

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Continue praying for rain!
2. Modify sowing programs to avoid residual herbicide issues.
3. Get the pruning tools serviced.
4. Consider EOFY purchases.

End of Financial Year Business Bonus Program

We invite all clients to participate in our EOFY BUSINESS BONUS PROGRAM (T&C's apply)
Simply deposit a minimum of \$10k on your FJs a/c prior to 30th June 2025. EOFY Business Bonus dollars will be credited at equivalent to 5% per annum to your FJs 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!

We are pleased to welcome Paul Breen to the FJs team. Paul lives on a small farm at Eden Valley and knows our region well.



Paul adds further experience to our administration team in his role as Business Support Officer.



The Barossa Valley hosted a couple major events during April – Gather Round and the Vintage Festival. Both these events saw an influx of visitors to our region and SA leaders

enjoyed a bit of back slapping for a short time. The festivities on both occasions didn't change the fact that we are all "under the pump" at the moment. By the time you read this note, we will have elected a new federal government. In our own way we have had to separate the grain from the chaff amongst all this media jockeying.

No matter which party wins the election, their term is locked in for three years. Despite the forgotten promises from the last election, the new promises this time around and the likely broken promises (all with valid background) the public generally make their decision on what they hear and obviously on those things that tick their current circumstantial boxes. No doubt most people's boxes won't align with those that interest me! A new government is elected and the cycle repeats.

Imagine what our farm businesses would look like if we structured our whole operation on a three-year cycle. Without continuity – crop rotations, nutrition programs, farm machinery management and application, farm growth commitments and a long term, experienced team of operators, our businesses wouldn't be sustainable.

This shouldn't be interpreted as my support for an alternative government structure (although I do think we are way over governed) but rather a prompt to ensure that no matter which party is elected as a result of our populations individual decisions, we need to all stay firmly focussed on our own business management and long-term plans. Manage the things that you have control over and don't get wound up over the issues that are well out of your (and our industry's) control. Most of all, understand that our government system allows for regular changes including party, policy and personnel. Whatever the outcome but life will go on after the 3rd May!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"Worry a little bit every day and in a lifetime you will lose a couple of years. If something is wrong, fix it if you can. But train yourself not to worry: Worry never fixes anything."

— Ernest Hemingway

Broadacre

As the dry conditions persist crop planning for 2025 has proved to be a significant challenge, especially as we combat herbicide residues from 2024 forcing many plans to chop and change. Most in field germination trial plots have confirmed the fear of residual herbicides at levels that will cause damage. Our agronomy team have been conducting numerous field bioassays to identify any potential crop effect that we may see as a result of soil residues. Crop damage has been observed at varying levels on most sites. However, in some cases, the damage has been severe including Reflex carryover on canola and Velocity residuals on lentils. Based on the level of damage, these rotations should be avoided. Legumes should not be considered on paddocks where Lontrel was used in 2024 or non-Clearfield varieties where imidazolinone herbicides (eg Intervix) was applied used in the 2024 program.

Our bioassay experience mentioned above has meant our agronomy team are well versed to assist you in any last-minute changes to your sowing program. Remember - no question being too silly, it is far better to sow safe than be sorry after a disaster!!

In addition, PLEASE ensure that ALL operators are also aware of the importance to paddock changes and discuss any concerns with them before proceeding with the planned sowing operation. Last season's dry start resulted in a large variation in the performance of the variousCont page 2/

Seasonal reminders

- Return all Chep pallets, 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro's ASAP. We will take empty non-returnable fertiliser and glyph shuttles.
- Administer pre-lambing vaccine shots in breeding flocks 2-4 weeks before ewes are due and then ensure lambs get their initial primer shot at marking.

- Use All Clear boom and tank cleaner to ensure crop safety in all spray jobs
- Cold nights have seen a rise in rat and mouse activity as they head into the house and sheds for shelter. Pellets, granules and blocks in stock.
- We stock a comprehensive range of work and safety boots. Grab a new pair to keep your feet warm and dry over the cold winter months.

- Order all your fruit, nut and ornamental trees for the winter planting program. Trees available for all commercial growers as well as hobby and home gardeners – call any of our stores today!
- Clean up rabbit populations while natural feed reserves are scarce. Bunny Bait is an effective and safe method of removing these pests.

"with you in the GROWING business"

cont. from page 1/ pre-emergent herbicides used in our cropping systems. **We urge all customers to consult with our FJs agronomists regarding pre-emergent herbicide efficacy and product selection prior to the commencement of dry sowing.** As dry weeks continue to tick by, reducing the likelihood of a knockdown herbicide opportunity before sowing commences, more reliance will once again be placed on this stable of pre-emergent herbicides. Product selection will therefore be critical to maximise weed control but also considering the prevailing early conditions. **Despite the dry spring last year, our agronomy team saw some outstanding yield benefits subsequent to Utrisha N applications to wheat, barley and canola crops.** Corteva Agriscience are offering a further incentive in 2025 providing more growers the opportunity to benefit from using Utrisha N on their crops. If Utrisha N doesn't provide at least a 100kg/ha yield increase over the standard program used on farm Corteva will refund the cost of the Utrisha N purchase.

If rainfall is an issue over the course of the 2025 season, Utrisha N might be an ideal inclusion with other agchem applications. **Utrisha N is a biological product which fixes nitrogen from the air into the plant.** It provides a supplemental nitrogen to crops through the growing season. It can simply be added into tank mix supplying around 30 units of N directly into the plant without the need of a rain event.

Hay and forage seed supplies are becoming a little more difficult to source. Obviously hay supplies have been depleted over the last couple seasons and some effort will go into replenishing farm stocks where possible. We do have a network of suppliers with limited tonnes still available. Please contact any of the FJs team to ensure you lockdown your forage seed requirements.

Fertiliser continues to be a challenge made more difficult with the ongoing dry conditions here in SA. Global pressures have influenced our domestic price more than our local market conditions. Please speak to any of the team if you have any concern about orders that you have placed, for booking times or to modify orders with shifts in your sowing programs.

Pasture

Unfortunately, most grazing properties have remained dry across the majority of our region during April with a few small pockets of dryland pastures germinating after isolated heavier rain during the last few weeks. Follow up moisture will determine how these earlier pastures continue to develop in the weeks ahead. Promoting early pasture growth should be a key focus in all grazing enterprises and **it's not too late to lock in a Custom Pasture Blend aimed at filling the early feed gap** to meet livestock nutritional requirements. Promoting early pasture growth should be a key focus in all grazing enterprises. Pasture options might also offer opportunities if you are considering modifying the winter cropping program. In addition to the forage produced, pastures provide soil cover and depending on the species, can be excellent producers of nitrogen, enhancing soil fertility with proven long-term benefits. Irrigated pastures sown over the last few weeks have had the benefit of warm soils and adequate moisture resulting in rapid establishment.

All emerging seedlings should be protected with a bare earth or early post emergent insecticide application targeting Red Legged Earth Mite, Aphids and Grubs. There are a host of new IPM products being introduced into the insecticide market as our industry strives to replace old chemistries. Some of these new products are ideally suited to the pasture and therefore represents a great opportunity to talk to our agro's about the options that line up with your production goals crop by crop and paddock by paddock.



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Viticulture

A small number of blocks have been sown with a cover crop. Obviously, there is a level of risk involved with dry sowing into bone dry soils. This risk is somewhat diluted in a cover cropping situation versus a commercial broadacre winter crop as the key focus is on green manure rather than a clean crop for harvest. Cover crops that were sown early last year performed best in terms of bulk matter turned in to the soil. We have a good range of seed in store for your cover cropping program.

Dry conditions have slowed weed germinations. **Rest assured, weed seeds are still there waiting for their opportunity!**

Early applications of a reliable residual herbicide helped growers stay in front of a number of difficult weeds last year. Chateau from Sumitomo has been used extensively for a number of years. It is registered in most vine and tree crops. Use a residual herbicide early in the season rather than in the springtime to stop weeds before they mature and become difficult to knock down later. **Residual herbicides will help to significantly reduce the weed seed bank** and also provides superior control.

Residual herbicides do need moisture to adequately incorporate them into the soil so some consideration around timing of application is required. Give our agro's a call for additional advice on your weed management plan and to discuss any particular herbicide resistance issues that may be causing problems on your patch.

Although we have come through a pretty tough season vineyards still need to be cared for with the "long game" in mind. **This includes soil and nutrition management.** To that end, compost and mulch products continue to prove their benefits when applied under vines. Additional fertiliser products can be incorporated into these products prior to spreading thereby reducing the number of passes in the vineyard.

Soil testing can be undertaken over the dormant months of winter.

Results can be considered when determining any spring nutrients or to have these products included in spring mulching operations.

Give any of the horti agro's a call on these viti related matters and to have them take soil samples for tests.

Some pruning has started in a few locations. The very mild weather since harvest has seen a surprising level of resilience in remaining vine canopies.

Electrocoup secateurs should be dropped off to our store to ensure the annual service is carried out and the pro-rate warranty is maintained.

We also have a full range of new tools including the automated tying tool.

Greenseal wound dressings should be an important consideration when vines aren't completely dormant at pruning. We have good supplies of both the paste and spray products in store.

Look out for Scale populations in suspect areas of the vineyard over the pruning season as more growers report their activity.

Orchard, Citrus and Horticulture

The citrus harvest has continued without interruption during April with good crops of M7's being picked and Navelina's to follow. More recent cooler weather may negate the need for gas colouring.

The pleasant mild autumn conditions have assisted late mealybugs and ants to remain active as well as isolated populations of Red Scale and Cottony Cushion Scale. The onset of cooler weather should result in decreasing populations of insect pests across orchards.

Some early **Nordox copper applications have been made to orchards.** Last season's cold and generally drier conditions resulted in an increased incidence of anthracnose. The BOM's three-month rainfall outlook is also indicating a possible repeat of a drier pattern this season as well. It would therefore be prudent to prepare for a higher-pressure year in 2025 too.

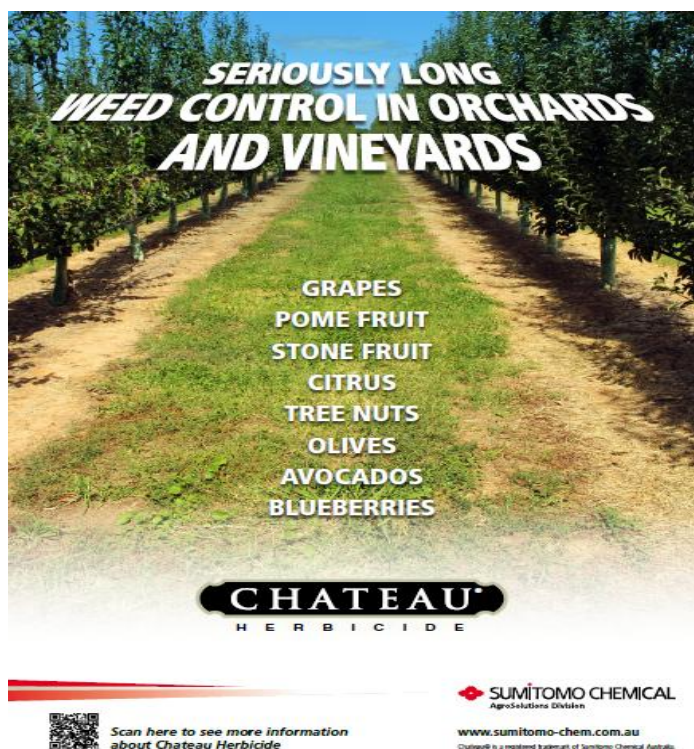
We have **identified Brown Rot on fruit** still hanging during our orchard inspections. These infections may be due to the mild weather or an overly relaxed picking schedule.

Packing sheds will be aware of these outbreaks and may in turn dictate fungal applications in the orchard. Ideally growers will be on the front foot with a robust disease management plan and negate the need for intervention from the packing shed partner. The FJs agro's or our Ramco team are able to assist with all citrus orchard disease and nutrition plans.

Nutrition planning for the spring growing season is also top of mind for most growers. We are working with our suppliers to ensure product is available for the various tailored liquid blends that we process at the Ramco store. A number of global constraints have made this a little more challenging at the moment. This has also been compounded by the recent introduction of tariffs and they may also cause a shift in the material that we require for our nutrition manufacturing. Please prioritise a discussion to firm up your requirements sooner rather than later to avoid any supply hiccups further into the season.

Farmer Johns supplies a full range of pruning equipment and is a service agent for the Electrocoup secateur. We have a full stock of new tools as well as a comprehensive range of spares. Give any of our team a call to organise a field demo if you haven't used the Electrocoup previously.

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Animal Production & General Merchandise

Most of the effort on grazing properties across our region has focussed on feeding stock to maintain condition and support new born lambs and calves. Many producers have reduced stock numbers to ease the feed pressure as well. Remaining or available hay supplies are generally lower in quality and more expensive as demand drives the pricing pitch. Freight distances will also increase the on-farm cost. Manufactured feeds may become a little more attractive under this scenario as well.

We have current costs on a range of manufactured feeds for both sheep and cattle as well as feeders to manage the targeted stock intake.

Animal health management increases in importance if stock are fed in intensive situations such as containment or feedlot facilities. Both internal and external parasites are easily controlled with appropriate pour-on products. Vaccinations against clostridial diseases, arthritis and erysipelas are also very important when stock are housed in confined spaces. Again, we have a full range of vaccine covering these conditions.

When any product is included in a livestock management plan consideration needs to be given to the sale and slaughter dates of the stock to ensure that WHP and ESI's are also protected. Our experienced Staff are always available to assist with product advice, selection and the correct administration on farm. If in doubt please ring out - seek their advice to make the right decisions for your farm!

All producers should know that EID tags must be applied to all sheep and farmed goats born after Jan 1st '25 before they leave the property of birth. A government funded rebate toward the cost of the tags is available until June 30th '25. The rebate is applied at the time the tags are purchased here at FJs. The weeks are rapidly slipping by – the end of June isn't too far away!

Demand for poly pipe has increased as on farm water supplies have to be plumbed to paddocks previously serviced by dams. We stock all the common sizes of both Blue and Greenline pipe and Philmac fittings and trough hardware. Free use of a poly pipe ripper is also available when pipe is purchased from our stores. Give any of the FJs a call to quote all water supply systems including pipe tanks and troughs

Bunnybait is an effective bait for rabbits, especially now whilst the weather remains dry and little natural feed is available. Optimum results will be achieved if Bunnybait is offered on three occasions at 3 to 5 day intervals. Bait at a sufficient rate to enable all rabbits in an area to eat several grams of bait each during every application, ideally about 20% of the bait offered will remain in the morning after the rabbits feed. Use of a ploughed furrow (2.5 cm deep using a hoe) will help bring rabbits onto the bait trail. Oat bait is less attractive to dogs and cats and so is considered safe to these pets.

We invite you to participate in our EOFY BUSINESS BONUS PROGRAM, which includes a payment and pickup structure to suit your farm requirements for the end of the 2025 financial year.

We will reward you for your participation with annualised 5% EOFY BUSINESS BONUS dollars credited to your trading account based on the prepayment of your trading account.

The bonus is calculated monthly using the closing remaining credit value from the pre-June deposit in your trading account and managed via your existing FJs account.

Each month in 2025 we are giving away a prize for the best seasonal farming photo. The monthly winning photos will be used in the 2026 Farmer Johns calendar.



Post your best May farm photos on the FJs facebook page for a chance to win!



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