

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Problematic ryegrass.
2. Insect pests in all crops.
3. Nutrition in crops and pastures.
4. Plan spring hort nutrition programs.
5. Walk for miles in your work boots.

The final decision has been made on Paraquat and Diquat

The AVPMA has confirmed that both these important herbicides will remain available for use in Australia but with more stringent and reduced label registrations.

The AVPMA found no evidence that the current label approved use of paraquat increases the risk of Parkinsons disease. Key changes include major reductions in maximum applications rates per hectare, mandatory use of closed loop mixing and loading systems and enhanced use of Personal Protective Equipment.

Current stock and label registrations will be phased out over a two-year period.

The new label conditions will be immediately applicable on all newly manufactured product.

A significant number of current crop uses will be removed from the new label including all registrations for use in winegrapes.

We understand that these changes may present some challenges for a range of weed management plans in many crop segments. Please speak to any of our agronomy team to review and adjust your herbicide plans going forward.



Winter crops across the state are outstanding as a result of the mild early start to the season. Despite the regular talk of a developing dry spell in the months ahead, soil moisture

levels have continued to improve. We are all obviously hoping that the season extends a little further to consolidate the potential that currently exists.

Marlene and I shot across to Geelong for a family funeral last week. No doubt, most in the farming community will be aware of the angst that exists across regional Victoria as their state government pushes ahead with large renewable energy projects. The scale of the already established wind turbines in rich farming country has a profound visible and emotional impact on the drive through the Western Districts of the state. Subsequent to conversations with landholders within the designated project areas it becomes quite clear that additional expansion will encroach even further into high value farmlands.

We are likely to see similar expansion patterns here in SA as well. Most of the projects built to this time have been placed into SA's less arable grazing country. However, I doubt if that will be the norm going forward given governments ambitious renewable energy targets.

I think we all understand that the world needs a cleaner and sustainable environmental impact into the future. Just as science and technology has changed our farming practices massively over the last few decades, I do wonder if an alternative more efficient but less invasive method of power generation will be assumed as the preferred option in the not-too-distant future? In the interim, no matter if we are supporters or dissenters, we need to accept that the current wind and solar focus will continue to impact our local farmlands, communities and families.

It will be up to farming individuals to decide how to remain proactive in continuing to adopt new and innovative farming practices to co-exist in our regions.

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

“Good judgment comes from experience, and most of that comes from bad judgment.”

- Advice from an Old Hill Billy

Broadacre

Most crops across our regions are well on their way, especially after recent rainfall and continued mild weather throughout most of June. Post emergent herbicide applications have been the focus for croppers in recent weeks. **Pre-emergent herbicides have generally been very effective** especially under ideal soil moisture conditions that assist their activity. This is certainly a welcome scenario after the recent dry seasons that subsequently saw all pre-emergent herbicide activity and therefore weed control severely compromised.

Problematic ryegrass populations are evident on most farms. These plants have survived an initial double knock combination clean up as well as the pre-emergent residual herbicide applied at sowings. Unfortunately, this also highlights the level of investment growers are placing into ryegrass control year on year. Obviously the recently announced changes to the use of paraquat will initially provide additional challenges in herbicide management plans. On the upside, there are several promising new actives coming through the development pipeline that have provided excellent knockdown activity on annual ryegrass. Although some years away, these new actives will be both extremely timely and important for our systems.

This is also a very important example of why both primary producers and distributors (our FJs business) should support the Research and Development companies that supply products to our industry. Bringing a new conventional agrochemical active to market now costs an

.....cont page 2

Seasonal reminders

- **OmniBoost K** can be used in all crops and will reduce plant stresses during rapid growth.
- We are a registered supplier for the **On Farm Connectivity Round 3** grants that are available – call us for more details.
- Full spares range and onsite service backup for **Electrocoup** secateurs.

- **Polymaster Tanks** are currently available for delivery within a 2-5 week schedule. Sort your additional water storage requirements with our store staff while rainfall is assured.
- Follow up initial vaccinations with the most important second booster shot 4-6 weeks after lamb marking!
- All **Clear DS** will remove all residues from spray tanks, lines & nozzles.

- We have a full range of batteries in stock for cars, trucks and tractors – don't get caught out on those cold mornings, call any of the FJs stores.
- Throw some **Nuetrog** on the garden beds in readiness for the spring season. Full range of bagged products in store.
- Don't forget, we always have a deal on some brand of dog food!

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

. from page 1/ average of \$307M US. The complete process from molecule discovery to commercial sales takes approximately eleven years. Generic manufacturers and importers aren't interested in investing to these levels in our food production industries!

Pest pressure is also ramping up following the ideal break to the 2026 season. The FJs agro's have started to find Russian Wheat Aphid poking their heads up in both wheat and barley crops. Currently their numbers are only in low to moderate range. However, all populations should be closely monitored with the expectation that they will increase in the next few weeks.

Slugs and snails are loving the moist conditions and have become a problem in canola and legume crops. There are some isolated incidences of earwigs and slaters too. Even though these pests aren't as common, they can cause significant damage if left uncontrolled. To round out the pest issues, Lucerne flea infestations have done some damage in some legume crops while Earth Mite have been prominent across all crops. Check in with our agro's if you need a younger set of eyes to confirm any pests and to assist in working through the most appropriate insecticide options.

Fungal diseases are likely to be more prevalent this season. Favourable weather conditions and additional rain events over the next few weeks will provide a springboard for all leaf diseases in cereals and legumes. Our agro's have found Leaf Rust and Net Form of Net Blotch in barley, Crown Rust in oats and also expect to find Stripe Rust in wheat at some stage in warmer regions. Ascochyta Blight in lentils, Cercospora in Faba Beans, and Blackspot in Field Peas are all on the watch list in legume crops.

All cereal crops destined to be cut for hay should also be prioritised in the fungicide spray program as well. Obviously hay yields rely on the health and preservation of the crops leaf matter up until cutting. Both fungicide and nutrition applications will go a long way in achieving those goals!

Zinc deficiency is becoming evident in some crops, particularly on soils that have been limed. The addition of micro nutrients such as chelated Zinc Manganese & Copper to herbicide tank mixes is a simple, stress-free way to enhance maximum yield potentials in all crops. Crops on soils recognised as having lower nutritional platforms such as the Mallee and Murraylands will certainly benefit from additional foliar applied nutrients. It would be prudent to undertake a simple jar compatibility test to ensure there will be no obvious dramas when liquid sulphates and other products are added to the tank.

Fertiliser pricing has been in the news over the last few weeks as prices retreat from the earlier season highs. Although higher than ideal prices dominated discussions at all points of purchase the solid break to the season has seen timely nitrogen applications made to most crops. Prices are a little more realistic now but market intel indicates that additional tonnes of nitrogen will become more difficult to source as we travel further into July. From here on the discussion at the time of order will swing from price to supply – don't delay in contacting our team for any top up tonnes!

You'll stick with

All Clear[®] DS

Spray Tank Cleaner and Decontaminator

Because little else does!

Innovation. Quality. Solutions.

agnova.com.au

An American Vanguard Company

*Registered trademark. 240502

Pasture

Pastures have had a great start this season as well. Our agronomy inspections have found the routine run of insect pests thriving in most pastures. Close inspection will reveal the damage these pests do in a pasture despite the growth somewhat "covering" the amount of insect activity. Check in with our agronomy team to **ensure that an appropriate insecticide is added to the herbicide tank mix** for a one pass solution. ProGibb can also be added to the spray tank to assist productivity over the colder weeks of winter and assist in meeting the feed gap that most graziers face at this time of year. Gibberellic acid is used in promoting fruit size in citrus etc it can also have a beneficial impact on perennial species in pastures. Please chat to any of our agros if you haven't used GA in your program in past seasons. We have a range of **lucerne seed available for spring sowing** across our regions. Robust weed control should be completed as well as soil testing, with relevant soil ameliorants incorporated into the soil profile well prior to sowing. The longevity of the lucerne stand will be increased with thorough

preparation beforehand. Give any of the FJs agro's a call to assist with species selection and soil testing ready for the spring planting window.

Annual pasture production should be maximised to get the best value after the time, effort and cost of sowing it in the first instance. Topdressing annual pastures after each grazing with an appropriate fertiliser will provide rapid regeneration and reduce the time between each grazing. Alternatively, the block might be locked up and utilised for hay or silage production later in the spring.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the FJs team to discuss any other pasture matter.

Protect them now, they'll deliver later.

SEEKER[®] Duo provides fast control and long-lasting protection against powdery mildew.

For further information talk to your Syngenta representative or visit Syngenta.com.au/seeker-duo



© Registered trademark of a Syngenta Group Company.
© 2026 Syngenta. AD 26-133.



Seeker[®] Duo

syngenta.

"with you in the *GROWING* business"

Viticulture

Herbicide applications have been on the go for a while. Once initial knock down sprays have done their job, a residual herbicide should be applied under vine to assist in getting on top of hard to control species that inevitably become a problem in the spring growing season. Broad leaf weeds in permanent mid row swards should be cleaned up whilst vines are still quite dormant with an appropriate herbicide such as Adama's Colt herbicide. Amongst a long list, it will take care of capeweed, salvation jane, fat hen and the range of cruciferous weeds. In addition, recent changes to paraquat labels will see that active eliminated from the vineyard herbicide arsenal going forward. Some consideration should be given to your weed management plans to ensure summer weed control can still be managed effectively with either Sprayseed or Paraquat.

Moisture has penetrated through to 70cm after the June rain events across most regions with some probes indicating moisture down to 100cm soil depth. These good moisture levels will continue to assist **moving sodium out of the root zone over the remaining weeks of winter. Sodium is an ongoing issue** in many vineyards and exacerbated somewhat in recent seasons as high EC irrigation water has been necessary during three dry spring and summers. Good rain so far this year has certainly helped. Utilising remaining water allocations in the next couple months will piggy-back existing

benefits of sodium leaching as well as adding to additional recharge in the subsoil. Autumn applications of gypsum, or fertigating with calcium-based products will also assist in shifting salt deposits further into the profile.

Pruning is progressing across all vineyard districts. Pruning season also presents the best opportunity to identify issues that need attention in the vineyard in the weeks ahead such as trellis repairs and pest activity including Scale and Earwigs etc.

Bud dissection testing is an option and can be used to check bud integrity and to assist determining crop strength. This knowledge will in turn provide the base to achieve bunch numbers and yield targets. Bud dissections might be useful in the current supply climate to also assist to determine the viability of blocks that have a question mark hovering above them. Some vineyards are likely to be left unpruned as a result of the current grape supply situation. These dormant blocks could potentially become a harbour for disease, insect pests, and nuisance wildlife. It would be prudent to have a conversation with any neighbors if you have a block that may be seen to compromise their management plans.

FJs Annual Viticulture Breakfast

on Tuesday 28th July
at the Angaston Football Club
RSVP to Katelyn or Georgie at Nuri.

Orchard, Citrus and Horticulture

The citrus harvest has continued across the Riverland, with recent rains causing some delays in ability to pick fruit. Yields and fruit quality are good while returns are similar to last year. Growers that have maintained robust nutrient programs throughout the course of the growing season have certainly benefitted from their efforts and consistency.

Gall Wasp are present in a number of orchards where their activity is evident on last season's growth. Samurai and Imiguard continue to perform very well on these pests especially on larger Navals, with the best time to act around November. Georgie and our Ramco team are able to assist in identifying any infestations of wasps or other insect pests if you require another set of eyes in your orchards.

Please catch up with Georgie 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 Georgie and the Ramco team in planning your 2026/27 seasonal nutrition and fungicide programs. Some spring programs are due to begin at the end of July.

Our fertigation production is well underway, ensuring planned volumes will be available for the start of grower programs later in the month.

Despite some earlier concern about ongoing product supply our FJs team have maintained a reliable line of communication from all of our suppliers. We are very confident that products will be available on time over the remainder of the year. Obviously, any 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 team at any time for any additional product or management issue you encounter in any fruit crop on your block.

A HERBICIDE THAT STAYS ACTIVE FOR LONGER

Alion

agreva Sustainable Agriculture

Grow Better Crops Win Bigger.

Actinovate Biofungicide

BUY 12 PACKS OF ACTINOVATE® IN JUNE-JULY FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN UP TO \$1,000!

Actinovate® is a biological fungicide that builds stronger roots, improves nutrient uptake, suppresses soil and foliar disease, and drives crop vigour, quality and yield.

Always read the label before use. Terms & Conditions apply. Enter online at agreva.com/actinovate-win

“with you in the *GROWING* business”

Animal Production & General Merch

Feeding horses depends on the horse's willingness to eat the meal placed in front of it. So what processing technique is best? Some horse owners consider pelleting to be old technology and therefore not as appealing as newer processing techniques like extrusion. However, when judged against extruded feeds, pellets are more palatable, especially when first introduced. The number-one advantage of pelleting is feed uniformity, so one mouthful is the same as the next and fine material can't be sifted out or left in the bottom of the feed bin. Pelleted feeds also have advantages for storage as they contain very little moisture and are essentially dust-free. Ultimately, the best feed for any horse is the one that provides optimal nutrition in a form the horse finds palatable. Horse owners need to choose the most appropriate feed for their horses and ensure the quality of the processing is the best it can be. Whether the grains have been steam-flaked, pelleted, or extruded, it is important that the starch has had some level of gelatinisation to ensure enhanced digestion. So, for optimal digestive health, don't shy away from processed feeds from Barastoc and especially on the special deal at FJs this month!

Work boots might seem like an unimportant part of the daily work preparation. But consider that most boots are worn around the farm for the entire course of any day. That means that for crop, vineyard, and orchard workers an average distance is about **10 to 12km's** per day! This constant pounding on mixed, uneven terrain means a farm worker's boots undergo massive stress, highlighting why durable soles and proper shock absorption are critical to preventing long-term foot fatigue.

We have a full range of boots in stock from the most reliable brands in Australia – Rossi, Blundstone, Redback and Steel Blue.

We have discussed vaccination programs on a regular basis in our newsletters but we still encounter farm plans that compromise the initial vaccine shot! To give your **lambs** the best start in life it is critical to set the foundations for good health by vaccinating against the common preventable diseases. Implementing a correct vaccination program with **GlanEry 7in1 B12** provides protection against production losses associated with **Erysipelas arthritis, Cheesy Gland** and **Cobalt Deficiency** and guards against mortalities from **clostridial diseases** such as tetanus and pulpy kidney. For effective protection, it is necessary that lambs receive two doses of any vaccine including GlanEry 7in1 B12 – **one dose at marking and most importantly, the second dose 4-6 weeks later or at weaning.** Although we are only just into July, some thought should go into the fire prevention plan around the farm yard and sheds. Early weed control and the addition of longer-term residual herbicides will reduce the need for additional spring applications. A clean yard will also discourage rodents making their homes in close proximity to the family home, pet enclosures, stables and poultry housing.

Talk to any of the FJs team about the most robust brew for your yard!

BARASTOC Win a Chainsaw

BUY ANY 2 BAGS OF BARASTOC EQUINE FEED TO GO INTO THE DRAW TO WIN*

*T&Cs apply, see instore for details.

Farmer Johns

LOCAL. DURABILITY. COMFORT.

PREMIUM WORK BOOTS FOR HARD WORKERS!

STEEL BLUE **Blundstone** **ROSSI** **REDBACK**

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
Branch Manager
Adam Conradi - 0432 571 653
adam@farmerjohns.com.au
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
Dave Crockett
davecrockett@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Nuriootpa
sales@farmerjohns.com.au

Ramco

422 Ramco Road
08 8541 4222
Branch Manager
Simeon Craddock - 0408 068 190
simeon@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Ramco
salesramco@farmerjohns.com.au

"with you in the GROWING business"