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PukaUp

A series of four webinars on personal wellbeing will be rolled out for all FJs clients in the coming months.

The first Conversation in the Live Well, Lead Well series will be held on Friday the 25th July at 8am CST.

We encourage all clients to register for the series which will be hosted by ex AFL player, Wayne Schwass.

[Register Now](#)

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

The monthly winners will be used in the 2026 Farmer Johns calendar.



Post your best July farm photos on the FJs Facebook page for a chance to win!

Seasonal reminders

- Snails have become active since the recent rain events in all situations. Protect emerging seedlings with an appropriate bait to limit their damage and interrupt the breeding cycle.
- Use All Clear boom and tank cleaner to ensure crop safety across your spray program.



Although some of our regions are still a bit dry, the slowly changing landscape has been a welcome relief after such an extended dry spell. Additional rainfall over the coming weeks

will continue to ease the physical and emotional pressure across all agriculture segments. Mental health and its impact on rural suicide rates has been a focus in conversations for a number of years now. Our business group AgLink have formed a partnership with PukaUp in an effort to support the work that takes place across many organisations. PukaUp is a cause-driven organisation with a vision to end suicide through education and facilitating open conversations about mental and emotional wellbeing to prevent suicide and keep people healthy. PukaUp work in prevention rather than the crisis space, believing that taking control of wellbeing is achievable for everyone with the right tools and accompanying education. The PukaUp mission is to create environments that allow

every person to have regular, honest conversations about mental health and to arm you with the tools to look after your wellbeing as part of your everyday life. Our new partnership with PukaUp will deliver the first Live Well, Lead Well – a Conversation on Wellbeing webinar to meet the needs of any business across all industries, creating mentally healthy teams, workforces and workplaces. The first of four webinars in the series will be held on **Friday 25th July**. The invitation to attend these webinars is also extended to all our clients, their families and staff. In addition to the AgLink groups support, Nufarm are also sponsoring the series.

Much of the hesitation in dealing with personal mental health challenges also comes from turning up in a public place. This series provides a unique opportunity to attend sessions in the privacy and safe surrounds of your own home.

I commend this opportunity to you all.

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

“Some of the world’s greatest feats were accomplished by people not smart enough to know they were impossible.”

— Doug Larson Lynd

Broadacre

Despite the late start to the season, **most crops sown over the last couple months have finally germinated**. Emergence has been quite uneven in some regions where marginal moisture levels have prompted staggered establishment. There is also **evidence of some crop effect from pre-emergent herbicides** in those areas that experienced heavy rainfall in the season breaking fronts. These effects are worse on lighter soils. Bleaching in some wheat crops from Overwatch herbicide is more obvious across the district. However, some of the softer chemistries such as Sakura and Boxer Gold are also showing signs of minor crop damage too. Recent cold and frosty conditions subsequent to crop emergence may have also exacerbated these symptoms too. Crops are expected to fully recover from these side effects as they grow on and metabolise the herbicide in warmer, sunny weather.

Ryegrass populations were always expected to become a challenge as conditions remained dry during autumn and for an extended period after sowing this year. As was the case in 2024, these less-than-ideal soil conditions have once again compromised any pre-emergent herbicide activity. Ryegrass populations have certainly benefitted from consecutive seasons without a pre-sow knock down opportunity!

Early post emergent applications of Boxer Gold and Mateno Complete have been

.....cont page 2/

- Full range of baits available to stay on top of the rat and mouse population around the farm yard when vermin seek cover inside!
- Install additional rainwater storage on the farm. FJs can supply a full range of poly tanks and large Aquamate lined water storage tanks. Last season proved that “enough” water doesn’t always cut it!

- Booster vaccinations should be administered to recently marked lambs ensuring life-long protection against clostridial diseases.
- Stay warm and dry with water proof jackets and lined rubber boots!
- Return all Chep pallets, 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro’s ASAP. We will take empty non-returnable fertiliser and glyph shuttles.

cont. from page 1/... undertaken to battle these ryegrass escapes in wheat and barley crops.

Managing high populations of weeds in crop also adds additional pressure to herbicide resistance strategies across the farm business. Please contact any of the FJs agro's for further support with crop inspections and recommendations on the most suitable herbicide options for your particular situation.

Insect pests will become a problem as crops emerge. Our routine crop inspections have found some serious Red Legged Earth Mite and Lucerne Flea populations across most of our market area. The most severe numbers are in crops sown onto fallow and pasture paddocks. LeMat is an old chemical but still does a great job and would typically be the product of choice to take care of these early insect pest outbreaks.

The late start to the season will have compromised some yield potential in the winter crop program. Nutrition applications over the next few weeks will assist in making up some of these early losses but also need to take into account any variable crop stage as well as soil moisture availability. The addition of micro nutrients such as chelated zinc, manganese and copper to herbicides is a simple and economical method of maximising returns from crops in the Mallee and Murraylands areas. Liquid Sulphates can also be used but check the compatibility of tank mixes.

Global urea prices have spiked over the last few weeks as a result of increased turmoil across a larger part of the Middle East. This pricing spike has been reflected with northward adjustments in our local markets. It is unlikely that any downward movement of the global price will have too much impact on our market in the next month or so. Please contact any of the FJs team to sort your nitrogen requirements sooner rather than later and also consider the benefits of sulphate ammonia either alone or in a blend with urea to maximise N activity during the current cold spell.

Utrisha N is an alternative nitrogen product, ideally suited to the broadacre cropping segment. Utrisha N is a naturally occurring bacteria which extracts nitrogen from the air and converts it to a usable form for the plant. Once applied as a foliar to the crop, Utrisha N provides a constant supply of nitrogen to the plant reducing the dependency of late season nitrogen applications. Call our agro's about this exciting new product and for any other winter cropping issue that you need to address on your place.

Pasture

A late break will always impact autumn pasture production and in turn ramp up the pressure on livestock nutrition over the cold weeks of winter. This situation is exacerbated to a more critical level after the tough year endured across southern Australia! **Gibberellic Acid is a growth regulator that can be very effective in increasing dry matter production of grass-based pastures thereby assisting to cover the critical mid-winter feed gap.** Recent replicated trial results showed significant increases in the dry matter yield of Annual Ryegrass and Italian Ryegrass, without reducing feed quality. Rapidly growing pastures also require a sound nutritional platform to support the additional production that can be expected from GA. FJs stock both ProGibb and Gala GA products.

Despite the late break, germinations in both newly sown pastures and regenerating annual pastures has been quite satisfactory. Sub clover germination has been outstanding too. **Insect pests will be actively foraging on these young plants.** Stay on top of these new populations of Red Legged Earth Mite and Lucerne Flea in order to provide the best opportunity for rapid plant establishment.

As is always the case, weeds have also fired up subsequent to the recent rain events. Broadleaf weeds should be sprayed out of pastures as soon as sub clovers have reached three trifoliate leaves. Better control is achieved if weeds are sprayed before they begin to spread and shade out pasture species. We recommend having a quick chat with one of our agronomy team to ensure that you have all the i's crossed and o's dotted before you head into the paddock! Always check that any product withholding periods are taken into account prior to introducing livestock onto treated pastures.



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Corteva Agriscience are passionate about the benefits and value that their recently launched product, Utrisha N brings as a nutrient efficiency bio stimulant. To help give you confidence in your decision to use Utrisha N, Corteva Agriscience is running an introductory offer for winter croppers. If you do not record a quantifiable improvement in yield of at least 100kg/ha in wheat, barley or canola when using Utrisha N as an additional treatment to your standard growing program, **Corteva are offering a refund of the Utrisha N purchase.** This offer is available to all growers who purchase and apply Utrisha N to their wheat, barley or canola crop before the 31st August 2025.

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Viticulture

On the back of a very late break and poor vineyard returns, **cover cropping areas are well back on previous seasons**. Additional sowings were undertaken when more certain falls were forecast early in June. Weeds are typically managed by the cover cropping operation in a routine year. Care needs to be taken in **those vineyards not cropped this season to ensure that any weeds present in the mid row aren't allowed to mature and go to seed**. This is especially the case for species that have shown levels of herbicide resistance.

Despite the tough conditions we have still had a large volume of enquiries for soil ameliorants including mulch, organic compost, chicken and worm manures and the normal run on lime and gypsum. The guaranteed nature of these soil additions in the vineyard make sense and avoids the questionable economic value of cover cropping in a very dry environment.

Check in with any of the FJs team to order and arrange deliveries to a schedule that suits your vineyard program best.

Recent soil tests have confirmed that salinity is becoming a more serious concern in a higher number of regional vineyards. Winter rainfall is an important ingredient in leaching salt deposits down through the soil profile. Current low rainfall totals can be assisted by **including applications of Stoller's Aqua-Cal in the vineyard**. Aqua-Cal will release salt allowing it to be more effectively moved lower in the soil profile.

Pruning is well underway in our viti regions. It appears that the drier autumn and early winter has favoured progress of the pruning program as well. Pruning on dry days also reduces the risk of wound infections spreading across the vineyard. **Always apply Greenseal to pruning cuts to guard against these insidious diseases especially on larger wounds or where topworking is undertaken**.

There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that more bud dissections have been done year to date this season. Our agro's can arrange to have sample buds taken and tested. Testing will assist in determining crop loads and to plan the growing season more precisely especially when yield targets and delivery limits are in play. Dissections are useful to check the viability of buds across the vineyard, providing peace of mind after frost events.

Under vine weed control has been on the radar of most growers with a number of **initial knockdown herbicides sprayed onto young weeds**. **Last season's success with new products such as Alion has prompted earlier weed control**. Anyone that uses sheep to assist in the vineyard weed control program needs to also be mindful of any applicable withholding periods for herbicides used in their programs. In addition, if weeds are grazed off, they are likely to have a more robust root system than ungrazed plants thus requiring higher herbicide rates as well.

Please give any of the FJs viti team a call to discuss these vineyard matters in more detail or for any other issue that concerns you in your patch!

Orchard, Citrus and Horticulture

The citrus harvest has continued across the Riverland. **Yields and fruit quality are very good** but unfortunately returns have fallen away from last season's pricing. Clients that have maintained robust nutrient programs throughout the growing season have certainly benefitted from their efforts! The exception to the overall season satisfaction score is the variable sizing nature of Imperial mandarins. Imperials appear to perform outside of the norm regardless of the management and nutritional program!

In conjunction with Corteva, FJs will undertake some **local trials using Utrisha N in citrus**. Small volumes were used in orchards last season with some positive feedback forthcoming subsequent to harvest. Please contact our Ramco team or Mete Gunhan to explore the benefits that Utrisha N offers in both orchards and vines. We would also like to hear from any other growers that have a season of Utrisha experience under their belt to also confirm any positive results.

Gall Wasp are present in a number of orchards where their activity is evident on last season's growth. Samurai continues to perform very well on these pests especially on larger Navals. Our agro's are able to assist in identifying any infestations of wasps or other insect pests if you require another set of eyes in your orchards. We are also able to discuss ongoing monitoring programs in orchards and vines if that is of interest as well, freeing up additional time to focus on the day-to-day routine.

Please continue to work closely with Shaun and the Ramco team in planning the 2025/26 seasonal nutrition and fungicide programs. There has been some concern from growers about product supply given the unfriendly situation in the Middle East. Our FJs team have maintained a reliable line of communication from all of our suppliers and are very aware of any potential supply issues that may affect our capacity in the coming months.

Obviously unforeseen global politicking might throw the odd curve ball in the coming months but in reality, shipping, exchange rates and the weather that plays out over the spring and summer seasons will end up having the biggest influences on our local supply markets.

Please do not hesitate to contact our agronomists at any time for any other product or management issue you have in any fruit crop.

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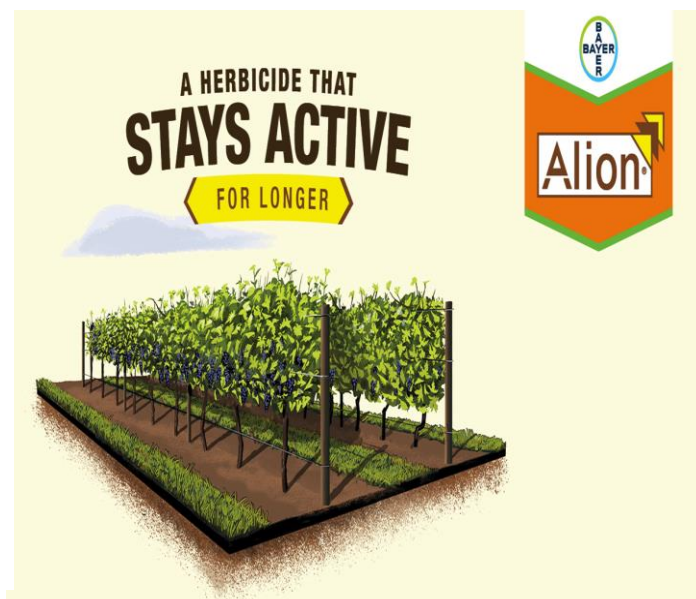
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Animal Production & General Merchandise

The recent season break across most grazing enterprises has provided some light at the end of the handfeeding tunnel! It is very important to maintain critical nutritional requirements of feeding mothers over the cold weeks of July and August.

Unfortunately, a number of graziers have reported stock losses since the break, losses likely to have been avoidable with the inclusion of an appropriate nutritional supplement. **Hypomagnesemic Tetany is a condition that can cause sudden losses in cattle and sheep.** Older lactating cows with 2 – 4-month-old calves at foot represent the highest risk animals. MagPlus or HiMag loose licks should be available to provide a daily intake of magnesium for stock in this category. Alternatively, a liquid supplement dispensed into troughs or magnesium oxide (CausMag) spread onto hay at feeding will also counter deficiencies. Seek veterinarian advice if you observe any stock conditions on your farm that are unfamiliar or represent “out of character” behaviours that typically take place.

Originally set to end at the end of June, the Essential Equipment Rebate for sheep and farmed goat producers will now remain open until 30 June 2026, assisting with the costs of the eID scanning equipment needed to meet their National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) reporting obligations. The extension of these rebates follows on from the recently announced extension of the point-of-sale tag discount scheme and the expanded eID Device Rebate, providing further assistance to producers for the transition to electronic identification for sheep and farmed goats. Please contact any of the FJs stores to sort your eID tagging requirements to comply with these new regulations.

The shearing season will still be a busy time in our region for graziers even though stock numbers are generally well below the average across our district. An incidence of sheep lice has been highlighted in the media in recent weeks indicating a level of complacency to sound parasite management in some regions. **All sheep are mustered at shearing time and should be treated with an appropriate product that will provide robust control of lice.** There are a range of suitable products available, all offering good control if applied accurately as per the product label. Please speak to any of the FJs team for assistance with the overall lice management program and for assistance in determining the most suitable product for your flocks with consideration to off shears sales and slaughter intervals.



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Complete all sheep vaccination programs to ensure lifelong immunity against clostridial disease in sheep is initiated and maintained. Unfortunately, delays or interruptions to the initial primer and booster shots timings will impact the effective establishment of protection. We stock the **full range of Glanvac products** suitable for all sheep classes and a range of vaccinators and needles for ease of application. Call any of the FJ store teams to sort your flocks vaccine requirements.



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