

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Powdery Mildew is common!
2. Heat stress in summer crops.
3. Summer weed control.
4. Fertiliser for the 2025 crop.
5. Be bushfire ready.

All of the Farmer Johns staff wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

The Christmas season provides everyone an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends and will be especially valued after a challenging 2024.

We wish you well for New year and look forward to working "with you in the growing business" in 2025!



Most croppers will have harvest wrapped up before Christmas. It will be nice to have the 2024 season behind us.

I have been involved in the ag supply business for a little

while, maybe longer than I like to remember! I was based at Jamestown early in the 80's and recall the difficulty graziers endured during the dry years of 1981-83.

All past dry times were followed by a particularly wet spell, so we can only hope that will repeat in the not-too-distant future!

I have been banging on for a long time about the value of independent retailers remaining as an important part of the retail chain. This isn't just applicable to our agriculture industry but across most segments in Australia – Coles and Woolies in food and grog, Bunnings in hardware, Shell and Caltex in fuel and more recently large machinery dealers taking over smaller local SA dealers.

Many of you will have seen the media release a

few weeks ago, announcing that Elders have bought the Delta Ag supplies group. Delta was formerly an independent retailer in Central NSW but had expanded its network into other states including in SA via mergers with Cox Rural and Growers Supplies. Although still trading as "Delta" these stores are now owned by Elders. There are only a small number of independent retailers remaining in our local market including our FJs business.

It appears to me that most producers still value an independent business partner despite the talk about value, supply, on farm support etc. Independent stock agents are a case in point – they have dominated saleyards for some time now.

Farmer Johns is committed to the growth and success of our clients' operations, our staff and of course our own independent business.

"We are with you in the GROWING business!"

Greg Schubert

AUTOMATED BIRD REPELLING SYSTEM

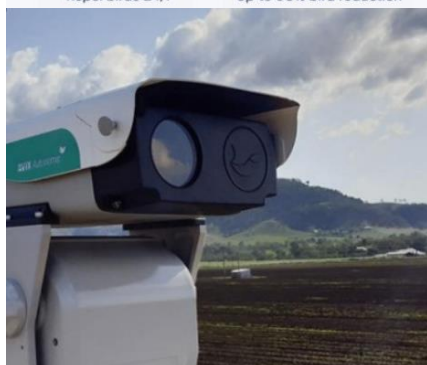
AVIX Autonomic Mark II is a fully automated bird repellent system that effectively and harmlessly scares birds away 24/7. This cost-efficient solution eliminates bird nuisance by up to 90%



Repel birds 24/7



Up to 90% bird reduction



Quote of the Month

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.

- Albert Einstein

Viticulture

Vines across all regions have continued rapid canopy growth on the back of recent thunderstorms and elevated humidity – ideal growing conditions for all plants! Unfortunately, these weather conditions will continue to favour the development of disease infections in all summer crops as well. This has in turn maintained the urgency required by growers to keep up with fungicide programs to ensure the wine grape crop remains disease free. Obviously, the tough industry outlook has also placed a little financial pressure onto growers who have been a little reluctant to maintain input costs at the level required when disease pressure is high.

Our agronomy teams **have seen Powdery Mildew in a large number of vineyards in both the Riverland and Barossa Valley** over the last couple weeks. Typically, we would start to see these later season Powdery infections during the latter parts of December but as the season is running ahead of "average" they are evident now. Vines that are unprotected as a result of extended spray intervals or in some cases, where no cover at all has been applied, should be closely monitored to identify these hot spots. DMI fungicides are being used to manage these outbreaks but may require several applications within a tight schedule.

Powdery Mildew infections can also result in berry scarring which in turn may increase the risk of berries splitting later in the season as fruit fills over the ripening period. Wounds from berry splitting can also provide an entry for late season botrytis infections.

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Seasonal reminders

- Knock out rabbits with a dose of Bunny Bait. Natural feed reserves are less palatable now making bait an attractive feeding option.
- We have a range of Fly and Wasp traps in stock for use around the home and farm yard. Traps will reduce populations if used consistently over summer.

- Polymaster septic tanks are a robust self-contained unit for all waste applications including at the "shack"!
- Keep your lawn in top shape over spring with a dose of Neutrog Sudden Impact for lawns.
- Keep the water up to your garden. We have Nylex garden hose and a full range of fittings in stock.
- Nally Mega Bins in stock at Nuri.

- Return all Chep pallets, 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro's ASAP. We will take empty non-returnable fertiliser and glyph shuttles.
- Make sure the farm water supply system is up to scratch with Polymaster tanks, Vinindex poly pipe and Philmac fittings.
- Use Trough Blocks over summer to kill algae in tanks and troughs.

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...cont from 1/ Sulfur continues to be a useful product for late season disease management but used with caution particularly when temperatures climb above 32°C.

Downy Mildew has been an issue in isolated cases subsequent to recent heavy rain events. Some basic spray programs have compromised Downy Mildew control as the focus has been on Powdery as the more prevalent concern in the Barossa region. Kocide stocks are ok at the moment but further pressure in the next couple weeks might see supply tighten up a little. Ridomil and other products containing Metalaxyl have seen increased demand across a number of horti crops after recent rain in southern Australia. We do have stock on hand at the moment but expect supply may be under pressure in the coming weeks if these thundery fronts continue to deliver.

Any applicable WHP's and your winery export requirements will also have to be taken into account when finalising the fungicide program over the remainder of the season.

Heat stress management in summer crops has become a focus in recent seasons. Products such as **Super Kelp**, **Mega Kelp P** and **BioForge** have all proven valuable in assisting vines to cope with prolonged heat events.

We are also using **Foli-Zyme** in a few vineyards to analyse its impact on canopies that have shown less tolerance to heat and have suffered from sun burn in past seasons.

Surround can also be applied to vineyards prior to heat events. Surround is a proven sun shield once applied to the vine reducing canopy temperatures by up to 8°C. Vineyards that have had Surround applied will also retain leaf cover further into the season which obviously assists fruit ripening and ultimately quality at the pointy end of the season.

Please catch up with any of our agro's to discuss these opportunities in more detail for your vineyards.

Light Brown Apple Moth have been on the move after recent monitoring identified moth flights during the last couple weeks. Egg laying has likely occurred in many vineyards as a result of this

recent activity. The insect lifecycle will indicate that caterpillars will hatch in several weeks and subsequent foraging to follow. These hatching caterpillars will coincide with bunch closure where their entry into bunches can lead to late season botrytis infections. Keep an eye out for caterpillars and the webbing that is associated with their activity or give one of our agro's a call, they are able to assist with monitoring and provide a "new" set of eyes.

Scale activity is evident in a number of locations. Scale crawlers and their typical 'honey dew' trails on shoots, petioles and bunches will attract ant activity. These blocks should be noted to ensure Scale can be treated at an appropriate time over the course of the year. Again, please contact any of our agronomy team to assist in their identification.

Birds are moving into vineyards with some damage already evident. Starlings are typically the most damaging species but parrots will also impact fruit crops in fringe areas and of course in the hills. Scarecrows, glittering tape and gas guns are somewhat effective but netting and electronic bird lasers are more reliable options. Give any of our stores a call to discuss the best bird control option for your blocks!

Citrus & Orchards

As has been the case with all summer horticulture crops, recent rain events have promoted rapid growth in recent weeks with the summer flush under way in all orchards. Corresponding foliar sprays have been applied and fruit sizing continues past 40mm at 1-2mm/day. Orchards look to be **two to three weeks ahead of last season** based on GA + Potassium application timings. Any remaining applications need to be actioned soon! Growers will continue to be mindful of fruit sizing being pushed on the back of recent rain events and the **need for foliar sprays** to prevent superficial sizing and potential fruit cracking as a result of this rapid growth.

Insect pest pressure is also escalated as the same weather conditions that have promoted rapid growth has also been very conducive to insect activity. **Fresh Katydid damage** has been common in many orchards. Action should be taken once insect threshold populations have been reached. Our agro's also expect that **Red Scale and mealybug activity** will also reach damaging levels in the short term. Movento is probably the preferred option against these pests. It is now available in a more economical 20ltr pack size.

Surround has recently been approved as a tool for managing Citrus Gall Wasp. Surround can now be used as a proven sunscreen product to protect the orchard canopy from heat stress with the added benefit of repelling wasps.

Please contact our Ramco store on 8541 4222 or Mete Gunhan on 0458 297 946 on all citrus related matters for your specific situation.



Surround®
Crop Protectant

Surround your crop

- with **PROVEN** sun protection
- to repel citrus gall wasp

Only Surround contains calcined kaolin
CERTIFIED ORGANIC INPUT



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Broadacre

Harvest is well underway with a few headers already back in the shed. There haven't been too many surprises on the back of the very low rainfall season we have had. Beans in particular have been the big disappointment this season with most getting their seed back and only a small surplus to sell. On the other end of the scale, lentils and canola have yielded consistently well considering the year, coupled with the minimal amount of moisture crops received over the growing season. Recent storms have delivered some serious rainfall totals across our whole region with a few November records being knocked off in a number of locations, particularly in the Mallee.

Summer weed spraying will become a priority on the back of these recent solid rain events. Better performing crops this season also had very good summer weed control programs in place over the 22/23 summer. Summer weeds need to be controlled early and effectively.

An early observation is Overwatch and Treflan mixes used as a pre-em option in autumn have subsequently provided outstanding residual wireweed control. Marginal rainfall may have encouraged this longer length of protection but nonetheless has proved to be a strong mix for residual summer wireweed control.

Talking of herbicide residues, this will be a priority topic of discussion in the planning conversations for the 2025 season. Most herbicide products require the presence of soil moisture to break down active ingredients subsequent to application. This degradation of the active happens as a matter of course in a "normal" rainfall year and certainly in time for the ensuing season. A dry season, such as the one we have just experienced will in turn prolong the likelihood of damaging levels of residual chemical remaining in the soil profile at the beginning of the 2025 cropping program.

Lontrel residues for legume crops and Intervix residues for non-Clearfield crop varieties will be two of the main areas of concern heading into 2025. Other potential watchouts are Reflex residues in wheat crops, Overwatch for oat crops, and Velocity, Precept and Metsulfuron that may impact legume and canola crops. Any additional summer rain will help overcome some of these potential issues so we need to keep this in mind over the next few months.

Fertiliser for season 2025 - We continue to monitor the many moving pieces surrounding fertiliser supply and pricing. While our recent anticipation was for prices to soften in line with softer grain prices, global fertiliser demand coupled with a very soft Aussie dollar continues to hold prices up as cargos are loaded in preparation for the 2025 Australian winter crop program. The majority of fertiliser for the Australian market will come from the Middle East with little opportunity for fertiliser from China as they continue to hold production for their own domestic consumption.

Freight from the Middle East adds an extended sail time to Australia which has product arriving earlier. Our recommendation has gone from a "hold" to consider **"locking in part of your fertiliser requirement"** for the coming season.

We have a current offer available if you are looking to make a move on your fertiliser input!

Pasture

Irrigated pastures are up and away. Recent storms also supplemented irrigation programs and certainly made a difference on the growth rates of established pasture stands. Grazing management is key to getting the best value from summer forage crops and also to avoid the incidence of nitrate or prussic acid toxicity. Once key growth stages have been reached in both millet and sorghum stock can be safely grazed. Check in with your pasture agro's if you need any additional help in this area.

We are taking orders for seed in both broadacre and pasture situations. Although most of SA has been dry in 2024 we are reasonably confident that we will be able to satisfy orders to crop type and variety provided we are given reasonable notice over the next month or two!
Please order your preferred seed varieties as soon as possible with your Farmer Johns contact.

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Animal Production & General Merchandise

It appears that sheep feeding is likely to be a long-term summer job! Supplements may be required to boost dry feed values to enhance livestock performance in the months ahead. **Performance Feed's FibrePro range is a suitable** addition to use adlib with both residual paddock feed and hay stocks. FibrePro 40 contains 40% protein and is ideally used as a starter supplement while feed on offer still contains some value. FibrePro 60 (60% protein) can be used subsequent to the deterioration of available feed reserves. It will also make up the shortfall when stubbles have been initially cleaned of grain residues after stock have been turned onto recently harvested paddocks.

Lick and grain feeders have become popular over the last few years. They are very useful in managing supplement dispensing and also regulating grain and pellet consumption. We have a range of feeders available for immediate delivery including units from Advantage, Bromar and Sharman. These units are fully adjustable to easily cater for various stock classes, both sheep and cattle and to suit the rations you have available. Remember the importance of adding a grain buffer to stop acidosis (grain poisoning) when feeding grains. In addition, all livestock should receive a Pulpy Kidney vaccination before consuming grain-based rations or when they are about to enter new season stubble paddocks. A sudden change of diet may trigger this insidious disease which in turn can cause serious stock losses.

FJs also stock Rods Lamb Feedlot 40 Pellets which can be added to grain at the rate 40kg per tonne. We also have a comprehensive range of lick blocks which are still preferred by many graziers.

Give our store staff a call to discuss these nutrient options relevant to your stock situation.

Recent warm and humid conditions have prompted increased fly activity, one only needs to head outside for a short time to experience this personally! There have been a number of **fly strike reports across our region.** **Fly Strike Prevention** is far better than treating fly blown sheep!

Again, there are a large number of products available for managing fly attack over the summer period. Products offer a varying range of protection periods and WHP's to accommodate your stock or wool sale plans.

Extinosad Eliminator is a water-based jetting product with a zero-day meat and wool WHP and zero day ESI. It can be used in both short and long wool situations for the treatment of existing blow fly strike as well as offering robust protection against strike. **Clik Extra Spray-On** is an oil-based product offering up to 29 weeks protection from blowfly strike but also has an ESI of 9 weeks.

As is the case with all agricultural chemicals and animal health products, users of these products must always read the label, checking the WHP's and ESI's as well as applicable operator safety and application directions.

Please do not hesitate to call any of our store teams if you have any additional questions or require more product information for your fly control program.

Fencing jobs are always on the "to do" list. Waratah have released a new product that might have a good fit as a safe and effective alternative to traditional timber posts - the **Waratah Poly Post**. It is manufactured from 100% HDPE recycled plastic. They are 100% recyclable and UV stabilised ensuring a long-lasting and sustainable fence life. The Poly Posts are made in Australia to a high Waratah product standard. These qualities also make them an ideal chemical free post for domestic situations with no smell or contamination precautions. These recycled in-line posts can be cut, drilled, stapled and screwed into just as you would with a timber product. Chat to our store teams to discover how the new Waratah Complete Fencing System might suit your next fencing job!

Keeping the farm fire safe over summer is a priority for all landowners. We keep a number of farm fire units in stock including several from the Polymaster range. These Slip-On units are easily loaded onto a standard ute tray. The unit can be either strapped down or pin mounted. Polymaster utilise an integrally mounted and reliable Onga Blazemaster Honda powered pump.

Wear pads on the base of the water tank allow airflow and protect the ute tray.

The accompanying hose kit comes complete with adjustable nozzle and 12m of fire rated hose as standard. As well as firefighting the unit is also suitable for tree watering and stock water transport etc.

Call our stores for additional information on all summer fire control stock.



DRY FEED UREA - 17kg

Get more out of dry feed
Maintain production
Balanced vitamins & minerals
Stimulate rumen microbes
INCREASE PROFIT

Get the most out of your dry feed and stubble.
Rod's Dry Feed Block has been specifically designed
to maximise the utilisation of poorer quality feed.

Maximum Salt	49%	Iron	88 mg/kg
Molasses	10%	Zinc	88 mg/kg
Urea	10%	Iodine	1.76 mg/kg
Crude Protein	34%	Manganese	35.2 mg/kg
Vitamin A	24200 iu/kg	Magnesium	528 mg/kg
Vitamin B3	8840 iu/kg	Selenium	0.4 mg/kg
Vitamin E	28 mg/kg	Sulphur	200 mg/kg
Copper	22 mg/kg	Calcium	28 g/kg
Cobalt	0.44 mg/kg	Phosphorus	2.64 g/kg



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
Adrian Marks
adrian@farmerjohns.com.au
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