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We have a Job Vacancy at our Murray Bridge store.

This role is focussed within our branch warehouse and retail store, but may include some farm deliveries utilising our fleet vehicles to maximise sales and services to our clients.

A basic knowledge of rural merchandise and regional farm practices will be seen as an advantage but not a necessity. Previous experience in retail sales would be an advantage.

The applicant will need to:

- maintain a neat tidy store, shed & yard.
- show high levels of accuracy and detail.
- have outstanding communication skills.
- manage stock receipts and deliveries.
- be physically fit to handle products
- current drivers, HR and forklift licences

Please send your resume via email by

Friday the 25th September to

gavin@farmerjohns.com.au

if you believe you're the right fit for this role.



The great season continues to roll along – maybe much faster than we would like!! The last week of August has shaped up to be warmer than recent weeks. Winter crops have made some

serious progress on the back of these ideal conditions. The onset of warmer weather ahead has also prompted a bit more focus on the horti season across a range of summer fruit and vegie blocks. I'm not in the habit of using this newsletter segment to talk about accounting matters but need to mention a change about to take place in our system. We have been using the Cobalt Business Software for many years now. The system covers all of our Point of Sale and Stock Management requirements and is fully integrated with our debtor and creditor accounts and staff payroll functions. Long term clients will be very familiar with the layout of our invoices and monthly statements. While these familiar "front end" documents haven't changed much in appearance over the years, the system that generates them is constantly being upgraded behind the scenes in the "engine room".

Our debtor system, the documents that you see, will take on a new look next month. Our client accounts will be shifted across to a more automated process during September. All account customers will remain on 30-day EOM payment terms. To be clear, purchases made in September need to be paid by the 30th day of October. Ideally, we should receive remittances prior to the conclusion of this 30 day period and certainly before the close of a working week if the 30th day of the month lands on a weekend. Invoices will become overdue if they remain unpaid past the due date. Going forward, a "Due Date" will be printed at the top of all invoices at the time of processing. Detailed Monthly Activity Statements will also include the product details shown on the invoices (as in the past). However, the layout will differ with clear indications if invoices have become overdue. These changes will simply assist in determining what amounts should be remitted to manage a/cs within our trading terms. Please call me if you would like to discuss this further.

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

'If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.'

- Dr Wayne Dyer

Broadacre

Soil moisture levels remain well above adequate across our entire region. The latest significant rainfall event really helped to kick crops into gear after the cold spell earlier in August. This has been particularly beneficial to some of the later sown pulse crops. A number of clients have even suggested it would be great if it could stop raining for a while and allow the sun to come out for a week or two! These conditions bode well for a very positive outlook for the remainder of the season and hopefully all regions are able to reap the rewards at harvest time!

Fungicides have continued to be top of mind for everyone with a winter crop in the ground! Foliar diseases have been persistent in both pulses and cereals. Earlier sown cereals that have produced some heavier bio mass have received a couple fungicide passes already.

As temperatures start to rise with a coinciding increase in humidity levels, **we can expect disease pressure and leaf rust particular to continue to be an issue.** It will be most important to maintain regular monitoring across all crops with a view to managing any additional disease outbreaks in a timely manner. Our biggest concern at this time is the very limited supply of additional fungicide available for ongoing disease control.

Insect pests also thrive in the same environmental conditions that fungal infectionscont page 2

We are able to store current Chemcert S7 Licence details within our sales system.

A large number of these records have expired. We are unable to supply a range of products without a current accreditation in place. Please advise your updated S7 licence details to us ASAP.

Seasonal reminders

- The current grain harvest promises to be far better than the last three. Call us to sort all grain protection products order your supply of grain bags to ensure adequate storage!
- Make sure the harvest loads are safe and secure - comprehensive range of tie down chain, rated straps and load binders in stock.

- Insects and crawling pests will get active over the early weeks of spring. Use Ficam residual to thwart the invasion around the house and sheds.
- Don't forget, we always have a deal on some brand of dog food!
- All Castrol oils in stock ready for the busy harvest service jobs. Call any of our stores for all oil quotes and arrange deliveries on 200ltr drums.

- Rev up the spring garden health with a dose of Nuetrog on all your lawns, vegie patch and flower beds. Full bagged range in stock.
- Use Alion herbicide along fence lines and sheds for residual weed control.
- Full range of poly pipe and Philmac fittings in stock – it's way easier to install when the ground is damp before the summer pressure starts!

from page 1/... love. Crops should also be closely inspected in the coming weeks. **Early infestations of Heliothis and Diamond Back moth** are already evident in a number of locations. Consistent monitoring is key to detecting these populations early. Ideally, management of insect pests should be focussed on preventing yield impact rather than holding off and then trying to save the crop. Please contact any of our agronomy team if you require FJs to include your crops in our routine pest monitoring rounds.

Subsequent to locust flights earlier in the season, spring hatchings may take place across a number of locations in the Riverland and Mallee regions. PIRSA have started monitoring some regions and ask that landowners are also vigilant in the critical weeks when these egg laying "hotspots" may become active with hoppers. Obviously, hatchlings should be both reported and treated with an appropriate insecticide. In a great moisture season such as the one we are presented with this year; nutrition is a key pillar to crops reaching their yield potential. Our agro's have observed that adequate nutrient supplementation also allows crops to hold up better when disease and insect pressures do increase. **Foliar applications of trace elements such as copper, zinc and manganese can easily be added to the tank mix** on any of the disease and insect control passes undertaken during spring. Tissue testing can also be included to ascertain underlying issues if observations to indicate nutrition disorders are evident in developing crops.

Our team have taken a number of enquiries over the last few weeks about the **2027 seasons fertiliser supply**. Our international fertiliser suppliers have offered volumes of fertiliser over the last few weeks. Please catch up with any of the FJs team if you wish to pursue an opportunity to purchase product early and store it on farm in preparation for the 2027 sowing season.

Pasture

Pastures have enjoyed the best growing season in recent memory, evidenced by some of the best stands of medic seen for many years. Current stands of pasture also provide an opportunity for hay production on some farms that have suffered through an extended dry spell. Given this prolific growth, the expectation is that these pastures will also replenish a serious volume of seed bank for future seasons. This might also be a once in a decade opportunity to set up paddocks for future years with **additional management to preserve the paddocks integrity**. Ideally, these pastures should be assisted with an appropriate herbicide to clean up broadleaf weeds, especially late germinations of radish, turnip and mustards subsequent to the recent August rain events. A selective grass herbicide will also take care of barley grass, silver grass and ryegrass. Soil temperatures will increase as the days get longer during spring. Good soil moisture levels have provided an ideal base to focus on intended **spring sowing in irrigated and dryland pasture blocks to improve summer forage production**.

We have a range of varieties available ex our stores while our seed supplier friends are always keen to accept orders for additional options and specific blends tailored to your feed requirements.

Millet, sorghum and forage brassicas could all be successfully established on the moisture profiles our soils currently have available.

Hay and silage production has started in some of the earlier regions and will steadily spread across most of our region in the next few weeks. We have supplies of silage wrap, net wrap and twine on hand suited to all fodder conservation plans. Please give our stores a call to sort your requirements.

Orchard, Citrus and Horticulture

Warmer days have seen some **early flowering begin** in some citrus orchards. These warmer conditions will also promote increased earwig activity. Earwigs can cause significant damage to new emerging leaves especially if they are present in large populations.

Snails have also been very active in all regions. Baits should be spread while snails are actively foraging on the ground and temperatures are still cooler. Once conditions warm further snail will begin their movement into canopies.

Katydid populations will also increase in favoured conditions. They should be monitored closely as their biggest impact is early as fruitlets are most susceptible. Timing of any insecticide applications pre-flowering should also consider beneficial insect populations too.

Contact either Georgie Pater or Gordon Childs for assistance in determining the most appropriate insecticide timing for your situation.

Seasonal fertigation programs have started. We don't expect any product supply issues despite the ongoing conflicts in key fertiliser production countries overseas. High average rainfall across most of our horticulture regions have assisted to leach salt deposits from the root zone. Obviously, in light sandy soils higher rainfall also moves other mobile nutrients from the soil profile as well. It would be prudent to complete some strategic soil tests to assist in understanding what is actually available for the forthcoming growing season. The nutrient spend can then be focussed on those areas that need supplementing rather than a shotgun approach across the entire orchard. It's not too late to finalise any remaining nutrition plans. Again, please contact either Georgie or Gordon to follow this up or to discuss any other orchard related matter that you may have concerns with.

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Viticulture

Some warmer days over the last couple weeks have given us a glimpse of the spring season that is upon us. Vine buds are swelling in all regions, with some early vineyards showing green tips – the 26/27 viti season will be very evident by the middle of September. Many growers have reviewed their fungicide spray programs in consultation with our agronomy team. Seasonal plans should include a sound disease resistance management protocol. An appropriate portfolio of products that will obviously do the job but also to fit within any budgeting constraints and of course there may also be winery processor requirements that also need to be adhered to. This is a particularly important task at the moment as consideration also needs to be given to many blocks that have their future under a cloud.

Recent damp conditions have been conducive to leaf diseases in all winter crops. We expect these same conditions are likely to persist at least into the first weeks of the viticulture season. It would therefore be preferable to include any systemic fungicides earlier in your protection program.

Sulphur sprays still have an important place for mite control at woolly bud stage. We recommend you check in with our viti agro's if you have any questions in relation to the timing of this application to ensure satisfactory control is achieved.

Although we don't expect product supply to be a problem over the summer spray season, it is always prudent to have a couple sprays safe at home in your shed when you need them!

Initial herbicide applications have been completed across most of the blocks that require them. **Rising temperatures into the spring will also assist with the effectiveness of any glufosinate sprays** targeting weeds that have freshened up after recent rainfall and warmer conditions.

Resistant ryegrass populations continue to challenge spray programs. Good control has generally been achieved with a "double knock" strategy, initially with Nufarm Crucial and a spike added to the tank followed by a paraquat/amtrole tank mix approximately 7 – 10 days later.

Due to the recent changes to the registration and labelled uses, **paraquat will no longer be an option in all horticulture crops.**

This is the opportune time to sit down with one of our agro's and review your weed management path forward.

The original resistant weed message was, "if you are on a good thing, don't stick to it"! **Residual herbicides also have a natural fit in managing resistance.** Residuals can be applied prior to forecast rain events to assist their incorporation into the soil surface.

Mulch applications undervine at this time of year will assist in reducing losses from the stored soil moisture that has been accumulated over the winter period. Mulch will also help to keep soil temperatures lower over what is expected to be a warmer than average summer period. Experience has also shown that good mulch cover will offer beneficial weed suppression as well.

Nutrition is key to all crops and will influence yield and fruit quality. Given many growers have reduced their overall inputs as a consequence of wine grape oversupply and poor returns, it is more important than ever to fully understand what nutrition is available in the vineyard. **Early season petiole sampling** will remove all the guesswork and assist in determining precisely what nutrients should be supplemented and in what volume. Typically, low levels of zinc, manganese and boron show up in our region's vineyards. These elements are also very important for flowering and fruit set. Testing should take place prior to flowering in order that and soil amendments can be made in a timely manner.

Please contact any of the FJs agronomists for further advice on your vineyard issues or haven them assist with a personal site visit.

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Animal Production & General Merch

Good fencing not only maintains security for your own livestock but also ensures strays and other undesirable visitors don't find their way onto your property either. **Cyclone have been a trusted fencing supplier to Australian farms for over 125 years.** FJs keep a comprehensive range of Cyclone products in stock, including the N-Sure braced field gates, Ringlock fabricated fencing and gate hardware. Give any of the FJs store teams a call to sort all your spring fencing supplies.

Sheep lice continue to cause major economic loss to the Australian sheep industry by reducing the quality and quantity of wool produced on grazing properties. Lice infestations require additional management and treatment that adds extra costs to production as well.

In South Australia, presenting lice-infested sheep at a public market or saleyard is an offence under the *Livestock Regulations 2013* and carries an **on-the-spot fine of \$315**, with a **maximum legal penalty of \$5,000** if the matter goes to court. It is also generally accepted that sheep lice are introduced to flocks via the neighbor's sheep!! In order to stop the lice lifecycle, complete mustering and treatment is required.

Shearing time presents an annual opportunity to maintain a lice free flock, provided a reliable off shears lice product is correctly applied to the entire flock according to the products label directions. As is the case with insects in most other situations, sheep lice do have varying levels of resistance to some of the available actives. It is important to rotate lice treatments across those effective actives to ensure complete control is achieved. We have a range of pour on and dip treatments available ex our stores. **However, Flexolt administered as an oral drench is a very effective way of ensuring every animal gets the correct dose of product to kill lice.**

Give our stores a call to reserve your flock's requirement!

Flies are also on the move, funny how they turn up in the kitchen on the first sunny day at the end of winter! If they are in the house, they will definitely be looking for opportunities in the sheep flock!

Lush pastures and high soil moisture levels will continue to support extreme fly activity well into spring. Again, a **simple treatment with a reliable pour on fly product** such as Klik will protect the flock over the summer hay, harvest and holiday season!

The spring flush is evident in crops and pastures. That also means the same **flush will see weeds get away along fence lines, around the sheds and house yard and roadways.** We stock a range of Croplands and Silvan ute and ATV mounted units purpose built for accessibility in tighter areas with 12volt pumps, longer spray lines and ute mounted booms complete with offset nozzles etc. Catch up with our team to sort a setup up specifically for your situation and price point.

The current outbreak of H5 bird flu has already had a serious impact on sea birds along SA's coastline. Poultry farmers are a little nervous about how this might impact their businesses going forward. **On farm bio-security and hygiene should be maintained at a high level in all enterprises** to ensure protection of livestock and the operators themselves. It is recommended that discouraging wild birds from interacting with domestic livestock and poultry will minimise the risk of infection. Bird netting over the chook yards and pet compounds, ensuring feed troughs are cleaned regularly to discourage wild birds etc. This all sounds a little easier said than done!

Call any of the FJs stores to sort all your Cyclone fencing supplies. We have a full range in stock.



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