal reminders

- Dry feed supplements for stock will assist in maintaining weights even on poor residual feed reserves.
- Protect fruit crops and vineyards from bird damage with a Laser Bird control system. Laser systems allow re-entry with machinery for additional fungicide and weed spray applications.

- We have pressure cleaners in stock, ideal for machinery and equipment washdown after harvest and processing operations.
- Early autumn lambing ewes should have the pre-lambing Glanvac administered later this month.
- Regularly check and recharge rodent bait stations with Storm, Tomcat and Talon baits. All in stock.

- Gallagher Electric fencing systems will assist in strip confinement grazing and excluding livestock from fodder storage compounds, shelter belts and water courses.
- Full range of load binders, straps and tie downs for all load security.
- 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.... these “down the line problems” over the course of the season.

Although Scale is very evident in vineyards at this time of the season, they are best treated during dormancy and very early after budburst. Growers should note where scale is taking place now with a view to sorting them out late in winter and early spring.

Some vineyards have had **Surround** applied over the last couple weeks prior to the hot days toward the end of January. The white tell-tale residual covering on the foliage of these vineyards is very visible. Surround does a great job in summer heat management in many horticulture crops including wine grapes, reducing heat stress and sunburn. Surround is an inert kaolin clay that once applied to the canopy, simply acts as a sunscreen. Surround can reduce the temperature within the vine canopy by as much as 8°C. This significant difference reduces the vines moisture requirement, improves fruit quality and leaf retention leading up to harvest

Bird control is an important consideration especially in those vineyards located on the perimeter of regional production areas and in those outlying vineyards encompassed by natural bird habitation and woodlands. Gas guns and other scaring devices are somewhat effective but need to be moved about and also backed up with some physical effort, ie shooting. Netting is more effective but can be problematic if any additional entry for fungicide and herbicide applications are required.

Call us to discuss how an Electronic Laser might assist in managing damage from all species of birds in your crops.

Vintage is well underway in the Riverland and just beginning in the Barossa region. Ensure you are prepared by checking stocks and the condition of bins, buckets and tools. We have bin paint and thinners, new Mega bins, Nally buckets and snips all in stock.

Once fruit has been picked, **post-harvest care** including nutrition applications and ongoing irrigation is important for the vine's recovery. Vines will undergo a root flush immediately after harvest in an effort to replace the nutrient reserves lost via the current crop in readiness for dormancy. It is therefore important to ensure a supply of key nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus

are available to the vine during this flush. Highlighting the importance of this post harvest boost is the evidence of nutrient deficiencies in many vineyards late this season.

Please discuss an appropriate post-harvest nutrition program with them.

Jeffries mulch products have continued to prove their worth in vineyards this past season. Improved soil structure, moisture retention and associated water holding capacity as well as weed suppression are all benefits achieved from under vine mulch applications. Jeffries have introduced a **Season Special** for their horticulture product range including familiar products such as Dura Mulch, Rustic Choice Mulch and Organic Compost. Organic Compost is also an ideal base product to have other nutrition ameliorants such as granular fertiliser and gypsum blended allowing a more economical one pass application.

The Season Special includes discounted prices on volumes of these products until the end of April. Call our team to sort volumes and arrange deliveries while this offer is available.

Jeffries Commercial Compost is also available as an organic input for growers this season. It has a coarser particle range compared to the organic compost.

We have samples of each Jeffries product in the Nuriootpa Store.

Call any of the Fjs team to discuss any vineyard matters in more detail relevant to your situation.

Citrus and Orchard

As has been the case over the last few weeks, **Red Scale and Mealybug populations require ongoing monitoring** and treatment if populations determine. Trivora, Movento and Applaud will all do the job on these damaging pests.

Final applications of **nutrition will assist in fruit sizing and also to manage heat stress.**

Products such as Low-Bi urea, Pot Nitrate, ZM2 Stoller, Mega Kel-P or TechMap are all useful in this space and determined by SAP and soil tests.

Surround will also provide sun protection to trees over the remainder of summer. Our notes in the viti section above are also application to tree crops.

Post Harvest nutrition should be applied as soon as possible after harvesting **stone fruit.** Tree roots will also actively seek to replace nutrition reserves lost through the fruit removed over harvest. This sap movement will be active prior to leaf fall and the onset of dormancy and will have a significant influence on next seasons fruit crop.

GET IT ON
Google Play

Download on the
App Store

SiloKeeper

Making silo fumigation easier

- ▶ Plan, monitor & track on-farm silo & bunker fumigation with QuickPhos™
- ▶ Captures the key success factors: temperature, humidity & moisture
- ▶ Easy directions for each stage, providing alerts & process checks
- ▶ Generates fumigation records & manages the grain in your silos

www.silokeeper.com
© registered trademark of UPL Australia Pty Ltd

UPL
OpenAg™

Vinidex
by allaxis

StormPRO®

- ✓ Lightweight & durable
- ✓ Flexible ✓ SN8
- ✓ Used for stormwater & drainage

Rural Plus®

- ✓ High quality
- ✓ Easy to install
- ✓ Used for rural, horticulture, landscaping

AUSTRALIAN MADE & 100% RECYCLABLE

“with you in the **GROWING** business”

Broadacre

Fertiliser orders should be finalised to ensure timely supply of all planting fertiliser. Global conflicts have affected shipping availability and routes which has in turn caused a knock-on effect into fertiliser transport. Current quotes indicate fertiliser arrival times into Australian ports may already challenge our ideal sowing dates. Our recommendation is to place orders now to avoid additional delays. Urea is very topical at the moment as global prices have lifted over recent weeks, catching importers by surprise. Despite the common view that urea may soften later in the season, we believe that these higher prices are likely to settle at the current rates in the lead up to sowing. There is limited urea volumes available at the moment with the main supply starting to arrive early in April.

The urea market is always quite volatile and so may correct downwards by top dress. We will continue to monitor this market and make recommendations on the information we have from all importers.

Summer weed control has been on the go over the last few weeks with the majority of broadacre croppers now completed a round of summer knockdowns. Some paddocks have also had a second application following more recent rainfall. Continue to monitor paddocks where Silver Leaf Nightshade is present. Even though there has been a very good initial knockdown, another germination is evident in some paddocks. Starane is the best product to reduce these populations when applied December through to February.

Recent hot and dry conditions have stressed most untreated weeds. Herbicide rates will need to be increased to ensure adequate control is achieved under these adverse conditions. Similarly, weed size for some paddocks that haven't been sprayed needs to be considered with regards to our rates, this is especially the case for weeds such as melons, wireweed, and even volunteer cereals that are starting to come out in head. We have seen a good germination of wild radish for some which has proven an excellent opportunity for an early knockdown to help drive down seed banks.

Soil samples and root disease testing should also be completed over the next couple months. Results from soil tests may influence fertiliser decisions, making these a bit of a priority.

Other soil ameliorants such as lime and gypsum should be ordered as soon as possible to avoid delivery delays and provide time for spreading over the coming weeks. **Penlime** is available within allocations at the moment but is only in limited supply. Please call us urgently if you require this product specifically. Suitable alternative options are available in better volumes.

The FJs agronomy team can provide helpful information on each source to determine the most appropriate option for your situation.

Gypsum is available. However, collection ex Blanchetown is a little clunky, requiring an appointment to arrange pickup and confirm that a loader is available on site. We urge customers **not to leave collection too late or too close to seeding time** in the case that logistics do not allow them to outload gypsum in a timely manner. Last season's bad experiences don't need to be repeated!

We have an offer from IPF to assist growers interested in using bulk Easy N in the coming season. Easy N may be worth considering given the volatility in the urea market this season. IPF are offering up to \$1000 off the invoice price for the first 3 loads of Easy N dispatched to growers who install a **new tank on farm**.

We can assist clients through the site registration and proof of purchase details required to receive the credit. Orders for the first load of Easy N need to be placed by the end of Feb 2024 while the remaining 2 loads need to be dispatched by the end of Sept 2024. This offer is also being supported by Polymaster who are offering a discount on applicable fertiliser storage tanks. This offer is limited and within a tight timeframe, please call any of the Farmer Johns staff for assistance.

Pasture

January has flown by; it won't be too long before the autumn pasture jobs will be on the agenda! Our agronomy team love pastures and collectively have a vast amount of experience that should be utilised for paddock-by-paddock variety and blend selection as well as nutrition and weed management. Pastures are an important tool in mixed farming and grazing enterprises and should be managed accordingly. With a little **more focussed effort, most producers could get more out of pastures** than they historically have. Annual grasses, mixed species and either dryland or irrigated paddocks all provide opportunities for grazing, hay or silage. All these situations will mean different management tools need to be employed to maximise production. The summer **rains have also been very beneficial to lucerne paddocks**, with some stands in the mallee looking just outstanding. Brassicas have also flourished after the December rain events, providing unexpected summer feed on those properties that have included them in their feed rotations. Some paddock preparation will typically need to take place prior to sowing pastures, please contact us to discuss what should be sorted before autumn.

**GOT OVERWATCH®?
GOT OPTIONS.**

When you have Overwatch® Herbicide in the mix, you're ready for anything.

By delivering broad spectrum control of many important weeds including up to 12 weeks residual activity on annual ryegrass and a nil re-cropping interval to wheat, barley, canola and select pulse crops, only Overwatch® Herbicide gives you the flexibility you need.

Overwatch
HERBICIDE

GROUP 13 HERBICIDE
UNIQUE MOA FOR BROADACRE

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS. FMC and Overwatch are registered trademarks of FMC Corporation or an affiliate. © 2023 FMC Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

WEED smart **FMC**

Go CoAXium™
DRIVEN BY **Aggressor™**

Soothes your pain in the grass.



Introducing CoAXium®, the new way to manage Annual ryegrass, Barley grass, Brome grass, Wild oats and volunteer cereals during the barley phase of your cropping program. CoAXium® combines a patented, non-GMO herbicide-tolerance trait with elite Australian barley varieties and a unique Group 1 grass herbicide that optimises efficacy and crop safety. Visit coaxium.com.au and find out how the CoAXium® Barley Production System can deliver cleaner fields and higher yields in your cropping program.



CoAXium is a registered trademark of Agrium, LLC. CoAXium, Aggressor, and Barley Production System are trademarks of Agrium, LLC. © 2023

“with you in the **GROWING** business”

Animal Health & General Merchandise

Lice continue to cost the Australian sheep industry over \$70m annually.

Losses occur from devalued fleeces as a result of matted wool, reduced fibre length and strength, discolouration and style as well as lost body condition due to the stress and discomfort of their presence. Lice live their entire lives on the body of the host sheep. Direct contact is generally required for lice to transfer from sheep to sheep. Anecdotally, all lice infestations begin on "the neighbours farm"! Shearing will significantly reduce the size of the lice population by their physical removal and subsequent exposure to the elements. Backline treatments applied immediately after shearing will have the most impact on the remaining populations.

Elanco Australia have a range of products suitable to include in a robust lice management program, including a special offer on Extinosad and L Viper. Rotation of active ingredients should also take place to ensure chemical resistance doesn't occur on the farm.

Please call any of our stores for additional advice on sheep lice management.

Recent media publications have alerted all sheep producers that **eID tags for sheep and goats are on the way and will be mandatory by January 1st 2025.**

The SA Government has announced funding to incentivise the early adoption of sheep eID tags for the 2024 season. The proposed eID Tag Payment Program will

offer a discount of .95 cents per tag to eligible SA primary producers through a payment to a supplying tag manufacturer. **In 2024, the TP will be available for black (2024 colour) NLIS fully accredited sheep eID tags** purchased by SA sheep or goat producers who have a current SA PIC registered with PIRSA. Please contact our store staff to discuss this in more detail and to arrange tag orders well before they are required.

Fencing projects are a focus on many grazing properties at the moment. We have a full range of steel and treated posts, strainers and wire for all classes of livestock on hand at our stores. We support the market leading Waratah and Cyclone brands for their superior wire coating technology but also have a range suited to all budgets. Give our staff a call to work through all fencing quotes, supply timelines and to arrange on farm deliveries.

Water supplies need to be reliable over the drier months of summer.

Vinidex has been proud Australian manufacturer for over 60 years including the production of quality polyethylene pipe and StormPro drainage systems. We stock the Vinidex range of poly pipe in our stores. We also supply the complete range of Philmac poly pipe fittings, Polymaster and Aquamate storage tanks, fittings and flanges, troughs and float valves.

Farm water systems piped from SA Water meters should utilise Class 12 pipe (Blueline) as a minimum pressure standard.

Water installations gravitated from storage dams and header tanks typically utilise the Rural Plus Greenline pipe.

Call us for quotes on all farm water supply projects.

Flies on farm are not just a nuisance, they can spread disease and impact production. They are obviously a routine problem for sheep graziers but are often overlooked when simple measures can be taken to reduce their populations. We have a range of effective residual insecticides, traps and baits that can all be incorporated into an on-farm fly program. Special attention should be paid to dairies, poultry sheds, stables and pet housing as well as any manure stockpiles near these areas. Call our store staff for further info.

Purchase 2 x 20 L EXTINOSAD™ POUR-ON or 4 x 20 L VIPER™ POUR-ON before 05/04/24 and receive a \$100 (Prezzee) card or 128 Elanco Rewards points and a 6 months off-shears lice-free guarantee!

Always read and follow label instructions. Viper™, Elanco and the diagonal bar logo are trademarks of Elanco or its affiliates. ©2023 Elanco or its affiliates. EAP05063, PM-AU-23-0843.



**WITH ALLFLEX®
THE MORE YOU
KNOW
THE BETTER YOU
GROW**

Beef and dairy producers have long recognised the benefits of utilising electronic (EID) tags on their farms. Assessing the performance of individual animals can improve genetic gain and improve productivity in a low-cost, low-labour manner.

Now, increasingly, commercial sheep producers too are recognising the financial gains that can be achieved.

A study published by MLA, modelled a range of management options and found that "the average cost benefit was a \$4.12 return for every dollar invested by using EID to improve breeding and selection decisions."

Improve your individual sheep management with Allflex® EID sheep tags.

Find out more, visit www.allflex.com.au or call our team on 1300 138 247



* Reference: H. Dodson, AgriPartner Consulting Pty Ltd. Maximising the value of existing technology for sheep producers. Published by Meat and Livestock Australia Limited, 24 May 2019. <https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/industry/2019maximising-the-value-of-existing-technology-for-sheep-producers>

® Registered trademarks. Copyright © 2023 Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA and its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Farmer Johns

53 Railway Terrace
Nuriootpa SA 5355
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
08 8844 5141
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
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"