

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Get ready for vintage.
2. Monitor for pests in citrus trees.
3. Order 2026 fertiliser volume.
4. Finalise winter crop seed
5. Summer weed control pays off!
6. New lice treatment for sheep.

Staff Employment

We are actively seeking suitable replacements for this vacant position and would welcome any enquiries or personal recommendations to assist us in this recruitment process.

Our Store Manager – Ramco will require a sound understanding of the ag industry, demonstrate strong people leadership and client relationship building skills as well as some experience in business and stock management and sales, planning & WHS.

Enquiries should be directed to
Gavin Keller - 0417 886 038 or
via email to gavin@farmerjohns.com.au

Drought Loan

A new \$200 million state-based drought loan package has been announced by our State Government, supporting drought-affected regions, including the **Murray Mallee, Riverland and Upper North**. Expressions of Interest are now open for producers in those areas.

DLL Seasonal Finance

FJs have an alliance with DLL who offer an alternative finance facility to the traditional bank overdraft. The season crop inputs facility is dedicated to funding seed, fertiliser and agchem. With a fixed repayment after harvest to assist cashflow.

Call Greg Schubert – 0412 739 396



January has delivered some testing temperatures across SA. Our region hasn't missed out on opportunities to set daytime temperature records either! Hopefully we do get a bit of a reprieve from the heat over the remainder of summer and see the number of windy days back off a bit as well – we have had enough wind! I read an interesting note that dropped into my LinkedIn box recently. Tim Dyke has had to deal with some lifelong challenges as a result of being diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at 6 years of age. He was expected to lose his sight over time so was advised to modify his life ambitions. Despite the medical procedures and associated challenges that he has endured, Tim Dyke has been successful in his career and continues to be an outstanding leader in his business. Leadership has a quiet enemy - the line you hear and accept too early. How many times have you been told "you can't"? Sometimes by others but most often by yourself.

Leaders don't get to choose every constraint but they do get to choose their standards, their

discipline, and their next move. People live up to, or down, to the ceiling that gets set around them. I read Tims story and reflected on how our FJs team are influenced by my leadership, the leadership of our Management Team and Store Managers that interact directly with all our staff. Sticking with our business plan keeps us focused on our goals. Our business values (Relationships Knowledge, Integrity and Consistency) offer day to day guidance in our decision making. I think I offer all our staff a reasonably generous level of autonomy. I certainly don't micromanage any of our team and on occasions accept that "their way" wouldn't necessarily have been my path. What sort of leader are you within your business, to your family and to any groups that you are active within? Has your style of leadership fostered the development of good people who might go on to be good leaders themselves? I believe we have been reasonably successful in developing good people. I also trust that your support of our business reflects the positive regard you have for our team as well.

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

- Arthur Ashe

Viticulture

The hot weather over the month of January has tested both vignerons and vines. We are getting to the business end of the viticulture season with harvested fruit heading to wineries out of Riverland vineyards and veraison well underway across most Barossa regions. Ripening hasn't been all that consistent across the region which may be attributed to limited availability of soil moisture. Despite this slow progress vintage is likely to be well underway by the middle of February.

Most fungicide programs have been finalised with 30-day withholding periods for any chemistry now well in focus. The recent heatwave conditions have also put a brake on late season sulfur applications at this stage. Some late fungicide applications may still take place in higher rainfall vineyards closer to the cooler central Adelaide Hills vineyards.

We highlighted Surround in our January Landlink. A large volume of Surround has been applied to summer horti crops over the last few weeks. The vineyards that have had Surround applied are very visible with the white kaolin clay covering that is now offering up to 8°C temperature relief within those vine canopies.

The Surround protection may deteriorate over time as a result of subsequent adverse weather conditions including any rain events and prolonged, severe wind. Additional application/s may be required to reinforce the protection Surround provides and the consequential benefits the plants receive ..cont page 2/

Seasonal reminders

- **Spray around the house with a safe residual insecticide such as Ficam or Coopex to keep up with the never ending flies, spider and earwig populations.**
- **Protect ripening fruit crops from bird damage – bird scarers, gas guns and netting in stock. Check out the laser Bird Control system.**

- **Get ready for vintage – we have supplies of picking bins, buckets, snips, sun protection products etc.**
- **Castrol oils will keep your engines in top order over the harvest and horti season. Call our stores to sort all your lube requirements.**
- **Livestock nutrition supplements will assist animals to utilise dry feed reserves over the summer months.**

- **We have a full range of turf care products available for your lawns.**
- **Get yourself a new pair of Rossi work boots for 2026. Rossi boots are still made in Adelaide!**
- **Rats and mice are active around farm yards and houses. Use Storm, Talon or Bromakil grain or blocks. Keep pets safe by securing baits inside rat and mouse bait stations.**

"with you in the GROWING business"

from page 1/... Surround has proven benefits, evidenced over recent hot dry summers and the testament of repeat users who have witnessed its performance in their vineyards.

Super Kelp SP is a high-quality, water-soluble kelp. It is a source of natural nutrients including trace elements, amino acids and growth promoting substances. Super Kelp can be used as a liquid foliar product, soil applied or made available to the targeted plants via irrigation water applications. Super Kelp SP supports a healthy root system and assists plants to absorb nutrients like P and Ca. Plants are better able to withstand environmental stresses (drought, frost, heat). Healthier plants naturally provide a favourable platform to maintain longer term production and profitability.

We recommend all growers catch up with our agro's to discuss the range of stress relief products that are available for use in horticulture including Super Kelp, BioForge and Surround.

Large flocks of starlings have been moving around the Barossa. Starlings can cause significant damage in individual vineyards especially when they arrive "in force".

Growers caring for fringe vineyards or where vines are adjacent to wooded areas, including vineyards in the hills, are also likely to be battling grass parrots.

Gas guns, shimmering tape and other scary devices go some way toward reducing crop damage from birds. However, the most effective method of negating any damage from birds is to cover the entire block of vines with bird net or to use an effective laser bird scare system. .

Again, catch up with any of the FJs team to learn how these tools can be used to protect your fruit investment.

Although the grape harvest looks likely to be a little later than has been the case in the last couple seasons, it is approaching rapidly. We have supplies of products that you may need to prepare for the harvest season. Bin paint, Mega Bins and buckets and snips for the reaming hand picking jobs.

We also have a range of winemaking products on hand including the AIRRD cleaning products, PMS, water filtration aids, yeasts for ferments etc. Please speak with the team in our Nuri store for further information more specific to your wine production systems.

Post harvest nutrition plans should be finalised to avoid any disruption to the busy

harvest activity. Our viti agro's can assist in calculating the volume of nutrition removed from the block via the harvested grape crop. A relatively simple calculation can be undertaken utilising data from recent soil and tissue tests and your crop yields to determine an accurate nutrition replacement summary. Post harvest nutrients need to be applied as soon after picking as possible while the vines feeder roots are still active. Applications should be applied via the irrigation system allowing the vines roots ready access. Calcium could also be included in the application if vines have shown any salinity symptoms or there is an awareness of salinity affecting the vines..

Please sort a time for a coffee and catchup with our viti crew before the grape harvest gets too busy!

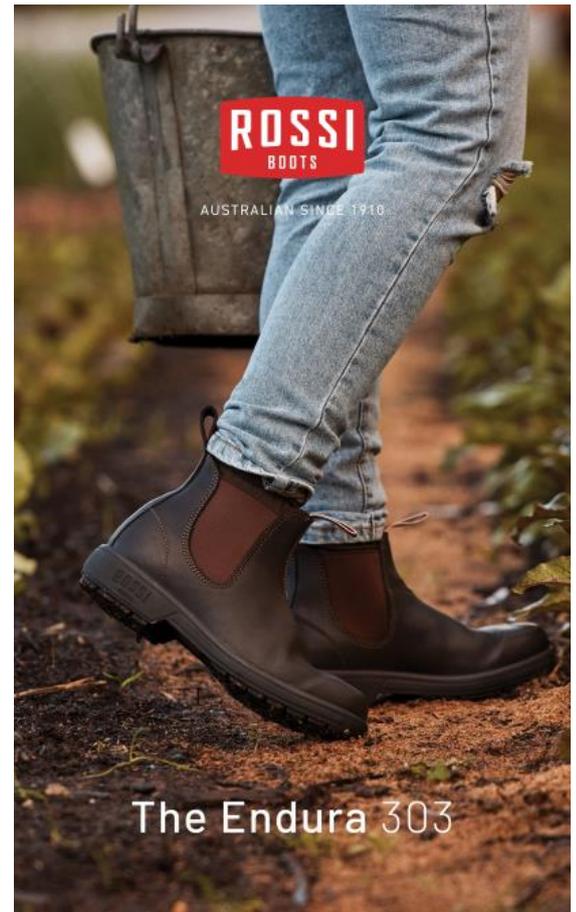
Orchard Citrus and Horticulture

Citrus crops have reached the 50mm+ with some early varieties moving past 60mm. If your fruit blocks are struggling to adequately size, please give either Mete or Georgie a call if your blocks are shy of these numbers. Routine orchard visits have indicated that Naval blocks have loaded up this season and are coping with the current conditions adequately at the moment. Mandarins on the other hand appear to be in a bi-annual cropping phase, showing minimal amounts of viable fruits.

January's extreme hot weather thwarted some routine spraying activities such as **skin smoothing applications**. Some caution should be maintained as forecasts indicate further warm weeks into the new month. Again. Check with our agros' for the best course of action.

We flagged Mealybug and Red Scale as watchouts in our January Landlink. High temperatures in mid-January fried these voracious little pests and has proven to be a most effective insecticide!

Please contact our store teams if you believe any insect pests are still active in your fruit blocks. We can arrange for a quick site visit to identify and



BE FIRE READY

Polymaster fire-fighting equipment is built for dependability when it matters most – offering superior performance, adaptability, and mobility to help you act fast and stay in control.

From compact slip-on units to full trailer packages, every system is engineered for reliability and backed by Australian design and manufacturing – ensuring you're ready for fire season and beyond.



Trailer Packages



Skid Mopunted Packages



Compact Ute Packs

assist you to manage any insect pest outbreaks at an appropriate time.

The stone fruit harvest has steadily progressed despite the warm weather. **Any fruit blocks that have been cleaned up should also be rewarded with a post-harvest nutrition application.** Post harvest supplements will set the tree up for the next seasons budburst and subsequent cropping phase.

Give any of the FJs agro's a call to discuss the options for your fruit blocks and to determine an appropriate nutrient product.

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

Broadacre

Fertiliser

The global price of urea has taken a significant jump over recent days which has seen the local importers raise prices very quickly to balance the local market to global pricing. Several suppliers have suggested that there will be a level tight supply of urea globally until mid-February. Iranian urea production is expected to recover after mid-February and have the potential to ease the supply tightness currently evident in the market.

We have some forward contracts locked but have taken a cautious approach on urea as we do expect a market correction will provide an opportunity to lock in additional volumes in the coming weeks.

Phosphates continue to firm globally, but the strong Aussie dollar has largely offset this increase. Prices are climbing rapidly in some overseas markets. Our expectation is that we will see a nominal price rise above our current quotes sometime in the ensuing weeks. This situation presents as a watch-out for anyone that has chosen to wait a little longer before committing to product in the last few weeks.

Single super supply is still an issue for our local market out to about the 20th of April. We do have limited tonnes available for prompt despatch. Please talk to us as soon as possible if you require autumns supply of single super.

Any drop in the strong AUD will see all local prices increase sharply. Please talk to any of the FJs team to sort your nutrition supplies sooner rather than later.

Crop nutrition represents a large part of the cropping program budget. In order to maximise value from any nutrient purchase some effort should be made to ensure that the product being applied is the most cost effective and appropriate for the job. Testing is especially important after a tough season when spending capacity is compromised. It is also likely that a level of nutritional carryover exists across a large number of paddocks as well. **Standard 10cm soil tests and Deep N coring** will establish the actual nutrition profile of soil and should be undertaken in a timely manner. Test results will confirm the crop nutrition plans and ensure appropriate rates are applied.

Testing will also determine the requirement for other soil ameliorants such as lime or gypsum. There is nothing more character building for our agro's than taking these soil tests on the pleasant 'warm' days of summer – give them a call before the weather cools off too much!

Summer weeds have persisted in some regions that accumulated higher totals late last season. Hot and windy conditions have limited opportunities to manage these populations. Good weed control relies on timely applications of an appropriate herbicide in a tank mix with a suitable adjuvant. Given that all plants have been very stressed in recent weeks, the difference between a satisfactory spray job and a poor result can simply be the adjuvant and spray timing chosen for the situation. Night time spraying has proven to be a good option in situations where paddocks can be safely covered using guidance systems. Cooler temperatures and a hint of dew can significantly improve results.

Seed orders should be finalised as soon as possible. Some canola varieties have been sold out but we do have a range of viable alternatives suited to our region. We recommend that you catch up with your FJs agro to ensure you have the best chance of sourcing your preferred varieties.

Pasture

Pastures have generally offered good grazing over the summer season as a result of the late spring flush. Most paddocks have been grazed out now and should be managed to ensure some residual ground cover is maintained into the autumn. Residual ground cover will assist in preserving any moisture that might arrive prior to the autumn break and also protect emerging pasture seedlings at the break of the season. Cover will also protect the soil from further degradation over the remainder of the dry summer and autumn.

Pasture soil sampling should also be completed to ensure the "best bang for buck" is achieved for the annual pasture nutrition budget. Please give our agros a call to sort these tests as soon as practicable.

The focus for all livestock producers heading toward the season break should be planning to re-establish pasture availability for livestock as soon as possible in autumn.

Irrigated pastures will hit their straps over the next month or two. Check in with our agros to ensure you maximise the pastures potential



CANOLA

With the current pricing outlook for 2026, non-GM canola is likely to provide highest return on farm for the 2026 season.

RAGT seed is available now, high quality, and guaranteed for establishment for a profitable paddock.

For more information contact Mark Palmer on 0482 691 675 or email markpalmer@ragt.au

ragt.au

think SOLUTIONS think RAGT



Trusted on the world's tracks
Trusted in the world's trucks

Let's drive the world forward



"with you in the GROWING business"

Animal Production & General Merch

Flexolt is a new oral lice treatment for sheep and lambs* from Coopers that gives farmers the flexibility to treat lice when it suits them. **Treat lice in any length of wool at any time of the year.** This is a product that changes everything – it offers effective lice control that is no longer linked to shearing. **Flexolt** is effective for unshorn lambs from 6kg body weight, it can be applied to sheep with both short wool and long wool, off-shears and up to 7 days off-shears. It contains the novel active for sheep lice control, fluralaner, which works systemically via oral administration. A very useful advantage is that any purchased sheep can be treated off the back of trucks regardless of wool length.

Rainfall events won't have any impact on oral applications of **Flexolt** for lice control.

Simple and effective lice control starts from the inside!

New **Flexolt** lets you choose when it suits you to treat for lice and allows you to adapt to common challenges to simplify lice control.

Call any of the FJs team to discuss your flocks' lice management and associated product requirements.

Polymaster tanks have an offer on their larger tanks with a \$400 saving for orders placed by the end of February. Water supply has been an ongoing challenge for most of us over the last couple tough seasons. These deals provide an opportunity to get a tank set up storing a significant amount of water over the winter months and take a bit of water use pressure off next summer. Delivery times are currently running at about 3 weeks from the time of order. There are a number of important access requirements applicable to deliveries of the larger 50,000ltr tanks. Check in with our stores for all water supply and tank options and to sort orders and arrange site preparations and deliveries.

Fencing projects might have been postponed last season as the focus was well and truly on supplying feed to stock. We have seen an increased level of enquiry this season as fence maintenance is a priority to ensure stock are secure.

We stock a full range of fabricated fencing, plain and barbed wire, posts, gates and fittings for all livestock species and farm bio-security. We also stock a range of sheep and cattle handling yards and associated handling equipment including Arrow loading ramps, cattle crushes and sheep and goat catchers. Creosote and CCA treated posts are still available for those clients preferring to continue using this proven product. Alternative treatment compounds have been in the field for several years now and do present as a more environmentally cleaner, user-friendly option. Please give any of our stores a call to quote your fencing and containment yard project and to arrange orders and deliveries on new stock yard and handling facilities, rebuilds and for all other general fencing enquiries.

Polymaster

\$7,450 each SAVE \$400

\$4,290 each SAVE \$400

Save \$400 when you order 2 x 50,000L Tanks.

Save \$400 when you order 2 x 31,700L Tanks.

Bulk Buy 100,000L Bulk Buy 63,400L

*Offer valid 1 Dec 2025 - 28 Feb 2026. For more information and full Terms & Conditions, visit: polymaster.com.au/terms.

FLIP IT WITH FLEXOLT®

WHY BRING LICE HOME?

TREAT NEW ARRIVALS.

RETHINK THE WAY YOU TREAT LICE.

Treat new stock on arrival with effective lice control, with no shearing required.

flexolt.com.au

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

Branch Manager

Adam Conradi - 0432 571 653
adam@farmerjohns.com.au
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

08 8562 1311

Branch Manager

Dave Crockett
davecrockett@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Nuriootpa
sales@farmerjohns.com.au

Ramco

422 Ramco Road
08 8541 4222
0408 068 190

General Sales for Ramco

salesramco@farmerjohns.com.au

“with you in the GROWING business”