

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Fungal infections in cereals!
2. Spray to reduce mites in vines.
3. Spring sprays for RLEM.
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5. Vaccinate against pinkeye.



A positive spring rainfall forecast bodes well for our winter crop and pastures here in SA. Although parts of our region are still very much in deficit territory, a wetter spring period might

help some late sown crops reach satisfactory yield levels at the close of the season despite their tough start.

Some time ago in this column I asked what sort of neighbor you were? I am sure most of you could identify your neighbours in a range of categories, ie: easy to get along with, pain in the neck, generous, a bit on the frugal side, helpful or decidedly unco-operative? More to the point though, which of these categories would your neighbor place you into?

The recent run of tough, dry seasons across most of South Australia has no doubt ramped pressure onto rural families and entire communities. These pressures are experienced in a host of areas. They can be financial challenges, relationship and emotional stresses or built-up worry for the long term viability of a business enterprise, from current

environmental circumstances when livestock and properties suffer or a low self-worth value as a result of an inability to provide and care for loved ones.

Our experience indicates that despite ready access to many drought support services, some individuals will still experience serious difficulty in dealing with these personal challenges. Back to the original question – what sort of neighbor are you?

Many of you will be looking out for your neighbors but I am sure most of us could also do better at caring a little more especially under the current circumstances. Make sure you look out for your friends and neighbors, ask them how they are going and if they habitually tell you they are ok listen closely to their conversations and maybe ask them again - how are they really going?

If we could all ensure that our neighbors rate us into one of the positive categories I mentioned earlier our regional communities might be a little healthier mentally.

Greg Schubert

From 1 September to 30 November 2025, when you spend \$2,500 or more on any Polymaster products, you will be eligible to enter for a chance to win 1 of 10 pairs of R.M. Williams Comfort Craftsman Boots (RRP \$699).



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 September farm photos on the FJs Facebook page for a chance to win!

Seasonal reminders

- Use All Clear boom and tank cleaner to ensure crop safety across your spray program.
- Spring topdressing will maximise the late season pasture production – call our agro's for advice.
- Make sure the Glanvac booster shot is administered to sheep inside the 4 – 6 week timeframe!

Quote of the Month

“Success isn’t determined by how many times you win, but by how you play the week after you lose.”

— Pele

Broadacre

Despite the earlier drier conditions, crops are quickly moving through their growth stages on the back of more consistent rainfall in most areas during August.

Better growing conditions have prompted **fungal activity across both cereals and legumes**. Spot Form of Net Blotch in Barley, Eyespot in wheat and Cercospora in beans have all been active in recent weeks. Anticipated warmer weather into spring will no doubt propagate additional outbreaks as well as other fungal species such as rusts and Chocolate Spot.

Please contact our agronomy team if you need an additional set of eyes across your crops and for product recommendations, orders and rates.

Summer horticulture crops are a couple weeks ahead of “normal”. Most broadacre farmers are aware of the impact that a number of herbicide actives can have on these summer horti crops. Any broadleaf herbicide applications going forward will have to consider summer horticulture crops that may be susceptible to drift or damage from inversion risks in the region. Please contact our agro's to discuss your individual weed challenge and to identify the products at risk within this portfolio.

Recent conditions have prompted some weed species to rapidly mature with seed heads visible in many paddocks. While all ground cover has been considered as valuable over the tough winter season especially in drier marginal areas of the Mallee some **weeds need to be cleaned up**cont page 2/

- **Heliothis moths are evident across most of our district - monitor legume crops for grubs and prepare to spray prior pod damage.**
- **PolyMaster have a 21 day delivery time for new rainwater tanks – call FJs to order tanks now.**
- **Shearing supplies in stock – Heiniger gear, woolpacks, shed requisites. Call any of the FJ stores to sort yours!**

- **Full range Castrol oils available ex stock for all farm machine services. Give our stores a call for lubricant quotes and to arrange deliveries of 200ltr drums ready for the approaching harvest season.**
- **Return all Chep pallets, 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro's ASAP. We will take back non-returnable fertiliser and glyph 1000ltr shuttles.**

“with you in the *GROWING* business”

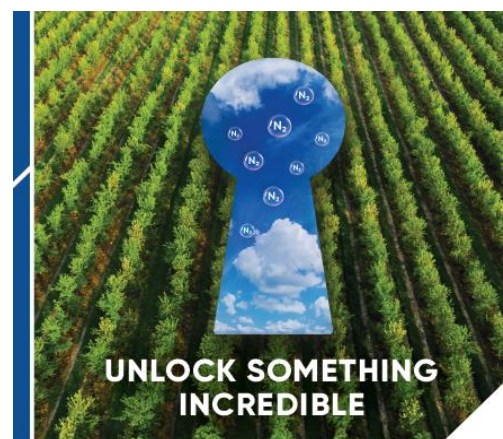
from page 1/... **before these heads set seed** in preparation for the next seasons winter crop. Barley & Brome Grass should be hay freeze-dried on time every season to at least minimise carry over populations going forward. Hay freezing problem grasses preserves their dry matter bulk just as would take place if the stand were to be cut for hay. It also preserves paddock cover in turn reducing the risk of further wind erosion in those drier areas that remain susceptible to such damage. Treated paddocks can be utilised as “standing hay” available for stock to graze further into the summer period. As a result of the late start to the season and less than ideal follow up rain in some areas, cereal crops might also provide the best return on investment by being treated in this fashion as a feed source for too. Our team can offer their experience and advice in the assessment of questionable crops doing it a bit tough this season.

Insect pest activity will increase over the warmer days of spring including aphids, Army Worm and Heliothis. Cow Pea aphids can quickly develop to damaging numbers in vetch, Faba beans and lentils. These crops should be checked on a regular basis during the spring period and treated if pests exceed threshold levels.

Army Worm is evident in a number of cereal crops across our region. Damage from Army Worm is easily identified with chunks taken from the edge of the leaf. If left untreated, Army Worm populations can build in numbers resulting in a significant economic loss.

Enhanced Nitrogen Management – Utrisha N can convert atmospheric nitrogen to a plant available form inside the leaf. This ground breaking foliar applied technology ensures nitrogen is supplied to the crop, even when other sources aren't available, giving growers more flexibility with their nitrogen management strategies.

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Pasture

Recent sunny weather has prompted pastures to a bit more spring vigour in those areas within our patch that have had the benefit of a bit more rain.

Clover content in pastures is surprisingly high despite the dry and late start at the beginning of the season. Insect pests were very active early in the season. Spring treatments of Red Legged Earth mite are the most beneficial in reducing populations and preventing damaging hatchings at the break of the season next autumn. The **Timerite** date calculator will determine the most appropriate date based on the actual paddock location.

Paddocks that will be sown with a sub clover-based pasture, legume or canola next season should be prioritised for treatment. Any paddocks that have higher populations of broad leaf weeds ie: Capeweed, are also likely to host higher RLEM populations.

Silage harvest has kicked off in the last couple weeks.

Although it is unlikely any yield records will be broken, these early cuts might take a bit of pressure off the need to source additional feed reserves. Hay production will also ramp up in the weeks ahead. **We have a range of silage wrap, net and twine requirements in stock**, give us a quick call to sort your requirements and to arrange on farm deliveries.

The BOM's three-month spring and early summer forecast look likely to produce some rain across the Central parts of SA. While this isn't ideal for broadacre croppers, it may offer additional opportunities to **include summer fodder production** to also fill the feed void that everyone has been dealing with over recent months. Summer forage crops can be grazed, sprayed out and preserved as a standing hay freeze grazing block or cut for silage or hay production.

Sorghum has been a traditional long-term summer forage favourite. Sown at low rates after a reasonable rain event it will produce good volumes of fodder. In addition, “winter active” varieties can even be established on rainfall events during February or March and grow into the autumn and early winter months. **Although certainly** not widely used previously in our region there are a number of forage options within the Clearfield Technology space. These varieties would be ideal to sow into paddocks that have had a recent winter application of an IMI herbicide.

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Viticulture

Vines are on the move with an early Chardonnay block adjacent to our Ramco store at moving past EL4 last over the last week of August. The way the weeks are whizzing past, all other wine regions will charge through **budburst in the next few weeks!**

Most growers will have experienced an increased level of **Rust and Blister Mite damage** in recent seasons. Early sulphur applications are effective in controlling these growing mite populations. It is important that these applications are timed correctly as the vine bud scales begin to open. Contact our viti agro's to ensure you don't miss this opportunity over the next couple weeks.

The pruning season provides an opportunity to inspect the entire vineyard at close range. **Pest issues such as Vine Scale** are also highlighted allowing identified hotspots to be subsequently monitored. Scale should be treated after eggs have hatched and the new populations are at the 'crawler' growth stage. Again, call any of our viti team if you need any assistance in identifying Vine Scale or other insect pests in the vineyard and for their control specific to your situation.

Most growers have reviewed their fungicide programs in readiness for the growing season. Planning the program early allows time to consider rotations for resistance management as well as working within tighter budget parameters to still maintain robust disease prevention.

Early season applications to manage Phomopsis and overwintering Powdery Mildew when the first leaves separate are the building blocks to season long protection. Appreciating that the last two seasons presented low fungal threats, the forecast wetter than average spring this year will increase the importance of these early protectant sprays.

Soil moisture profiles still have a way to go before full recharge can be claimed. Early moisture probe inspections have seen some fill past 1m in profiles across our region. Irrigations on the back of rain events will assist in completing the required recharge prior to the commencement of the season. Adding calcium (via products such as AquaCal) to any irrigation rotations will also assist in flushing sodium out of the root zone too. It may also be prudent to check the water source as some increase in salinity has been experienced after the recent very dry spring seasons. FJs can assist with testing stored water or supplies intended for use over the summer months.

Early season nutrition will be very important in the weeks ahead. After coming through a dry spring and winter where post-harvest and cover cropping opportunities have limited topping up nutrition supplies. FJs agro's are able to review last season's soil and petiole tests and take into account nutrition removed via the grape harvest in order to formulate a cost-effective approach to this season's program.

Herbicide applications over the last months have provided an initial weed cleanup in most vineyards. Recent rain events have prompted further germinations including decent ryegrass stands. Experience with Alion residual herbicide last season showed ideal efficacy on most weed populations. If Alion was used at the higher rate last season it should be applied to those treated areas at lower rates this season. Alion can be tank mixed with either glufosinate or paraquat as well as an appropriate spike such as Cavalier or Hammer.

Check in with our agro's and utilise their weed management experience for any particular problem species including resistant ryegrass.

Orchard, Citrus and Horticulture

Citrus buds are on the move. Based on our observations, **flowering should take place anywhere between 10th-20th September**. Our seasonal crop monitoring will begin in the next few weeks in line with these timelines. Please contact Shaun Pick or Mete Gunhan if you wish to have any **blocks included in our annual monitoring schedule**.

Late July budding sprays and early August phos-acid applications have been completed, setting trees up with a base nutrient platform as well as fungal protection for early disease management. Our liquid fertiliser production has scaled up at Ramco as supplements are being pushed in orchards to begin the seasonal nutrition program.

Gall Wasp and Red Scale will be initial pest targets in citrus following flowering. Samurai is the preferred option on older trees. Best results are achieved if application timing is correct. Please check in with Shaun, Georgie or Mete if you need additional support in determining this for your blocks.

Stone fruit have rapidly passed through flowering. Developing fruit will need to receive a regular protectant cover to ensure fruit quality is maintained over the season. Check in with our horti agro's for more detailed advice relevant to specific varieties and expected disease and pest pressures your fruit block may face this season.

Our agro's are always available to assist with any fruit and vegetable crop issue, give them a call!



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Animal Production & General Merchandise

Pinkeye is a common problem in grazing enterprises, especially younger stock. It is a contagious infection of the eye caused by bacterium *Moraxella bovis*. It is more likely to turn up in summer through to autumn when conditions favour its spread. Flies, dust, grass seeds and other irritants all exacerbate pink eye infections. Constant hand feeding over the last 12 months may have also resulted in higher rates of infection. Piliguard from Coopers Animal Health can be administered to susceptible cattle 3-6 weeks prior to the Pinkeye season as an aid in the prevention of pinkeye.

Fencing projects are always on the farm "to do list". The Cyclone brand of fencing has been available in Australia for over 100 years. FJs comprehensive range of fencing includes Cyclone wire and gates for all stock species or for horticulture trellising.

Gallagher Electric Fencing products are stocked at FJs. Electric fencing provides easy options to strip graze forage crops, exclude stock from tree planting projects, preserve all fencing with offset "hot wires" and for domestic fencing to secure pets etc.

We also stock a range of treated timber strainers, posts and rails for both domestic and farm projects – driveway and entrance enhancement, stock yards, gardens and landscaping etc - give any of our team a call to sort your fencing requirements.

Spring kicks of lawn maintenance in readiness for summer BBQ's and outside living! Give all your lawns and garden beds a decent dose of Neutrog "something" this spring – Rapid Raiser, Sea Mungus, Jump Start, Sudden Impact, Blade Runner or Bounce Back etc.

Give any of the FJs stores a call for further info on these topics or to order any products.



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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

Shaun Pick - 0408 068 190
shaunpick@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Ramco
salesramco@farmerjohns.com.au

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