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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 November farm photo on the FJs Facebook page for a chance to win!

Employment Opportunity

Join our Nuriootpa team as our Elgas gas delivery driver with flexible work hours.

The Delivery Driver will be responsible for collating, loading and delivering Elgas orders to our Barossa clients.

Please contact us for the full role details and forward your resume by email to "Nuriootpa Manager" davecrockett@farmerjohns.com.au before Friday 28th Nov 2025.



We had a next-door neighbour back in the Adelaide Hills that always pulled his hay mower out of the shed before anyone else did. Inevitably, everyone in the district looked forward to the last

finishing rain as soon as he had started cutting! I am sure there is a similar barometer in most regions across the country.

The recent rains have been pretty frustrating for all farmers. Obviously, the hay season has been particularly challenging but more so the frustration that the good rains we have just experienced didn't turn up earlier in the season! But that's farming!

In last month's Landlink I discussed the importance of safety when loading product when collecting product from our stores.

Farm safety is an important issue on your properties as well. Unfortunately, and all too often, we hear about serious accidents that have taken place somewhere across the country. There have been too many of these occurrences in our regions as well. Even though these incidents have been labelled "accidents" in most cases they were

probably quite avoidable as well.

We deliver a lot of product from our stores directly onto farm over the course of a year. We will continue to do that as part of our customer service.

However, our team are also reporting that if we work with these strict transport regulations farm businesses should also take some responsibility in ensuring that equipment used to unload goods on properties also be appropriate for the job.

Gone are the days when we should be dropping bulk containers onto old tyres on the ground, physically manhandling drums into storage sheds or using very outdated machines to lift pallets where visibility is pretty much zero and the chances of spearing containers or bags is at the extreme level.

I ask that you consider updating old outdated equipment with a relatively inexpensive second hand forklift that will also be very useful in the workshop and relieving your back with other lifting jobs around the farm.

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"Next time you think you are important, try ordering somebody else's dog around."

— Will Rogers

Viticulture

Vineyards are looking particularly healthy after the recent warm and humid conditions. Forecasters have indicated similar weather patterns can be expected to continue into November.

An increased level of disease pressure can also be expected on the back of these weather conditions. Based on data from several weather stations the late October rain event and coinciding temperatures may have sparked a primary Downy Mildew infection in some vineyards in our market area. Powdery Mildew remains as the most prevalent disease we deal with in our state's temperate climate and should therefore remain as a focus for all growers.

Typically, we don't see too much Botrytis in our drier growing region. It may also become a concern as vines begin flowering in the next week or two and another rain event takes place simultaneously. Spray programs should be tightened up to ensure any early disease infections are managed effectively and spray intervals don't get blown out too far. We appreciate that this approach may be a little challenging for growers that are currently dealing with fruit that hasn't been sold. However, it would also be safe to say that any disease present in fruit will face severe payment penalties or rejection at harvest. It may be prudent to have a chat with one of our viti team to determine the most robust program you can implement whilst still taking into consideration the status of the crop. It is also important to remain focussed on rotating active ingredients across the fungicide range especially as increasedcont page 2/

Seasonal reminders

- Consider summer forage options on the back of rain events and warming soil temperatures – call our agro's for details.
- Vaccinate all sheep prior to turning them onto stubbles. Fatal outbreaks of Pulpy Kidney can result from a sudden change of diet and increased grain consumption.

- Burning sulphur is available for the fruit drying season, call any if the FJ stores.
- Order aftermarket header parts from FJs for overnight delivery via Parts Express. Full range of chains, bearings, seals, seats, cameras and miscellaneous parts.
- Get a fly trap or 2 set up to reduce the fly population around the farm.

- We have a full range of turf care products available for your lawn.
- Full range of Neutrog products available including Sudden Impact, Rapid Raiser and Who Flung Dung!
- Rabbit populations have flourished over the spring season. Build a control plan using Bunny Bait!
- Return all Chep pallets, 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro's ASAP.

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from page 1/... disease pressure is likely in the weeks ahead. Flowering is underway in early varieties. Petiole samples need to be collected for testing while the vine is flowering. Samples should be dropped into our stores for onforwarding to laboratories for processing. The results can be used in conjunction with both previous tests and soil tests to determine relevant nutrient supplements over the remainder of the season and for addition to under vine mulch blends and other ameliorants.

Moisture levels have moved up a little as a result of recent rain events. Although not significant enough to negate irrigation for any period of time, the rainfall has certainly provided a natural benefit leading into flowering and temporarily lifts the aesthetic appearance of vineyards!

Limited run off and recharge over the last 12 months will make for a busy irrigation season this summer. It will be very important to allocate available irrigation volumes appropriately in order to maximise the return from your water budget.

Moisture monitoring provides clear visibility on available soil moisture allowing more accurate and targeted irrigation decisions. Chat with any of the FJ team about moisture monitoring and the options we can install for you.

We have fielded a number of enquiries about Ethephon and its use to manage wine grapes in situations where it is unlikely the crop will be processed. The APVMA have a special permit in place for its use and a specific set of guidelines which need to be followed if it is applied to vines. Please speak personally to any of our viti team if you wish to pursue a crop desiccation pathway.

Orchard, Citrus and Horticulture

Our routine crop inspections in citrus have identified worrying populations of Thrips, Katydid and LBAM as well as some isolated Citrus Gall Wasp outbreaks. The usual annoying populations of snails, earwigs and Leaf Miner continue to inflict minor damage in the canopy. Unless these populations explode opportunity baiting and insecticide applications targeting more important pests will satisfactorily suppress these pests too. Citrus Gall Wasp have the potential to become a more significant problem as the season progresses if unstable weather patterns continue. Systemic insecticides such as Imidacloprid and Samurai can be applied to trees targeting Citrus Gall Wasp and Red Scale.

Syngenta's Vertento insecticide will cover LBAM, Thrips and Fullers Rose Weevil. It should only be applied when numbers reach critical threshold levels.

Again, recent weather conditions have been conducive to the development of all fungal infections in stone fruit. Spray programs should therefore be managed in a tighter rotation than was required over the last couple drier summers. Ensure regular protectant fungicide applications are kept up to target Brown Rot, Scab, Leaf Curl etc.

We have received an increased level of enquiry for clients wishing to use our agronomy expertise in monitoring and pest and disease management. Please call our stores to discuss your orchard program specific to your location and business goals.

How Polymers Behave in Soil When used as a soil moisture solution, polymers don't just stay still, but rather respond to environmental conditions. When moisture levels change, the polymer can swell, shrink or interact with soil particles to improve water and nutrient distribution. For example, in lighter soils, polymers help reduce water loss by slowing infiltration and evaporation. In heavier soils, they can improve structure and aeration, allowing roots to grow more freely. They can also help retain nutrients in the root zone and reduce leaching. Different polymers are suited to different purposes. Some are designed for cooler, wetter seasons to help manage water movement, while others are better suited for hot, dry conditions. Choosing the right product for the right job is key to success. Over approximately 6-8 weeks, these polymers break down safely, releasing carbon back into the soil. This means no residue concerns, but it works instead like a supplement, improving soil performance over the season

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Broadacre

Recent rains have been welcomed by most croppers with later sown crops receiving the biggest boost. Wheat crops in particular will certainly benefit from these rain events. The down side of the significant recent rain event is the obvious impact that it has had on hay crops that remain on the ground. Further rain is forecast over the early days of November – hopefully these falls don't cause any additional negative harvest impacts! Our agronomy team have continued monitoring winter crops across a diverse range of geographics in our region. **Heliothis and Diamond Back moth have been prevalent in canola crops** exceeding threshold levels in most situations. As a result, canola crops have had an insecticide applied to manage these high populations. Further to that discussion is



the fact that there is an uncomfortable level of resistance exhibited by DBM to Trojan and Karate. We have been recommending the use of Exirel if both Heliothis and DBM are the pests targeted in canola. Check in with our agro's to discuss this in more detail relevant to your property.

Late season crop topping will soon begin in legumes targeting Milk Thistle, Wild Radish, and Prickly Lettuce. Paraquat plus Sharpen will be the "go to" tank mix to deal with this weed spectrum while Sledge also offers very reliable and robust control as well. There is a 30 day ESI (export slaughter interval) precaution if Sharpen is used on blocks that are intended to be grazed post-harvest. Skeleton Weed continues to cause harvest problems across lower rainfall zones and might be ramped up this season after recent falls across the Mallee. It is a declared weed so needs to be addressed. Speak to one of our agro's about the best strategy for its control both in crop and going forward.

Always read the full label instructions to ensure familiarity is achieved on all the precautions on any product label.

Farm grain storage facilities will be given some attention in the next week or two in preparation for the rapidly approaching harvest. There are a range of insecticide options available for use in managing pests in stored grain. Any product selected to treat the farm storage facility should also take into account grain type, length of required protection and ultimate destiny of the grain. Again, always read the label on the product to ensure your grain storage parameters are being met!

Our staff can assist with additional information and to help you choose the best product for your job!

If the current changeable weather continues into the harvest season a bullet proof grain moisture meter might be the handiest tool to have on hand!

We stock a range of moisture meters if yours needs to be replaced or indeed upgraded. Give us a call before you need it!

We have mentioned the important matter of a **reliable quality seed source for next seasons sowing program**. Recent rain events may have improved the seed quality prospects for farm retained seed. However, for a range of reasons this may not be the case. Please flag any gaps that you need to fill for your 2026 program as soon as you are able. We have a growing list of orders but really need to understand everyone's requirement to ensure we have all volumes covered. There have also been a number of new seed options released in recent weeks that you may be considering for inclusion in your program. Please have a conversation with our agro's to sort the "wheat from the chaff". Ensure that good decisions are made on how these new releases might improve (or otherwise) your program with soil types, rainfall, sowing equipment and chemical options all part of the discussion.

Pasture

Annual grasses including prolific Barley grass stands have been spray-topped in pastures. There might still be an opportunity to treat later pastures but timing and maturity will be the determining factor

Some insect activity has continued as recent rain events continue to promote pasture growth deeper into spring. Spring management of Red Legged Earth Mite will reduce next autumns hatchings significantly.

Obviously fodder preservation has been in focus over the last few weeks.

A reasonable amount of hay is baled and safely stacked away. However, there is plenty still on the ground subsequent to the

wet spell last week putting a dampener on many hay programs. The current season might promote consideration of a small investment in a liquid applicator which allows a product such as Hay Guard to be applied to fodder at the time of baling. Hay Guard allows fodder with an increased moisture level to be safely baled and protects against the development of mould. This technology assists in getting hay wrapped up before rain events or getting back into the paddock sooner after rain events.

We have good supplies of net and silage wrap and a range of twines suited to all fodder conservation jobs – call our stores for pricing.

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Animal Production & General Merchandise

Check that you are harvest safe including emergency fire equipment. We stock a large range of applicable safety products including warning beacons, "oversize" signs, banners and flags plus a full complement of fire safety accessories - extinguishers, fire rakes and hoes etc and of course all stores have fire pumps, tanks and hose kits in stock. A range of pre-assembled fire units are also in stock if you need a complete upgrade.

It feels like we might have a fly season this year. We haven't experienced damp humid weather conditions over the summer time for a year or two!

FJs carries an extensive range of products that can be used for the prevention of fly strike in sheep. Water based products have

a shorter protection period as well as a shorter with-holding period for meat and wool harvesting. Water based products are generally applied by jetting. Oil based products offer a much longer protection period, have excellent rain fastness and are typically applied as a pour-on using a simple applicator gun. As this latter range hang around for a much longer period on the animal, they also have a lengthy ESI and wool harvesting with-holding period. Finally, and to add an additional complication, it is also important to remember that the plain old sheep blowfly has also become resistant to a number of products historically used in strike prevention!

Please contact any of the FJ stores for assistance in determining the best product for your flock.

Hay Feed Tests should be seen as a priority this year for both fodder buyers and sellers. A fair amount of hay cut across the whole of SA has had some rain on it after it was cut and before being baled. Depending on how long the hay was on the ground before it was baled and whether or not it copped a couple rain events may also impact the feed values despite it being a very good crop initially. Hay tests are relatively quick and simple to complete and will provide conclusive evidence of the feed quality on offer allowing for better feeding decisions. Results will clearly show protein, energy, digestibility, sugars and other important trace element levels. A fair price based on the actual feed value of the sample can then be negotiated. Grain testing can also be carried out if you are storing grain to feed to stock or for sale into one of the many feedlots across our region. Basic hay tests don't provide a result for micro toxins that could be present in some fodder as a result of prolonged storage in adverse conditions. A separate test needs to be taken for analysis of toxins.

Please touch base with any of stores to arrange a feed test or sort a time when one of our team can zip out to your stack to collect samples.

Although confinement and lot feeding have become common in the sheep industry, there are some key management strategies that need to be implemented to ensure stock remain in good health. All stock should be drenched and vaccinated at entry.

We have already talked about the importance of establishing feed quality for both hay and grain. Depending on these basic inputs a buffer or additional nutrients should be included in the ration to fulfill the animals nutritional requirement and protect against gorging. We can also supply a range of feeders for use in enclosures.

Our store teams can assist in developing an appropriate ration with the ingredients you have available.

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