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Job Vacancy - Nuriootpa

We are seeking a store sales person who has a desire to make a difference through outstanding customer service.

You will be a bright, friendly and outgoing individual with a natural ability to build and maintain relationships. Accuracy and attention to detail and high level communication skills are key in this role and will be part of your DNA.

Some previous retail experience might be an advantage but is not essential. Managing the FJs rural merchandise range includes some manual lifting as stock is receipted and despatched.

A current forklift licence would also be a bonus.

If this sounds like you, please send your resume to:
gavin@farmerjohns.com.au

Electrocoup Services should be completed prior to beginning the long pruning season ahead.

Please drop your secateurs off to ensure a continued prorated warranty on the tool.



Seasonal reminders

- Ewes should be given their Glanvac 6 annual booster two weeks before lambing.
- Make sure you also order ear tags well before lamb marking to avoid any supply and delivery hiccups.
- Buy Nestle Purina dog food during April for a chance to win \$10k towards a holiday.



I'm pleased we are at the end of Daylight Saving, I personally think it's extended a couple weeks too long, but my small view doesn't cut it with the wider populations focus on all the

March festivities that happen in metropolitan Adelaide!

In addition to a favourable rainfall season, adequate nutrient supply to any developing plant underpins growth and ultimately the yield of that plant. This basic requirement is applicable to crop no matter whether it is in broadacre, viticulture, pasture, vegetables or orchards and the home garden. Advances in plant breeding have seen additional traits and subsequent yield improvements in corn, canola and cereals. Some of these traits also provide plants an increased ability to perform despite disease and pest presence.

In order to maximise production from what is inevitably a higher cost seed input, performance and yield is of utmost importance.

This then puts the spotlight firmly on the fertiliser distribution network to cater for on time and appropriate volume supply to our market. We believe we have a reasonable level of experience in the way we approach our product supply, however, the fertiliser business has been a major headache for us this year.

Unfortunately, Australia is a logistical challenge for our globally focussed supplier companies. This challenge has been exacerbated by the conflict in the Middle East as well as increased shipping times and costs as a result of the aggressive behaviour of Houthi rebels operating on the Red Sea.

Incitec Pivot and Wengfu have their Australian fertiliser businesses on the market.

This might also be an indicator of the importance the big players have on primary producers here in Australia.

We ask that you continue to co-operate with us when we confirm booking slots and delivery times.

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

Man is the only kind of varmint that sets his own trap, baits it, then steps in it!

- John Steinbeck

Broadacre

Reflex herbicide has been used very effectively as a pre-emergent option for a range of resistant weeds. Reflex does require some specific management practices in terms of crop safety and plant back periods. In order to ensure that all users understand these requirements, Syngenta have an accreditation process in place requiring users to complete a basic online module prior to purchase and use. Once completed Syngenta will issue a Reflex Reference Number (RRN). This number needs to be supplied to our store sales team prior to any Reflex purchase.

Please jump onto the Syngenta website to complete the simple accreditation process before the heat of the season!

Resistant ryegrass populations have blown out significantly since the wet spring and summer of 2022. We highly recommend planning a "double knock" approach this season with the aim of managing these ryegrass populations to a low number. The double knock method is also very efficient on any other resistant species present in the paddock too.

A robust spike such as Terrador, Voraxor or Amitrole should be included in the follow up paraquat application. No significant difference in weed control has been proven by adding the spike to either the initial glyphosate or the subsequent paraquat application. However, we believe better overall control is achieved if these products are included in the paraquat tank mix.

Always read and adhere to the label when using these "spikes" as some plant back

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- Century batteries in stock, don't get caught out on the cold – the first start is the best start!!
- Return all Chep pallets, 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro's ASAP.
- Use Ficam W around the house and farm to knock out spiders, flies, earwigs and other nuisance insects.
- Evo overhead shearing plant in stock call for quotes on all shearing gear.

from page 1... periods apply.

Alion herbicide is a new pre-emergent product from Bayer for use along fence lines.

Alion will be positioned in another group providing an additional option for the pre-emergent control of resistance weeds in fence lines and in some horticultural crops.

Alion looks like having a release date in June or July this year. Despite the early hope, this could be a little late for our current winter cropping season.

Slugs and Snails were a major problem in many winter crops during 2023. If you were battling them last season you will likely have to deal with them again this year!

They can wipe out an entire germination in less than ten

days. Don't wait until you see the damage in your canola and legume crops, be proactive and treat previously inhabited paddocks early in order to continue the sowing program uninterrupted.

Slaters and millipedes are in reasonable numbers in paddocks with heavy soil and high trash loads. Although useful in assisting to break down the old crop residue, they can also cause serious damage to germinating seedlings and should be treated accordingly.

Check in with our agronomists to determine the best options for your situation.

Seed inoculation is an important step in successful legume programs. There is a new acid tolerant rhizobium available this season for those growers dealing with acid soils. The GRDC strongly recommends inoculation, especially when pulses are being sown into acidic soils or where no crop in the same inoculation group has been sown for several years. The new inoculants will lift productivity in both neutral and alkaline soils as well. Speak with our team to ensure you have your inoculant requirement sorted!

Fertiliser has been the focus for most over the last few weeks. Supply of DAP and MAP is tightening from the Adelaide footprint.

Our advice is to collect your ordered fertiliser and get some on farm as the

air seeder or the break of the season will not wait for the next fertiliser ship to arrive in our ports! We still have fertiliser available for sale, please give us a call urgently if you still require product for the approaching season.

We are **monitoring the top dress urea price at the moment**. Seeding urea pricing is largely set with loads either in Australian warehouses or on the water. There are some positive price indications for the farmer going forward. If these signs firm in the coming weeks we should be in a better price position heading into the spring.

Supply of Sulphate of Ammonia for top-dressing is very tight. If you need SOA for your 2024 program, **be proactive now**. All SOA is imported into Australia with no domestic production.

This simply means that the small volumes arriving into ports are quickly consumed. We in turn require your co-operation in arranging collection without delay once booking slots are made. It is very difficult to re-schedule bookings on SOA. Thanks in advance for your assistance in this matter. Please call any of our stores for all broadacre cropping matters.

Pasture

Autumn pasture plans should be finalised sooner rather than later. Please check in with our agro's to finalise any late soil testing jobs and for any remaining gypsum and lime orders and their associated delivery times.

Forage cereals and pasture seed supplies are beginning to arrive into our

stores as processors slowly work through germination testing, and the routine cleaning and coating operations. Recent rain fall in the eastern states will increase supply pressure on seed as their sowing season looks likely to fire off well before ours begins here in SA.

We have been taking enquires and orders for forage seed including small seed blends, cereals, vetch, and ryegrass for the upcoming pasture season.

We encourage all customers to speak to one of our agronomists in order to lock in seed blends, allowing adequate time for mixing, bagging and transport. This does require some time and will no doubt be extended once the "busy" part of the season arrives.

We have a limited volume of a Graze Force annual ryegrass, balansa and Persian clover blend in our Nuriootpa store. This is an ideal "early" feed option for clients who require some quick cover on bared out ground and still provide a healthy grazing option heading into the colder months.

Overall, seed supply has been pretty good with the exception of the forage cereal space as a result of a lean finish to 2023. All clients should lock in seed requirements now before any additional heat is turned onto supply and stocks are depleted.

We strongly recommend getting all ordered seed into your shed so that sowing can take place on time when the season breaks.

Slugs and Snails were mentioned in our broadacre segment (above), these pests were also a problem in many pastures last season. Those areas will need attention this year with appropriate baiting. Call our agro's for assistance on timing to get the most effective outcome.

Aerial Fertiliser application is planned to take place over the next few weeks. We understand that some graziers may decide to reduce the area covered based on the reduced returns from livestock last season. Graziers will also understand that it is still important to maintain production on these difficult to manage and largely inaccessible pastures.

Please contact your FJs agro to flag your intention to participate in our annual aerial spreading program and to finalise paddock locations for the operators.

Viticulture

Continuing dry and warmer conditions have tested both vines and operators as vintage slowly comes to a close. The prolonged dry conditions have also shown up other issues in the vineyard.

First up, ensure you **give the very thirsty vineyard a good drink post-harvest**. Ideally, this irrigation will **include an appropriate nutrient supplement** to assist the vines into dormancy and also enabling a healthy start to next season despite the current stresses.

Soil tests should be completed after harvest as well. Subsequent test results will be invaluable in establishing a nutrition program for next season.

Soil results can be viewed in conjunction with the tissue results taken over the growing season. Together, they present a much clearer assessment of the overall nutrient status of the vineyard.

Evaluate your vineyards for Rust Mite now. Rust Mite have thrived in the warm dry conditions over summer. Our agro's have noticed a growing issue across many vineyards. Control needs to take place prior to budburst. Review and document the blocks that have suffered from Rust Mite this season and plan to target these areas with a pre-budburst control.

Take some time to catch your breath and carefully review the season with one of our viti agro's. Some late season fungal issues were evident in a number of vineyards. This might have been as a result of a deliberate strategy to reduce inputs given the grape supply situation. However, in many circumstances it may have been due to a range of other causes that once identified, shouldn't be repeated. Analyse what has worked well in your vineyard blocks and what has not achieved the desired outcome.

Obviously, **a thorough review of the spray program should be undertaken** including the chemicals used and their success or failure over the course of the season. Rotating actives between the various chemical groups will ensure that products remain viable and disease resistance is minimised.

The **Jeffries Mulch and Compost** offer will conclude on the 30th April. Please contact us before the close off date to take advantage before the beginning of winter! These Jeffries products will assist in improving soil structure, moisture retention and weed control.

The federal Government have **grant assistance (up to 50%) on the table to help growers set up moisture management technology** and on-farm water use efficiencies including monitoring equipment.

Shaun Falkenberg and Katelyn Keller can provide additional details of this offer, please give them a call at the Nuri store.

Wine making supplies are in demand as recently harvested wine grapes continues the journey from the vineyard to the bottle.

We have good stocks of Yeasts, Malolactic Bacteria, Tannins and Fermentation aids in store.

There is an Australian Tartaric Acid and Liquid SO₂ supply issue. We are currently waiting on additional Tartaric supply to arrive but have had no confirmation over what time this might be.

Give our Nuri store team a call to sort your wine inputs for the remaining vintage work over the course of April and May.

Cover cropping will be a focus for many growers. Although we have had a relatively tough season, some work needs to continue in order to maintain soil health and nutrition. We have a range of seed options for the cover cropping program.

Citrus & Orchard

Most orchardists have completed second sprays for Red and Soft Brown scale and Mealybugs as necessary. The recent temperature decrease has seen a decline in the numbers of scale but there is also slight increase in mealybug numbers and ant activity alongside too. Movento is the best option, keeping back one more spray of late Trivora if required while Applaud or Electra could be used later on as a last resort.

Low levels of **Fullers Rose are present** in a number of blocks. We have Exirel in stock should the packing sheds request an application.

Fruit is ranging around 70-80mm, final foliar nutrition applications will assist in pushing past this range, completing the last piece of the sizing picture. Be aware that packing sheds will probably be looking for **Red Copper applications before harvest**. We have robust stocks of Nordox on hand to cover those requirements. Ensure a level of caution around spray timings of Copper when high temperatures and humidity may affect fruit.

Nights have been very dewy as well, it is therefore important to make sure fruit is dry prior to copper applications. This means checking trees prior to spraying, including further into the orchard and not just the outer sun dried trees.

It is important to keep water volumes high and also observe safe tank mix Ph ranges. Fruit quality is obviously important, so lean away from oils and take care with potentially antagonistic tank mixes.

Citrus Stop Drop (Cit Tite) applications should also be on orchardist's radar as the Navel season progresses.

We have discussed the concern of increased shipping delays in recent months for nutritional products into Australia. This is likely to have an impact on a range of products typically used early in spring orchard programs. We encourage all clients to start planning next seasons fertiliser requirements to ensure on time smooth and consistent delivery of those products in the months ahead.

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Animal Health & General Merchandise

Pregnant ewes need careful management to ensure that they lamb down in the right condition for optimum lamb weight and survival. **Multimin** from Virbac can help optimise the immune function in both ewes and lambs, to improve marking percentages and lamb weight gains. It should be administered to ewes 4 weeks before lambing. It contains a range of 'top up' essential minerals in a formulation that provides rapid-absorption into the body. Ideally Multimin is incorporated into a nutrition program alongside maintenance loose licks such as Mag-Plus or Flock Boost Lambing.

Weaners are the class of sheep on farm **most susceptible to worms**, especially during their second winter as hogget's. Paddocks housing young sheep in late autumn and winter should be prioritised based on the highest pasture quality available and also of low worm-risk. Pastures grazed after the autumn break (before the 'hogget winter') should be the lowest worm-risk on the farm. Using these basic parameters for paddock selection will provide hogget's the best opportunity to build immunity without suffering high initial worm burdens.

Lambing ewes are the next most susceptible group, as they temporarily lose some of their immunity to worms at and after lambing. As a result, they contribute to the seasonal increase in worm numbers and subsequent infection of lambs. Prior

to lambing and during lactation ewes are under increased stress because of the demands placed on them by the growing foetus and milk production respectively. Managing this risk with a pre-lamb drench such as Cydectin Long Acting will alleviate worm burdens over this critical period. Ideally, the drench selection should be based on the results of a faecal egg count prior to drenching.

Talk to our store staff for assistance with you drenching program and to arrange faecal worm egg counts.

Native Australian rodents (for example Hopping Mice) pose little or no threat to public health and should be left alone as they are a protected species. However, introduced rodents infest residential and agricultural areas and

carry disease. Both **Black (Rattus rattus) and Brown (Rattus norvegicus) rats and the House Mouse (Mus musculus) are the rodents we need to deal with** on a regular basis. As well as annual forage in pastures, fence lines and other vegetation, these pests thrive on a range of rubbish, pet food, food scraps, composts, fallen fruit and nuts, bird seed and dog faeces. Rats will travel up to several house blocks to find water and food. Rodents are generally more active at night and are more common in late summer/early autumn, so will be a problem now as the weather cools driving populations under cover.

We have a range of baits in stock to control rats and mice including BASF's Storm Secure Wax Block. Storm is highly potent; rodents can consume a lethal dose in a single feed as it works quickly and effectively. After consuming Storm Secure Wax Blocks, rodents typically die within three to seven days. Baits should be strategically placed in locations such as active rat holes, along runs, and under rubbish.

We also have supplies of rat and mouse bait stations to ensure domestic pets are protected from inadvertently consuming baits as well.

Rainwater Tanks will be getting low or may have already run dry. The long dry spring and summer has taken a toll on the rainwater supply. It may be opportune to reassess your storage capacity and order additional Polymaster tanks?

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