

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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3. Get fungicides on farm.
4. Order mulch for vineyards and orchards.
5. Manage nutrition in ewes and cows.
6. Buy Waratah fencing products – first because they last!
7. Sort out the shearing shed before shearing.

Employment opportunities

All of our instore sales staff enjoy the diversified role that “Branch Sales” offers – close customer relationships, seasonally driven product range, merchandising and stock management.

We are seeking to add an additional instore team member at both our Blyth and Nuriootpa stores.

Suitably motivated applicants with outstanding interpersonal skills would suit these roles. Some sales experience and a basic knowledge of primary production would be an advantage.

Contact Greg Schubert confidentially if you or someone you know might have the skills to fill these roles or forward your resume to greg@farmerjohns.com.au



Cold, wintery conditions have continued to build resilience in all those dedicated pruners out there!

Early June rainfall across all of SA has certainly lifted the winter

crop outlook. Some drier marginal areas will still need good falls in the next couple weeks to keep crops moving but most other regions are looking very good. Although it has been a difficult few weeks on the nitrogen front we believe most of our clients have sufficient supplies for their crops current requirement. We value strong working relationships. I believe the current urea supply situation reinforces my view. If we know what our clients need, when they need it and what volume is required, we can confidently lock away volumes of product when availability is ok. You in turn will then have confidence knowing that your volumes of product will be included in our forward planning. This is how we have covered most urea volumes in recent months. We would expect that this same confidence goes the other way as well.

If you are able to deal with our team with the same confidence, your decision making processes will also be less stressful. I am sure that there will be other challenging supply shortages in the future. Our global supplier partners continue to focus on their financial performance. This means they will supply our forecast volumes without too much upside no matter what the season.

If we can in turn collate our producer partners volumes, the supply channel works perfectly. Our team will always endeavour to satisfy all enquiries for any product. Strong relationships automatically float to the top when supply gets very difficult.

We want to be with ALL of you in the growing business. That way we can all focus on managing the crops we grow to the best of our ability rather than stressing about whether or not the inputs might turn up!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

“You can’t build a reputation on what you are going to do”

- Henry Ford

Broadacre

Despite the BOM providing a rather negative winter rainfall outlook, the last few weeks have seen good falls across most of our market area. Although relatively early, the recent wetter conditions have set all crops up for an ideal growing season.

Most croppers will be aware that the **nitrogen situation in Australia is very, very tight**. This situation has been a challenge for a number of weeks now. Suffice to say, availability of any form of nitrogen is as bad as we have ever experienced. It is particularly frustrating as well given recent rainfall events have provided ideal opportunities to boost crops in a timely manner. Nitrogen products are a major challenge, as bad as we have seen it given the widespread rain events.

While we have been very proactive in sourcing further product our supply of urea, SOA and Easy N is nearly exhausted. Rest assured, we will continue to try to find nitrogen options for our customers.

In sync with our core values and confirming that relationships, integrity and consistency are taken seriously, we do prioritise supply to clients that give us year-round support. It is interesting to note the number of phone calls we receive when word is out that we might have surplus product available!

Insects and pests are creating real challenges in emerging and seedling crops. Obviously, the ideal growing conditions are also very conducive to all the pests that are evident across the regions as well. Slugs, snails, earwigs, millipedes, earth mite and lucerne flea are all impacting crops to varying degrees. Slugs are the medal winners at this point in time with significant damage as we mightcont page 2

Seasonal reminders

- **New Electrocoup secateurs in stock. We carry a full range of spare parts and have accredited service staff for repairs.**
- **Grass tetany and bloat can cause stock losses. Use TRAC and Performance Feeds products for all livestock. We have bloat and grass tetany blocks in stock.**

- **Recent cold and wet weather has driven vermin under cover - bait around the house and farm sheds with Talon, Storm and Tomcat bait.**
- **Order eartags well before lamb marking to allow for any unforeseen delivery delays. Ask our team about using RFID tags in replacement breeding ewes this season.**
- **Dog and Cat food always in stock.**

- **We stock a full range of ammo at our Nuri store. Give us a call to sort the spring ammo supply.**
- **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.**

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

from page 1... expect in canola but similar levels of damage are also impacting cereals and pastures. The frequent rainfall and high pest numbers means we are seeing situations which require repeat applications of bait. Some consideration should be given to applying a bait that offers superior stability in the wetter conditions that we are currently experiencing.

Crop diseases have also been prompted into activity by the cool damp weather. We have flagged the likelihood of high disease pressure this season simply as a result of the high levels of spores present at the close of the 2022 season.

Frequent recent rainfall has provided an ideal platform for disease infections in both cereals and pulses. Any blocks sown like on like ie: wheat in wheat, will require an early fungicide for Septoria control. The timing for this application will coincide with the Eye Spot timing and will be beneficial for the crop.

Crops sown in regions with a coastal influence will be susceptible to powdery mildew. No doubt growers will recall the disease challenges faced over the closing weeks of last season.

It is very important to control powdery mildew early while there is still opportunity to get the fungicide into the base of the canopy prior to canopy closure.

Talendo fungicide has been approved with a minor use permit from the AVPMA for powdery mildew on wheat. Talendo doesn't have any curative activity but is a very effective preventative fungicide.

Target, timing, chemical efficacies and resistance all need to be considered when choosing the most suitable product for your crop.

Talendo is a suitable option with these considerations in mind.

Miravis Star is also a relatively new fungicide for use in canola and pulse crops. It also performed very well last season when disease pressures were extreme. Please contact any of the FJs team to both explore these options and to also determine the best fungicide strategy for season 2023 – we don't want to be chasing late season outbreaks in 2023!

Weed control may have been compromised with significant falls of rain in some areas having an adverse effect on the performance of some pre-emergent herbicides. Monitor all crops for "survivors" and take early action for best results while weeds are still small.

Mateno, the new herbicide from Bayer is doing an excellent job with ideal activity noted on small Radish and also cleaning up late emerging ryegrass.

Note any additional weeds that haven't been controlled by early season herbicide applications. These populations could display the various resistant traits that we unfortunately are accustomed to and should be tested for their resistance status later in the season.

Each year we set up a number of **demonstration and trial sites to better understand new chemistry**, tank mix performance and new registrations on labels. These sites also offer our clients the opportunity to check out these applications and how they might be incorporated into individual farm plans as well.

Some of the work we do on new compounds also assists our supplier partners with their new product registration plans, label updates and application recommendations. We therefore encourage all clients to discuss the potential for these new recommendations with your FJs agro.

Pasture

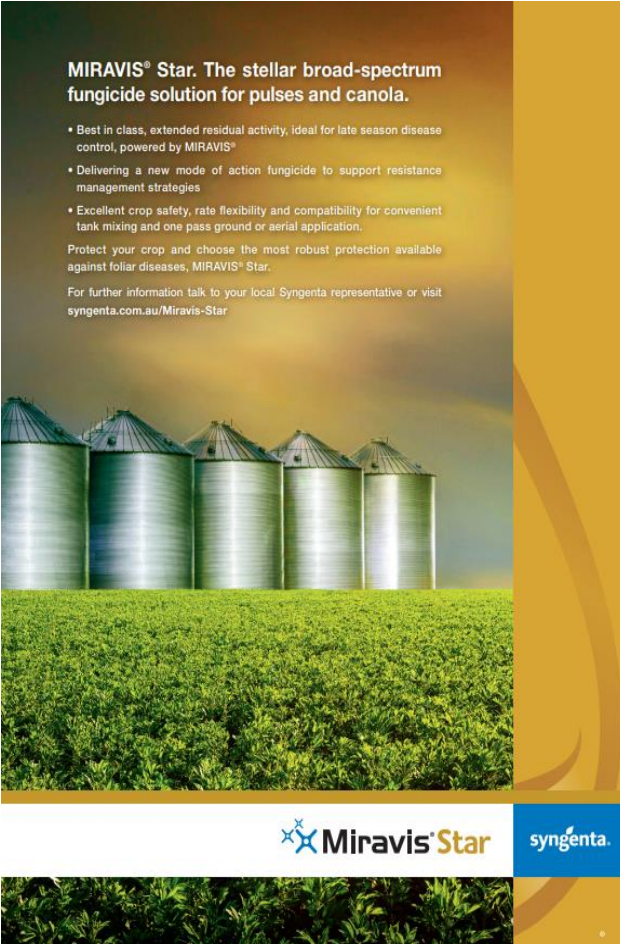
Newly sown pastures have been challenged with our very **cold conditions and heavy insect pressures**. Red Legged earth mite, slugs, cutworm and lucerne flea have all been active with some serious damage evident in many blocks.

Weeds have also been on the move since the early rains at Easter time. Any grazing that has taken place on these early weeds has reduced the leaf area while a significant root system remains beneath the surface. Robust rates of product will be required to pull these weeds up.

Always check the grazing, milk and slaughter withholding periods for herbicide and insecticides prior to any application on pastures to ensure your livestock sales plans aren't compromised.

It would be advisable to plan the spring topdressing program sooner rather than later as current product shortages may also impact availability of some routine pasture and hay blends.

Call any of the FJ's agros for all pasture matters.




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Viticulture

Pruning is well under way with some clients already done and dusted! **Eutypa management should be a priority over the pruning season.** Take care not to increase the incidence of this insidious disease through the pruning operation. Basic rules such as tool cleanliness to avoid cross contamination, avoid pruning affected vines whilst raining and applying wound sealants and follow up fungicide applications all assist in reducing the incidence of Eutypa.

Grapevine Scale populations have increased significantly across most viticulture regions. Although looking rather benign, these increased populations will have an impact on the vines if left unchecked.

Ideally control should take place over the later months of dormancy prior to budburst. Please check in with our agro's to determine the most appropriate course of action for your situation.

Herbicide programs should be planned to target weeds early while they are still small. This means 2 – 4 leaf stage soon after emergence. Leaving weeds grow until they are much more established will mean they are much more difficult to control and will require higher rates of herbicide to kill them.

A combination of knockdown herbicides applied to clean up young populations followed by a robust pre-emergent product (for long term residual control) will also assist in managing the risk of herbicide resistance more effectively

Pre-emergent herbicides require application to bare soil for best weed control.

Preparing the site by killing weeds when they are small and subsequently removing residual trash and pruning will improve pre-emergent efficacy.

Our agro's can assist in formulating an effective tailored weed control program for your situation. Please do not hesitate to use their experience!

Mulches for spring water conservation under vines and trees should be

delivered over the next few weeks. Mulch has long-term durability and is ideal for its water retention and weed suppression attributes as well as aiding in soil insulation over the hot summer months. Mulch naturally offers a slow-release source of organic matter. More coarse mulch blends are ideal for a slow release of organic nutrients over an extended period of time, which also assists with increasing soil fertility.

Many local growers have used mulch as an important addition to their management systems and will attest to the benefits observed in subsequent seasons. Please speak to our agro's for mulch options, orders or to "discover" where mulch might fit in your plans!

Access into vineyard and orchard sites is obviously a major consideration at this time of year and may impact delivery schedules.

The Viti Pruning Expo held last month was cold but very informative, particularly the sessions during the afternoon where technological advances in viticulture were showcased. Developments in disease and nutrition management via drones drew plenty of interest whilst a probe detection system for powdery and downy mildew detection caught attendees' attention. Discussion on grapevine trunk diseases and water management were highlights of the presentation sessions during the afternoon as well.

Our viti team attended the day and would certainly be happy to follow up any of these topics for further conversation if you are interested.

The 2023/24 AWRI Dog Book is now available. It is a valuable resource to assist all grape growers when preparing any pesticide application in the vineyard. Several new products have been listed in the new edition. However, the major change this year is the global number system used to identify the various herbicide groups rather than the previous letter coded groups. The numerical coding identification will be fully implemented in 2025.

An electronic copy of the 2023/24 Dog Book is available at this link: https://www.awri.com.au/wp-content/uploads/agrochemical_booklet.pdf

Our FJ Viticulture Technical Update will be held on Wednesday 2nd of August 2023 at the Nuriootpa Sports and Function Centre. Please join us for breakfast at 7:30am with presentations and trade show supported by a number of key suppliers until 11:30am.

Please RSVP by the 26th July via email to Katelyn (katelyn@farmerjohns.com.au) or via the sign-up sheet when you are in the Nuriootpa store next.

Citrus and Orchard

Citrus harvest is progressing steadily. Harvest provides an ideal opportunity to keep an eye out for Gall wasp activity which visually looks bad and will also decrease the nutrition flow from flower to fruit. Products used for Gall wasp treatment have long withholding periods. Thorough planning should be undertaken to ensure any insecticide application doesn't interfere with harvest timelines.

Obviously, fruit fly are still active in the Riverland. All trees should be regularly monitored for their activity including trees in gardens and other non commercial locations. NatureLure could be used if there is a suspicion of fruit fly.

Apple orchards may have zinc- based defoliant applied to prepare the trees for next season.

Stone fruit trees should have winter sprays applied to deal with prevalent fungal diseases including brown rot, powdery mildew and leaf curl etc.

Give our agro's a call to discuss these matters in more detail.

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AND VINEYARDS**

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Animal Health & General Merchandise

Farmer Johns has been a long-term supporter of the Waratah range of Australian made fencing and trellis systems. Waratah continues to improve their manufacturing processes and wire coatings ensuring their rural range is suited to the harsh Australian conditions.

Waratah have recently released a new product into its fencing range, the Flex Rail Electric horse fencing. It **LOOKS** like a timber rail fence, but has greater flexibility with no splintering or a need to paint. It is **SAFE** with highly visible rails that absorbs impact, reducing the risk of serious injuries to valuable horses. As is the case with all Waratah products, it is a **HIGH QUALITY** product made from high quality polymer UV stabilised plastic and high tensile Longlife Blue colour® wire. This combination provides consistency, strength and durability.

It offers **SUPERIOR PROTECTION** making it ideal for use in corrosive environments with Longlife Blue colour® wire delivering maximum corrosion protection that exceeds Australian Standards.

ADDED STRENGTH make the Flex Rail a strong perimeter protection with the 2.50mm high tensile Longlife Blue® wires reinforcing the strength of each rail.

The **LOW MAINTENANCE** requirements as a result of its construction means that it will not splinter or rot. Minimal upkeep is required for a visually appealing fence with no need to paint rails.

The new system offers **FAST INSTALLATION**. Flex Rail installs in one continuous 100m length with no heavy machinery required. Waratah supply accessories that attach, join and tension your Flex Rail quickly and easily to your intermediate and strainer posts.

The biggest bonus is its **AUSTRALIAN MADE!** Flex Rail is made in Australia minimising lead times or shipping delays and is readily available in either black or white.

Vaccinations have an important role in all sheep production businesses.

Vaccines provide basic protection against well recognised clostridial diseases as well as more recent research for Erysipelas Arthritis. These conditions can all have a significant impact on lamb and wool production.

However, we still find the biggest issue on farm is the implementation of a vaccination program and the correct timelines for vaccines to be administered to ensure the products provide the benefit intended.

Non vaccinated stock require an initial priming dose followed by a booster dose to provide year round protection against clostridial diseases. If the booster shot is not correctly administered within the required timeline or not given at all immunity is not achieved, this also means that the initial shot has also been lost.

Please check in with our store staff to discuss and refine your sheep vaccination program to ensure you achieve maximum return for both your effort and the vaccine itself!

Shearing will begin in earnest over the next few weeks. Our staff can assist with the full range of requisites as well as current advice on fly and lice offshears products to protect the flock from external parasites.

Check out the offer on Clik Extra in our adjacent advert. It is always better to have products in your shed when you need them rather than waiting in line as was the case in the busy spring of 2022. Call our staff for any other livestock and merch matters!

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