

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Focus on Fertiliser!
2. Order seed requirements.
3. Post harvest nutrition now.
4. Deals on compost and mulch.
5. Manage livestock nutrition.

New staff member at Blyth



We are pleased to welcome Jamie Murphy to the FJs team based at our Blyth store. Please make yourself known to Jamie on your next visit!



Although summer hasn't been too hot, we have certainly endured a very dry spell since the end of November rainfall. It looks as though we are in for a final burst of hot weather before

we head into autumn. I say bring on autumn! I'm reading the *Alchemy of Air* at the moment, the story of two German scientists, Haber and Bosch, who changed the world with the invention of the Haber-Bosch nitrogen factory. Although nitrogen gas makes up almost 80 percent of the earth's atmosphere, none of this massive store can nourish any plant or animal. Plants and animals, including humans require nitrogen in a different form, what we know as fixed nitrogen. In simple agricultural terms, if you put more fixed nitrogen on a paddock, you grow more crop. Historically, this fixed supply has been replenished via rotting crop residues and animal manures rich in fixed nitrogen. Crop rotations including legumes every few years have also added small reserves.

The world supported one billion people at the turn of the 20th century. Today there are over six billion with that number growing daily. If we all ate simple foods grown on every arable acre around the world using late 1800's technologies we could support about four billion people. This also means about 40% of our current population would starve to death. While the world's population nearly quadrupled during the last century, food production, thanks to Haber and Bosch, as well as improved genetic strains of rice and cereals, has increased more than seven times. Without farmers and the modern technologies, you have all introduced to your individual businesses, 40% of the people around you wouldn't be here! Make sure you proudly talk about the massive role you play in feeding the world. Above all, don't let anyone tell you that agriculture isn't an exciting industry to be in!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"Sometimes you lie in bed at night and you don't have a single thing to worry about. That always worries me!"

— Charlie Brown

Broadacre

Fertiliser

Shipping and government intervention no longer means that we see a free and transparent fertiliser market. China, who have huge resources of phosphate, are not granting export licenses for fertiliser. Their goal is to hold the product in China which in turn ensures their domestic prices remain low also reducing food production costs for their 1.4 billion residents. Phosphate is also being used to manufacture Lithium phosphate batteries which is far more lucrative than fertiliser manufacture. Global shipping is facing many challenges at the moment. Houthi rebels and the resulting disruption in the Red Sea have pushed freight rates up with a reported 64% fall in sea traffic through the Suez Canal this year. Sea freight via the alternative route around the Cape of Good Hope adds an additional 12-20 days to the journey to Australia. There will be little chance of late vessels arriving on time to our ports. As a consequence of this offshore activity, **fertiliser supply is tightening for winter cropping stocks**. We continue to encourage customers to be proactive and get fertiliser on farm in readiness for the seeding program as soon as possible. If urea is required for planting you need to make a move now to ensure timely supply. However, if urea is only required for top dressing, please contact us for our informed view of the local market over the next few months.

We are reluctantly looking forward to a very challenging fertiliser season!

Soil health is an issue with continued acidification and nutrient mining as a result of

.....cont page 2/



XTRA EGG SEVENTEEN
PREMIUM LAYER AND BREEDER FOOD

NEW PRODUCT
XE 17

\$1.50 OFF
PER BAG FROM
FEBRUARY 29 TO MARCH 30, 2024

AUSTRALIAN OWNED AND MADE
www.lauckemills.com.au

Laucke MILLS

Seasonal reminders

- Ewes should cop their Glanvac 6 booster 2 weeks before lambing.
- Order all small seed requirements in readiness for the autumn pasture sowing jobs.
- Get winter starter fertiliser home on the farm as soon as possible.
- Firefighters in stock – ask us for an end of summer deal!

- Use Ficom W around the house and farm to knock out spiders, flies, earwigs and other nuisance insects.
- We have pressure cleaners in stock, ideal for machinery and equipment washdown after harvest and processing operations.
- Regularly check and recharge rodent bait stations with Storm, Tomcat and Talon blocks. All in stock.

- Please return all Chep pallets to avoid additional hire fees and 110ltr Enviro drums and 1000ltr shuttles.
- Continue the supply of dry feed supplements for stock to assist with performance on poor residual feed.
- We have a large range of chook feed, dog food and cat food in stock.
- Full range of load binders, straps and tie downs for all load security.

“with you in the *GROWING* business”

from page 1.... increased production through modern improvements in our farming systems. Increasing soil pH is a land degradation challenge for many. Acidic soils are the major cause of declining crops yields. **Lime and gypsum** deliveries have been a major focus over the last few weeks as growers work toward addressing highly acidic soils. We have exhausted our Penlime allocation, but still have good supplies of suitable alternatives, including Ag-Lime ex Barossa Quarries at Angaston. The weeks are rapidly ticking past, any clients that still require these ameliorants should contact us as soon as possible. They can assist with costs and product analysis relevant to the source and of course for orders and delivery schedules.

Nodulation of pulses also fails in low pH soil. No doubt, you will have seen good healthy germinations occur but subsequently seedlings begin to yellow and lack vigour with little or no nitrogen fixing nodules evident on the root system. An acid tolerant Rhizobia in peat based form is available for the first time this year. Inoculant for Group E (field peas, vetch and lentils) and Group F (Faba beans) is available and provide improved nodulation and nitrogen fixation in acid soils down to 5pH.

Maximise your legume program with both improved yields and in field nitrogen fixation with the new Nodulaid acid tolerant inoculants.

Some summer weed spraying is still being finalised on a few paddocks. The hot and dry conditions we have experienced over the last few weeks has resulted in compromised weed control as targets have become mature and stressed. Any additional herbicide applications including the use of 2,4D should also take into account the relevant labelled plant back periods. Although we expect to receive rainfall over the coming weeks, some of these herbicides do require a rainfall event occurring prior to the commencement of sowing. Issues will arise if dry sowing is undertaken on those paddocks.

REFLEX® from Syngenta has proven to be a very effective product in managing a range of resistant weeds. It can be used either pre or post emergent. 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 a basic accreditation process in place requiring users to complete a basic online module prior to purchase and use of the product. The online application page can be accessed [Here](#) Once completed, growers will receive a **REFLEX REFERENCE NUMBER (RRN)** that will need to be supplied to our store. A number of clients completed this accreditation in 2023, however, all growers will be **required to have new RRN in 2024**. We appreciate that this process may seem onerous but also thank you for your co-operation in working with us to satisfy Syngenta's requirement.

Please give us a call if you need any assistance or additional help with this online process.

Pasture

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 important to maintain the soils nutrient base.

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.

Forage cereal seed supply has been a significant challenge for us heading into autumn subsequent to the poor finish to the 2023 season. Many forage crops that would have typically been harvested for grain were cut for hay.

Please flag your seed requirements with us as soon as possible as we are in the process of acquiring both forage barley and oats to ensure we can cover all orders and offer options this sowing season.

Pasture seed supply is ok at the moment, however, given the tight forage cereal market we expect to see some tightening in the ryegrass market as the season approaches. It would be prudent to flag your autumn small seed requirements sooner rather than later to ensure availability when you are ready to sow.

Please check in with our agro's for any late soil testing jobs, to finalise pasture rotations and for gypsum and lime orders and delivery times.



RESIDUE MANAGEMENT PRODUCT WHICH AIDS IN THE BREAKDOWN OF STUBBLE.

Improves Soil Health, Organic Matter and Microbial Activity.

Improves Nutrient availability through residue breakdown.

Improves crop and pasture establishment.



Distributed by **SUSTAINABLE FARMING SOLUTIONS**

Visit www.sustainablefarming.com.au
Contact Benjamin Munzberg 0477 799 200
or info@sustainablefarming.com.au

ADAMA **Ultro®**
In a field of its own.

Ultro herbicide from ADAMA introduces a new class of chemistry (Group 23) for the pre-emergent control of annual grass weeds in winter pulse crops.

©Registered trademark of an ADAMA Agricultural Solutions Company, ADA23646

HERBICIDE **ADAMA.COM** XI | f

BAYER
Mateno® Complete

REGISTERED EARLY POST-EMERGENCE IN WHEAT & BARLEY

POISON
MATENO COMPLETE
10 L

“with you in the **GROWING** business”

Viticulture

Recent warmer weather has pushed vintage along a little more quickly than anticipated. Some growers have completed their grape harvest and have now focussed their attention to **post-harvest nutrition and irrigation**.

Soils are very dry at the moment as vines have utilised most of the soil moisture over the ripening period. Ideally, irrigations will continue post-harvest as vines recover from fruiting while also dealing with the increased stress from the warmer weather which we expect will continue for a few weeks yet.

It is important to **incorporate post-harvest nutrition through the irrigation system whilst sap movement is still underway** and before vines enter dormancy. Take note of any other visual signs of vine stress or disease as they may also be indicators of nutrient deficiencies. Addressing these issues in conjunction with petiole test results taken over the course of the season will enable a nutrition solution to cover both the post-harvest requirement as well as setting the vine up for a strong budburst next spring.

Post harvest irrigations and fertigation also provide an ideal opportunity to include calcium. Calcium will assist in moving sodium and chloride deposits out of the root zone. Leaf symptoms will be visible if these elements are an issue in your vineyard. Calcium applications made now will also assist winter rainfall to continue leaching salt through the soil profile.

AquaCal administered via irrigation is an ideal product to alleviate salinity issues.

Soil testing would typically take place over the autumn period while soils are dry. These tests can also be analysed in conjunction with recent tissue test results and provide a fully informed snapshot of the nutrition status of the block.

Please contact one of our agro's for assistance with both taking soil samples and the subsequent development of a season long nutrition program.

Compost and mulch products have continued to prove their worth in vineyards and orchards this past season. Improved soil structure, moisture retention and associated water holding capacity as well as weed suppression are all benefits achieved from mulch applications.

Jeffries have introduced a **Season Special** for their horticulture product range including familiar products such as Dura Mulch, Rustic Choice Mulch and Organic Compost. The Season Special includes discounted prices on volumes of these products until the end of April. Call our team to sort volumes and arrange deliveries while this offer is available. We have samples of each Jeffries product in the Nuriootpa Store. Call any of the Fjs team to discuss any vineyard matters in more detail relevant to your situation.

Cover cropping in vineyards is still an important consideration despite the industry challenges some growers are dealing with at the moment. Cover cropping will provide a source of organic matter to improve the soil structure and soil biodiversity. Robust mid row crops will also suppress weeds and attract beneficial insect species into the vineyard. Permanent swards also provide some competition to vines especially in areas where managing vigour and excess canopy growth might be a challenge.

As we have mentioned earlier in this newsletter, there are some challenges with forage cereal supply this season. It would be prudent to sort cover cropping material – both fertiliser and seed – as early as possible to ensure timely availability.

Please discuss more specific details relevant to your situation with our agro's if customised seed blends and additional ameliorants may be required.

Snails will be the last thing on anyone's mind at the moment (unless you have had a contamination penalty during harvest) but they will be very evident as soon as we receive the first autumn rain event. Get some Metarex Inov into the farm shed in readiness for the battle!

Citrus & Orchard

Some young flush is still taking place with foliar applications such as Mega Kelp-P being made to manage these orchards and to assist trees cope with current heat events. Surround could also be applied to trees to add strength to heat management.

Summer weeds such as Caltrop and Fleabane are still active and should be cleaned up with a Basta + Wilt tank mix when spray conditions are favourable. There are **Red Scale and Mealybugs** present despite heat somewhat suppressing their activity. Active **populations of Mealy Bugs** in more protected areas may lead to the development of Sooty Mould if left unchecked. There are reports of serrated leaves due to early **Fuller's Rose Weevil** in a number of regional locations. When populations reach threshold levels an insecticide should be applied to manage these outbreaks.

Always check the WHP and export intervals, especially if fruit is destined to some Asian markets.

Please call our Ramco store for any additional information or to have our agronomist visit your blocks as an "extra set of eyes".

SLEDGE
HERBICIDE

Pre-Sowing Knockdown Spike

Sledge Herbicide is a Group 14 spike for Glyphosate or Paraquat. When used with robust rates of Glyphosate or Paraquat, Sledge provides reliable and broad-spectrum weed control.

Sledge Key Features:

- Registered for pre-sowing winter crops with Glyphosate & Paraquat
- Use rates 50 – 100ml/ha. *Refer to label for weeds controlled*
- No plant-back for any crops and 1 hour sowing WHP
- Excellent compatibility
- 7 Grazing WHP
- No additional surfactant required when mixed with high loaded (i.e. containing wetter) Glyphosate / Paraquat. *Adding Hasten/MSO can assist with controlling larger weeds.

SLUGS & SNAILS
LOVE IT TO
DEATH

METAREX INOV All Weather Slug & Snail Bait – superior control based on unique **GOLZACTIVE** technology

- Maximum Attractiveness
- Enhanced Palatability
- Faster Efficient Kill
- Persistent Control

METAREX
INOV

Innovation. Quality. Solutions.
agnova.com.au

AgNOVA
TECHNOLOGIES
An American Vanguard Company

THE
SEA
AND
VINES

A perfect combination



Seamungus Advanced Biological Formula Concentrate combines specifically selected individual function microbes, with three types of kelp, fish, humic acid, and composted chicken manure to provide a potent soil conditioner, ideal for grape growing.

Support healthy vines with biology that assists to circulate nutrients and other inputs while also building resilience to manage frost and heat stress.

NEUTROG

neutrog.com.au Biological Fertilisers

"with you in the **GROWING** business"

Animal Health & General Merchandise

Pre-lambing pregnancy scanning on ewes allows the removal of dry ewes and breaking down mobs to single and multiple births. This also enables those mobs to have their individual nutritional needs adequately met over the remainder of the gestation period. **Ewes require a higher level of both calcium and magnesium** before lambing and immediately after giving birth. Products such as MagPlus or TPM Flockboost will provide a balanced nutrient profile to assist ewes in meeting their intake requirements. These supplements will initially be consumed at higher rates than recommended. Provided stock have sufficient additional dry feed available, this consumption should stabilise back to the recommended rates after 7 – 10 days. A buffer should be added to grain-based rations to remove any chance of poisoning occurring.

Pre lambing vaccinations should be administered to ewes at least two weeks prior to the commencement of lambing. GlanEry 7-in-1 will cover pulpy kidney for any grain feeding taking place as well as containing vitamin B12

Don't forget whilst all the focus is on the ewe flock leading toward lambing, the future of the flock, rams and ewe hoggets are in the back ground ticking away. It is also crucial to maintain them over the lean autumn months as they are the building blocks for the future flock. Ensure they receive their annual booster vaccination and

also manage their nutritional intake to continue their required growth plane.

Vitamin ADE is an undervalued product with very few producers including this tool into their production program. Vitamin D is not a problem at this time of the year but vitamin A and E are of concern. Both vitamin A and E deficiencies most commonly occur with the lack of green feed this time of the year. Vitamin A plays a key role in immunity, reproductive health and bone development. Sheep and cattle cannot generate their own vitamin A and must ingest it from green plants. Likewise, vitamin E and selenium play hand in hand, protecting and repairing cell damage. They are both essential for wool production, fertility and immunity. Vitamin E deficiencies occur when sheep are on dry feed for long periods with a lack of green pick or from poorer quality grains. Selenium is found naturally in the soil and is taken up by plants and ingested via green leaf tissue. Sheep are predisposed to selenium deficiencies in legume dominant pastures and paddocks that have received heavy or long-term superphosphate fertiliser applications that contain sulphur.


Vitamin ADE should be administered to cattle every six months at 5ml/hd. One of these shots should be given 30 days prior to calving in the breeding mob. Sheep should receive 1-2mls pr head twice per year and lambs 0.5ml as soon as possible after birth.

Some autumn shearing takes place in our region. Regardless of the time of year, attention needs to be given to **lice management** at shearing time.

Lice resistance is a concern and should also be considered. If applied correctly, backliners are a very good option to treat lice infections. The new orally administered lice treatment Flexolt removes the risk of inadequate application technique. Long wool treatments are a good tool to manage existing lice outbreaks and prevent additional spread and wool damage. Please speak with any of our store team to determine the best-off shears option for your property

You may be aware that the SA government has announced funding of **.95c per EID tag** until June 30 2025. The incentive is only for the colour of the birth year, this year **BLACK tags only**.

Allflex are offering a free **new RapID Tag applicator** for new user orders. Order more than 200 RapID tags and receive 1 free RapID Tagger or more than 1000 RapID tags receive 1 free RapID Tagger and 1 free Rapidmatic applicator. Please give any of our store teams a call to get your RapID orders in well before the lamb marking job!



MicroPro[®] Sienna[®] Rural Fencing

FEATURES/BENEFITS

- Sustainably sourced timber
- Global GreenTag™ Certified
- Low toxicity and VOC levels
- No strong or noticeable odour
- No residues and dry to touch
- Long lasting Red / Brown colour
- Non Arsenic based preservative

For customer sales & service
Telephone 1300 989 322
PO Box 4002, Box Hill South, Victoria, 3128
onefortyone.com
the creative fibre group

One Forty One



LOOKING TO IMPROVE YOUR HERD PRODUCTIVITY?

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THESE TWO TOP CLASS PERFORMERS FROM RAGT

ADRENALIN 2
tetraploid annual ryegrass

ROZEN
diploid annual ryegrass

Order today! Talk to your local RAGT Territory Manager or scan the QR code for more info.

ragt.au | Call David Barnett on 0467 246 326

RAGT | think SOLUTIONS think RAGT

Farmer Johns

53 Railway Terrace
Nuriootpa SA 5355
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
08 8844 5141

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

08 8562 1311

Branch Manager

Adrian Marks
adrian@farmerjohns.com.au

General Sales for Nuriootpa

sales@farmerjohns.com.au

Ramco

422 Ramco Road
08 8541 4222

Branch Manager

Shaun Pick - 0408 068 190
shaunpick@farmerjohns.com.au

General Sales for Ramco

salesramco@farmerjohns.com.au

“with you in the **GROWING** business”