

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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We are giving away a prize for the best seasonal farming photo each month in 2025.

The monthly winners will be featured in the 2026 Farmer Johns calendar



Post your best October farm photo on the FJs Facebook page for a chance to win!



Unlike many parts of Australia, we experience four distinct seasons over the course of the year here in SA. Even though we didn't get enough winter, spring is well and truly under way.

It's a great time of the year - crops and pastures are zooming through their growing stages, canola crops are bright with flowers and dormant vineyards and orchards are flush with new shoots! Ideally, we will be favoured with a couple additional rain events to consolidate the current health of our crops.

We have four retail sites that are all readily accessible to the public. We take our responsibility of ensuring the safety of anyone working or visiting these sites seriously.

However, one area where we do encounter regular conflict is over the course of loading product and the subsequent securing of those loads.

The owner or driver of a vehicle is responsible for ensuring that any load on a vehicle is securely and safely restrained in accordance with the Safework SA Load Restraint Guide and does not present a danger to people or property.

All drivers must ensure that the load will not move or become dislodged from the vehicle and that the position of the load will not affect the vehicles stability, steering and braking performance and that the tyres and axles of the vehicle are not overloaded.

I ask that you and any employees that are sent to collect products from the FJs stores are familiar with the Safework SA Load Restraint Guide and co-operate with our staff to adequately secure loads to comply with these regulations prior to loaded vehicles leaving our yards. If on request, customers do not wish to correctly restrain the products being taken our staff will record a note into the FJs Load Restraint Log for possible future reference if required. The entry will record the date, customers name, vehicle description and brief comments describing the breach of load restraint.

We don't wish to give any of our clients a hard time on this matter but we do need to meet our insurance and legal responsibilities as well.

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"Some of the worst mistakes in my life were haircuts."

- Jim Morrison

Broadacre

Foliar fungal diseases have been evident in both cereal and pulse crops over the last few weeks. Early infections of Stripe Rust in wheat is evident across our region. This is a critical time for the crop with flag leaf and head emergence taking place, left untreated it can result in significant yield losses. If crops have only received an early GS31 timing treatment a second fungicide should be applied to protect the flag leaf and emerging head from infection. Opera or Proviso combinations with either Tebuconazole or Azoxystrobin are products best suited for this protection.

Chocolate Spot is ticking away in Faba bean crops, please be proactive in treating these outbreaks especially in more susceptible varieties such as Bendoc.

Recent **ideal growing conditions have also favoured pest populations**. Grubs are the hot topic with Armyworm prevalent in wheat and barley crops.

Our agro's have begun **monitoring legume and canola crops** as the attention shifts to the annual build up of Heliothis populations. Applications of Karate or Trojan will be required once these pests reach threshold levels in the next week or two.

High snail populations can also cause quality penalties at harvest, continue to monitor their activity in legumes and use a timely fungicide such as Carbendazim in your program ensuring adherence to labelled registrations and rates.

.....cont page 2/



The Endura 303

Seasonal reminders

- Use Neutrog products on the house garden and lawns this spring. Full range available including Sudden Impact, Rapid Raiser and Who Flung Dung!
- Rabbit populations have flourished over the spring season – stay on top of them with Bunny Bait.
- Intentionally be a good neighbor!

- Summer rain events may increase blowfly activity. Protect your flock before harvest gets underway for peace of mind and a stress-free summer season!
- Order aftermarket header parts from FJs for overnight delivery via Parts Express. Full range of chains, bearings, seals, seats, cameras and miscellaneous parts.

- PolyMaster have a 21 day delivery time for new rainwater tanks – call FJs to order tanks now.
- Shearing supplies in stock – Heiniger gear, woolpacks, requisites and a full range of plunge and pour on dips
- Return all Chep pallets, 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro's ASAP. We will take back non-returnable fertiliser and glyph 1000ltr shuttles.

"with you in the GROWING business"

from page 1/... Whilst out and about on the monitoring runs, take note of any poorer patches in pulses this season. **In most cases this is likely to be a nodulation failure.** Low soil pH leads to poor rhizobium survival and therefore nodulation failure. Advanced crops won't recover during the current cropping rotation and will obviously impact yield. Investigating poor performing areas early may allow time to remedy the problem.

Take the opportunity to control late season weeds in crops. Spring is the ideal time to note the weed spectrum remaining in paddocks which in turn should be targeted in the 2026 weed management strategy. Clearfield lentils are still the highest yielding varieties so we need to protect the chemistry we use to grow these crops successfully.

Skeleton Weed is a declared plant and so needs to be taken care of as a matter of course. Any weed escapes in Clearfield crops should also be a priority. There are paddocks with resistant radish stands showing up. While the numbers are manageable, following up with a weed wiper or rogue (hand weed) these areas.

Obviously, some crops are desperately in need of rain. Heavy oat crops are struggling to retain green leaf area as moisture stress increases. These crops have come under the microscope as heads emerge and reach the correct growth stage for hay production or hang on and trust that these crops are able to grow on and reach grain maturity.

Our agro's are available for crop inspections or if you need an additional set of eyes in the field or to assist with the more challenging moisture related decisions.

In the latter weeks of any growing season some thought is typically given to next season. The **2026 planning might also include the need for awareness of chemical residues**, a review of the pre-emergent options and also consideration to where seed is going to be sourced.

Start to think about seed requirements and where seed might be kept from over harvest.

Seasonal conditions have challenged many crops and therefore seed integrity may also be compromised. In addition, large areas that were dry sown will mean increased volunteer contamination in seed samples which will obviously represent unwanted contaminants for seed in 2026.

We are now taking orders for next year's seed requirements. The recent lentil price drop on the back of reduced demand may influence a higher level of interest in alternative options including canola and encourage all enquiries including oats – please be proactive on this!

Pasture

Our agronomy staff service a diverse pasture geographic covering high rainfall and irrigated blocks through to low, marginal native and medic-based systems. This season has highlighted this variation to an even higher level!

Recent spring conditions have also been **favourable for insect activity with a noticeable rise** in threshold numbers across dryland and irrigated pastures. Please continue to monitor all pasture blocks for damage or call one of our agro's to check your paddocks for you.

Soil temperatures are slowly increasing. Any clients with an opportunity to irrigate into the warmer weeks ahead should be finalising their spring and summer forage options with our staff. We have a range of species ex our stores suited to our region. Some varieties have already tightened in supply but our early orders should cover our anticipated local requirements. Despite the current marginal soil moisture availability in many locations a wet spell later in spring could offer a sowing window for dryland forage options. Take the opportunity to discuss appropriate options with our team in preparation for prompt action should we jag a worthwhile rain event down the track. **Annual grasses weeds should be spray topped prior to setting seed**, especially in those blocks targeted for inclusion in the 2026 sowing program. Again, check in with our agro's to ensure an appropriate application rate and crop maturity timing coincides to achieve a satisfactory spray result!

Polymers as Tools for the Future of Farming

As farming evolves, efficiency and sustainability are more important than ever. Polymers are becoming a valuable tool in the move toward water-smart, environmentally responsible agriculture.

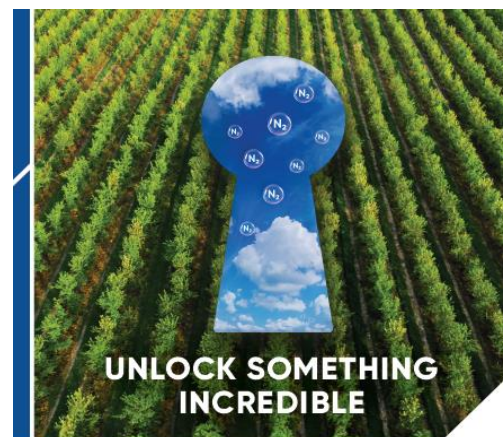
With rising water costs and unpredictable seasons, more growers are exploring polymer-based solutions. They can improve water retention, reduce runoff and make every drop count, whether in broadacre, horticulture or specialty crops.

Not all polymers are the same. Some are formulated for seed treatments, others for soil conditioning and others for dust suppression or erosion control. The key is a tailored approach and selecting the right polymer for your system and conditions.

By integrating polymers such as AquaBoost AG's AG30 into existing practices, growers can achieve better results with less water, fewer inputs and more consistent crop performance.

Give any of the FJ agro's a call to discuss AG30, it's a practical step toward the future of sustainable farming!

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Viticulture

Most vineyards in the Barossa have come through budburst. We estimate this might be about 9-13 days later compared to last season. The Riverland vineyards are about 12 – 15 days in front with some white varieties at EL 12-14.

Any Bud Mite sprays were completed in the early weeks of September. Our agro's have received later enquiries for their control, also confirming that Bud Mite are a widespread problem for many growers as their numbers continue to increase.

Many vineyards have had their first fungicide application with many certainly due by the time you receive this Landlink newsletter! Please contact our viti agro's if you are still in limbo with your protection program.

There a number of new actives in the 2025/26 AWRI Dog book that could be considered for inclusion in this seasons disease management. The two major additions are UPL's **Thiopron**, a liquid sulphur and Syngenta's **Keybri Ultra** as a new downy mildew management product. The second product Keybri Ultra will be of more interest to our growers. We will have limited stock of this new product with availability expected in November. The AWRI WHP is no later than E-L 29, with berries at peppercorn size (not > 4mm).

Miravis and Keybri combined looks to be a very robust flowering mix based on the research trial observations over the last couple seasons. as the programs have kicked off in these earlier vineyards.

The BOM continues to suggest a wetter spring and summer period? No matter how the growing season plays out we understand that many growers will utilise a very basic program on any fruit that currently doesn't have a home, ie; out of contract or having been flagged as no longer required by wineries. Our agro's can assist in working through a basic fungicide appropriate to your situation and budget.

There is always a flip side of course, any fruit that does have a home should be cared for as best as possible to avoid any quality impacts that may result should we experience a higher level of disease pressure further into the season.

Always remember that insidious diseases such as Powdery Mildew do not require rainfall to establish and grow through its various lifecycles!

Most growers will be aware that Scale are becoming a more serious issue in local vineyards. We have seen active Scale crawlers in recent weeks. They are most successfully treated whilst small and relatively exposed. Trivor followed by a Movento application (or vice-versa) appears to be a viable option and has been used successfully where populations warrant treatment. Scale are an expensive bug to tackle but definitely a big factor for fruit rejection if honeydew and sooty mould occurs on the fruit later in the season. Our agro's can assist with mores details if these are an issue for you!

Care should be the taken in ongoing herbicide applications as vines continue to push through their early season growth phase since budburst.

Glufosinate and Spotlight applications have replaced the dormant season glyphosate based tank mixes. Humidity and warmer temperatures will enhance the result achieved with glufosinate. It also provides a rotation to an alternative active for herbicide resistance management.

Orchard, Citrus and Horticulture

The citrus season appears to be approximately 9 – 14 days behind last year with most running through the white bud stage during the last couple weeks.

Flowering has commenced and will coincide with increased bee activity on trees. Their role needs to be taken into account should any foliar applied activities be necessary during the critical flowering period.

Our agronomists have been seeing off season adult mealybugs during routine monitoring as well as various species of weevil. Fuller's Rose Weevil sightings are common and high numbers of galls containing Citrus Gall wasps. Some aphid activity has also been reported.

Orchardists should be proactive in attending to any Citrus Gall wasp issue and apply either Confidor or Samurai two weeks after petal fall. As a 20-week WHP applies applications can't be made in orchards where overlapping crops exist, such as Valencia's and some lemon varieties etc. As a side note, Samurai is more effective than Confidor on larger trees. The label rates for each of these products can elevate MRLs when applied to old and more dense plantations. Insecticide programs should be scheduled each year and include a rotation of actives to guard against the development of resistance.

Please contact our Ramco team if you need additional advice specific to your orchard and to seek further advice on formulating an insect management plan for your blocks. Trees will have a **Calyx closure spray applied at 80% flowering** with foliar applications continuing until fruit is at the 40 – 45mm fruitlet size sometime in mid January.

We ordered some LBAM pheromone traps and Georgie will be putting them up at selected blocks around Waikerie soon. Orchardists have completed the first month of their seasonal nutrition program.

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Animal Production & General Merchandise

Silage and haymaking has become a little more serious during the last few weeks. As we mentioned earlier in this newsletter there may be additional areas of crop that converts into hay simply as a result of the recent dry weeks.

We keep a full range of twine, silage and net wrap in all our stores for all fodder conservation jobs. Give any of our store teams a call to sort your supplies.

The demand for hay has continued as drier regions are still feeding stock and increased numbers are held in feedlots. These businesses will purchase hay on the basis of feed test results. **Any hay destined to be used off farm should be tested prior to sale.** Hay tests will ensure the seller achieves an appropriate price for the hay offered whilst the buyer has an assurance of not getting "touched up" by the transaction. FJs can arrange to have all hay samples taken and tested – call us now. We have historically focussed on agronomy in crops, pastures and in horti crops. **More recently we have included a robust range of home and commercial turf (parks, ovals and tennis courts) products** in our portfolio. Give us an opportunity to assist in making your "patch" look good for the run of outdoor bbq's and other summer events in the months ahead.

These products will help manage weed and insect pests as well as fertiliser and specific nutrient supplements to cope with the summer heat stresses.

Castrol has an enviable reputation in the oil industry. This is highlighted in October each year as the Bathurst 1000 race takes place, many no doubt have some interest in the big event even though it has lost the old Holden v Ford rivalry a little. Castrol's lube range includes an option for all farm machinery, harvest and heavy transport engines. FJs stock a full range of Castrol products and can arrange quotes and on farm deliveries for all your service requirements. Give our stores a call to sort your harvest lube and hardware.

Rossi Boots are still made in Adelaide under the ownership of Gina Rinehart's S Kidman & Co. We stock a comprehensive range of Rossi work

boots. Keep your socks clean over the summer time with a new pair of Australian made Rossi boots!

Check out the on-farm fire equipment before harvest and the onset of summer weather.

Make sure the firefighter starts and your units accessories are in A1 condition.

We stock the Onga range of fire fighter and transfer pumps coupled to a reliable Honda motor.

Drop into any of the FJ stores to sort replacement hoses, fittings and tanks etc before the siren goes!



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