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## End of Financial Year Business Bonus Program

We invite all clients to participate in our EOFY BUSINESS BONUS PROGRAM.

Simply deposit a minimum of \$10k to your FJs account before the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

You will be rewarded for your participation. EOFY Business Bonus dollars will be credited to your trading account.

This is calculated monthly using the closing remaining credit value from the pre-June deposit in your FJ's trading account making it very easy to track.

**Call us now!**

**Sam Horn has resigned** from his position as our Store Manager at Nuri.

From Sam: "I would like to thank all of Farmer Johns Customers and Suppliers for your support and times I was able to assist you and your business/s over the last 8 years, I wish you all the best for your business/s in the future".

We also wish Sam well as he concludes his time with us in the middle of June.

Look out for our job ads in the days ahead.



Despite a promising start to the season the majority of May has been uncomfortably dry. Obviously the BOM forecast for a drier than average winter doesn't help this outlook. We have had

some decent falls of rain across most of our market area in the last week or so which has consolidated the winter cropping program a little. We don't need a wet winter to have a successful broadacre season – we need good finishing rains later in the season!

We have flagged tightened product supply and price rises over the last couple seasons across all production segments. This manifested last season where we were working months in advance to ensure product availability for all our clients. Some actives remain tight but for the most part supply and price has eased a little.

The yardstick in the agchem industry is probably glyphosate. Pricing has softened significantly over the last few months with more realistic numbers in the market now. We believe there may be a little more

adjustment over the coming months, but these further price moves won't be as significant as what has already taken place. Supply will be a bigger consideration and more important to most farming businesses than further price movements.

Managing the farming enterprise, with a focus on improving yield and quality will get the best return for produce leaving the farm on the back of a truck. Far better than trying to make the same impact to the bottom line through chasing savings on the inputs coming through the gate. The former will be far more rewarding from a personal satisfaction and overall business financial position as well.

Our agronomy team are able to assist you in these goals. They treat each client's farm business individually and will work with your chosen system and production goals. Please don't hesitate to seek the advice of any of our agro's as you also strive to improve your farm business.

**Greg Schubert**

## Quote of the Month

"You may not be able to control what happens in life but you can control how you respond to it."

– Lisa Marie Husby

## Broadacre

We trust the BOM three-month forecast hasn't put the mockers on the winter cropping season! Obviously, an El Nino for the south east of Australia might dampen enthusiasm for some but it doesn't necessarily mean that the same pattern will affect SA and our central region to the same extent. Although we had a wetter than average spring last year, we didn't feel the full effect of the excessive La Nina rainfall and subsequent floods that our eastern state counterparts have been dealing with over the last few seasons.

Winter cropping programs have highlighted the key "R" words that continue to pop up in conversations – Ryegrass, Radish, Rhizoctonia, Rust and Resistance!

The biggest concern amongst this group of common issues is probably Resistance. Our team have seen more resistant weed populations than they would ideally like to see! No doubt the very extended wet finish last season saw a fairly serious increase in resistant weed seed bank populations. These populations need to be dealt with before they cause farm production losses and impact management. Terrad'or has proven to be a very valuable addition to knockdown tank mixes this season. It provides very fast and effective control of broadleaf weeds and has true activity on grasses. There is no residual activity remaining as a result of applying Terrad'or and therefore short plant-backs apply for key crops. Give any of our agronomy team a call if you believe your weed control options haven't provided the results you were expecting or you have a healthy population of escapee weeds. ....cont page 2

## Seasonal reminders

- **New Electrocoup secateurs in stock. We carry a full range of spare parts and have accredited service staff for repairs.**
- **Eartags should be ordered well before lamb marking to allow for any unforeseen delivery delays.**
- **Use TRAC and Performance Feeds products for all livestock.**

- **Keep in front of the vermin around the house and farm sheds with Storm, Tomcat and Bromakil bait.**
- **Get a new bed for your dog to keep him/her warm and cosy this winter.**
- **Order rainwater tanks before the winter sets in for earnest. 2 – 4 week lead times apply to new orders.**
- **Century Batteries for a reliable start on the cold frosty mornings.**

## SA Pruning Comp & AgTech Wed 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

The SA Pruning Expo and Championship will be held at the PIRSA Viti Station, Nuriootpa in the Barossa this year.

8am Start

Make sure you register by the 8<sup>th</sup> June to show off your pruning skills and for a chance to win one of the \$10,000 worth of prizes on offer.

from page 1... This is the **ideal time to bring Mateno Complete** into your crop management system. Mateno combines three actives into one product providing a much more robust control of grass and broadleaf weeds in wheat and barley at sowing and early post emergent.

Last season's wet finish and subsequent uncontrolled late disease outbreaks in the southwestern cropping zone has set up a huge spore bank only a short distance away from our cropping regions. Given favourable conditions this "perfect storm" may manifest itself by early July in our crops. Be pro-active this year – **don't wait for fungal infections to show themselves** before applying treatments. It is very difficult to stay on top of these infections once they are established, as was proven last season! Given the likelihood of these high populations, we have supplies of all fungicides for early action. There are also **elevated mouse populations** causing a little anxiety in a few isolated pockets across our regions. Some clients have commenced baiting where there are visible signs of activity. If mice are present, baiting should take place immediately after sowing to avoid early damage. As has been the unfortunate experience in the past, mouse numbers will blow out rapidly given favourable conditions. It is therefore very important to continue to be vigilant for any sign of them and continue to monitor those active pockets even after baits have been spread.

**Titan AX Barley** is a new CoAXium variety suited to the lower rainfall areas in our region. Aggressor® AX herbicide is a Group 1 herbicide that provides consistent control of problem grass weeds like ryegrass, brome grass, barley grass and wild oats. It can be tank mixed with a range of broadleaf herbicides for one pass weed control on the CoAXium varieties as well as a range of fungicide and foliar nutrition products.

A large volume of **fertiliser has been shifted in the last six weeks**, thanks for your co-operation in the order, booking and freight process during this time.

Some orders and subsequent delivery arrangements remain outstanding. These orders need to be collected by the indicated pick up times to avoid penalties.

We have a small volume of DAP and MAP available for any top up orders subsequent to the rainfall across our region last week.

**Urea** supply is relatively tight for deliveries through to the end of June. However, we do have a limited volume available for immediate delivery and so recommend you have chat with our agro's to plan your nitrogen requirement and to ensure timely supply over the remainder of the growing season.

## Pasture

**Improved pasture production should be the primary goal** in all grazing enterprises. Although the pasture business is sometimes perceived as the poor cousin to the broadacre cropping market, we place a high level of value on all livestock enterprises from low rainfall, irrigation, grazing, through to quality hay and silage production.

Our FJs pasture team manage a number of pasture trial plots showcasing new varieties, blends and grazing cereals. These plots can be useful for our client's pasture decision making as well. They also have the experience and knowledge to assist with paddock preparation including soil ameliorants and soil nutrition, seed (including multi-species blends weed and pest control, grazing management and subsequent nutrition maintenance.

Discuss your next pasture project with our agro's!

There have been **a number of new herbicides** released in recent years that provide control options of the traditional harder to kill broadleaf weeds in both new and established pastures. These new options should be considered as part of your weed management plan. They will assist in avoiding the development of resistance and also enhance control on the difficult species. Have a chat with your FJ agro about controlling Nettles, Fat Hen, Goose Foot, Marshmallow, Geranium and cruciferous weeds etc.

**Insect pests can set newly sown pastures back** quite significantly. Ensure you protect emerging seedlings by monitoring for their activity and if required control insect pests such as: Red Legged Earth Mite, Lucerne Flea and Cutworm. An appropriate insecticide will halt this activity before increasing numbers do real damage to the establishment and vigour of the seedling.



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## Viticulture

The viticulture scene has changed from vintage to pruning overnight! Harvest has finally drawn to a close with some fruit picked last week in the Barossa. As the emphasis has now turned to pruning, we remind everyone that we have a very comprehensive range of hand tools and accessories for pruning with a particular emphasis on the Electrocoup range of battery-operated secateurs. FJs Nuri store is an accredited service centre for Electrocoup and carries a large range of spares. Eutypa continues to be a challenge in most vineyards and so **wound dressings such as Omnia Greenseal and Sprayseal** should be used during pruning. They will reduce the spread of Eutypa during rain and wind events and assist to promote natural callusing and wound closure.

Greenseal will act as a physical barrier with acrylic resin but also contains the active tebuconazole, providing fungicidal activity against infection. Greenseal should be used on large cuts above 15mm in diameter. The other Omnia product Sprayseal, is ideal for use on smaller cuts (less than 15mm) and should be applied within 6 days of pruning.

Please call our viti agro's if you would like to talk in more detail about managing Eutypa in your vineyard.

**Cover cropping and fertiliser** applications after vintage have started despite the drier conditions over the last few weeks. Historically cover crops were routinely sown to provide an organic manure back into the soil later in spring. More recently however cover crops have been sown to target a wider range of specific purposes including under vine mulch, soil aeration, nematode control and weed control. We would therefore encourage you to consider your options more closely and align the species sown with those goals.

**Soil tests** should also be included in this discussion in order to determine the nutritional status of the block more accurately. Tests will also ensure the correct nutrient input is applied taking into account the crop that has just been harvested.

Other useful tests that should be utilised over the dormant winter months include nematode and diagnostic virus tests, especially in underperforming blocks.

The early rainfall prompted an ideal weed germination, providing an ideal opportunity to clean up carry over weed burdens resulting from healthy weed activity last spring. As mentioned above, vigorous cover crops and healthy mid row swards will actively out compete weeds. Resistant ryegrass will be present in most vineyards and although not as much of a problem in vines as in broadacre cropping, ryegrass will certainly reduce soil moisture later in the year to the detriment of the vine.

**Although supply of all agchem products has eased slightly**, it is still a good time to plan in advance for this coming season by reviewing your spray programs, stocktaking products on hand and ordering your requirements early to ensure you have it when you need it!

June **EOFY** ordering could offer your business some tax advantages. Call your FJ Agro to talk all these viti matters through in more detail relevant to your business and past season circumstances.

## Citrus and Orchard

As has been the case in all other horticulture crops over the summer, the citrus season is trending as it started and continues to run around three weeks late. The past couple of weeks have finally seen **early variety citrus crops beginning to be picked**. Last season's wet spring pushed the beginning of the fruit season forward. This coupled with a very mild summer has meant sizing fruit was challenging this year particularly in M7's. This is obviously very disappointing given the efforts over the season toward a better result!

It may be pertinent to **review the seasons program now while results are visible in the orchard**. Next season's thinning options is a case in point with **Corasil** a proven thinning option in oranges, also **Tops** seemingly a favoured product for use in many varieties. Using one of these options may reduce or even eliminate the need for hand thinning, which is laborious, expensive and can still have mixed results.

Once crops have been harvested and ahead of the routine pruning, hedging, skirting and general tree maintenance operations, **some knock down herbicide applications may be required**. Useful rainfall totals over recent weeks has prompted some weed activity which is best managed before these germinations begin to tiller and harden off. Robust rates and a reliable spike for the weeds targeted should ensure an effective kill is achieved.

Uragan continues to be a proven performer in Citrus and can be used as a tank mix with other herbicide options. Uragan will provide good residual control when used in a program with other pre-emergent products such as Rifle. Better winter control will reduce overall weed burdens resulting in less water use into spring when the trees require these resources.

**Post harvest care** and preparing the orchards nutritional base for winter might include a targeted foliar of trace elements. This pre-winter application of trace elements will assist to overcome the typical "post wintering" yellowing and improves the tree's initial spring flush and start up in the first phase of spring. Suitable products for this application might include Debenham's Tech Flo and ZM range which are excellent performers. Leaf tissue testing might be useful in helping to accurately formulate a nutrition plan, we can assist with the collection of leaf samples. Call us for further details.

**WIN**

Purchase any Omnia product and go in the draw to WIN a Family Pass to Monarto Safari Park

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## Animal Health & General Merchandise

**Sheep and cattle require Vitamin B12** for protein and energy metabolism, tissue and wool growth, blood function and to maintain the normal function of the liver and the nervous system. Vitamin B12 is synthesised by rumen microbes using the trace mineral cobalt, which is ingested from soil and pastures. Vitamin B12 is then stored in the liver. Cobalt deficiencies can occur where the application of superphosphate and or lime can bind the cobalt in the soil and prevent its absorption by plants. Intensive cropping can also decrease the amount of cobalt and other minerals in soil subsequently used by livestock. Cobalt deficiencies can also occur when there are dietary changes. The introduction of supplementary feed or feedlot rations increase the demands for vitamin B12 to convert feed into energy ie: in a containment feeding situation. B12 deficiency is difficult to diagnose as many symptoms are common to other diseases and similar to symptoms suffered due to parasite burdens. Symptoms can include slower growth rates, weight loss, milk production issues, diarrhoea, scaly ears and weepy eyes, reduced fertility and weak lambs or calves at birth.

The most accurate way to determine B12 deficiencies is via blood tests. Lambs and calves cannot synthesise B12 until they are 6-8 weeks old. All their B12 (and other necessary vitamins and minerals) are sourced from the milk they receive from their mother or from supplementary feeding. Weaners are still at risk until their rumen is fully developed. Routine B12 injections are important and should be administered at marking and weaning, before calving or lambing, when stock are introduced into a feedlot or before any other feed change (stubbles etc).

Cobalife B12 is recommended for the control and treatment of B12 deficiencies.

A range of Glanvac vaccines also contain B12, making them a preferred product at the aforementioned critical use stages. Contact our staff for the most suitable product for your stock.

**TRI SOLFEN supplies are available** at the moment. This product has a shorter than ideal "use by" as a result of the adrenaline active. Please call us to reserve supplies for your marking operation. Tri-Solfen is a fast-acting pain relief that reduces bleeding and controls infection. As a result of this stress relief at marking and mulesing, productivity gains are evident in treated lambs.

We have plenty of **Heinigerv Evos and FX handpieces** in readiness for the shearing season. Call to sort backline lice control, woolpacks, drench and



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\* Average increase in lambing percentages in maiden ewes is 9% on Campylobacter-infected farms - MLA, B.A.H.A.0010, 2015.  
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all other shed requisites. Combs and cutters have been backordered but some supply is slowly coming back online, please call us to reserve supplies as well as for quotes on wool presses, tables, yards and handling units to take advantage of EOFY tax incentives.

**Fencing incentives are on offer from several suppliers** for purchases of product prior to June 30. Talk to our store sales teams about the Longlife Waratah products including the new Waratah Flex Rail electric fence option. Waratah might be a little more expensive but is by far the best in this segment.

**Fence posts** - the new timber treatments replacing creosote are slowly entering the market. Creosote treated posts are still available but will certainly be phased out over time. We recommend ordering those if you prefer creosote posts.

**Ammunition supplies** have been tight for a while now. We have preferred to stock the Winchester range over other brands however at the moment their supply is backordered for long periods. We have alternates in stock in most calibres. Call us for availability and pricing on carton lots.

### Farmer Johns

53 Railway Terrace  
Nuriootpa SA 5355  
Phone 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  
**Branch Manager**  
Dylan Pratt 0432 571 653

dylan@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

53 Railway Terrace  
Phone 08 8562 1311

#### General Sales for Nuriootpa

sales@farmerjohns.com.au

### Ramco

422 Ramco Road  
**Branch Manager**  
Shaun Pick 0408 068 190

shaunpick@farmerjohns.com.au

#### General Sales for Ramco

salesramco@farmerjohns.com.au

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