

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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2. Top up nutrition in crops and pastures.
3. Finalise all summer horti spray programs.
4. Shearing is coming up.

In recent months concerns over the use of the herbicide **glyphosate** have hit the media leading to alarmist and significantly misinformed commentary regarding its safety. User and consumer safety is CropLife Australia's top priority when considering agricultural chemicals and so we welcome the public interest in glyphosate. However, it is critical that the debate is informed and based on independent scientific evidence. We encourage all our clients to open the following link in order to be more informed. The information that is available on CropLife's website might also assist you in answering those difficult questions that inevitably occur when people talk about farm production.

[croplife.org.au/glyphosate](http://croplife.org.au/glyphosate)



All the old weather theories seem to click into place in a challenging season – we are about to conclude Siebenschläfer. It occurs as a

traditional German feast day on June 27<sup>th</sup> each year. According to old German weather lore the atmospheric conditions on that day are supposed to determine or predict the average weather of the next seven weeks. This old predictive method is obviously based on northern hemisphere summer weather but is nonetheless an interesting talking point, especially here in German Barossa!

On this occasion though I hope the old theory is good and we can look forward to what the BOM has been talking up for a while now!

A quick note to all our Murray Bridge store clients, when you have an opportunity, make sure you drop into our store on Thomas street and check out our increased stock range. In addition to our increased range at Murray Bridge, we continually review our product range across our business and always welcome your feedback.

It is interesting to reflect on the sentiment portrayed in the media over the period the Covid-19 pandemic has affected small businesses across Australia.

"Shop local, support Aussie based manufacturing, buy Australian produced food etc" are all messages that have been publicised regularly both in the news and on social media platforms.

As primary producers I am sure you all agree this is a positive sentiment that is certainly well received in our industry. However, in an industry dominated by global players I do wonder if this sentiment is reciprocal though? Do you consider "where the money goes" when you determine your allegiances and make your buying decisions?

As an independent business, we continue to focus on satisfying our client's needs with a local and personal partnership approach. Our people are part of local communities and we value the success of those local communities.

We are in this business together – if you succeed, we in turn will also be successful!

Finally, I would like to advise all our clients and especially the "regulars" at Nuri that we will be without Emma as she begins 12 months maternity leave. Emm is a valuable member of the store team and so I am sure you will join us in wishing both Emma and Tim all the best as they prepare to welcome the first addition to their family early in September!

**Greg Schubert**

## Quote of the Month

"Whatever you are, be a good one."

— Abraham Lincoln

## Broadacre

Despite a pretty ordinary performance in July, the BOM are still talking up the August to October rainfall as above average. The forecast over the next week certainly looks as though it might right the ship a little! Crops will respond very quickly with a decent drink and have the season back on track! The cold, dry and slow growing conditions have also highlighted the damage caused by **insect pests** present in crops.

Re-infestations of **Red Legged Earth-mite** have been observed subsequent to earlier applications of insecticides. It is essential that monitoring continues to ensure their destructive activity doesn't occur where treatments haven't previously been applied or that populations haven't re-established in crops that were treated earlier. Our agro's have found quite severe infestations of **Cutworm** in some crops with extensive patches of damage. It is important to continue to monitor for symptoms such as bare patches within the crop and lacerated plant stems. Cutworm activity increases closer to dusk as they move out of their daytime cover within the soil profile up onto the crop. Once they have been identified in crops they should be treated promptly with an appropriate product as significant damage can occur in a relatively short time.

**Russian Wheat aphid** are present in a number of crops however their threshold levels are .. cont page 2

## Seasonal reminders

- **Product shortages** are predicted to continue and logistics within distribution may be compromised over the coming months. We recommend you forward plan all summer horticulture programs and arrange fungicide orders and deliveries to ensure some on farm stock is available.

- **Cold mornings testing out the old batteries? We stock Century batteries for reliable cold starts every time!**
- **Feed the lawn and garden beds before the spring flush with a range of Neutrog fertilisers including Rapid Raiser, Blade Runner, SeaMungus and Sudden Impact. Neutrog is a local SA based company.**

- **Keep your feet warm and socks dry, get yourself a retread with a new pair of Rossi or Blundstone work or safety boots .**
- **Use Gallagher electric fencing to effectively manage grazing over the winter and spring pasture season. Call for an on-site inspection.**
- **Grab a new thermometer – the old ones don't seem to get past 10°C!**

from page 1 .. quite low in most situations. Obviously, they still need to be monitored and if those numbers do build action should be taken. Fungal activity has still been active even though drier conditions have prevailed over the last couple months. Infections of Septoria, Red Leather Leaf, and Net Blotch have been observed in cereals over the last month particularly in susceptible varieties or with vulnerable paddock history (e.g. consecutive seasons of oats). Sufficient leaf wetness is generated from the dewy mornings to maintain fungal risk and so it is also wise to keep an eye out for any new infections.

Please do not hesitate to call any of the Farmer Johns agronomy team if you require another set of eyes to confirm any pest or fungal activity in your crops.

### Weeds

Some late season germinations of radish and grass weeds have had to be taken care of in some crops. Further rainfall forecast over the next week or so will more than likely prompt further weed germinations.

Our agro's will be able to assist in late season weed control on a case by case basis.

### Nutrition

Further opportunities to top up nitrogen will be on the radar following any rainfall events. Further stocks of urea are available. Liquids might also be more suitable for some situations.

Call any of the Farmer Johns broadacre agro's to assist with SAP nitrate tests and crop inspections to determine the most appropriate nutrition resource for your crops.

## Pasture

### ProGibb

Many clients have witnessed firsthand the increase of biomass production following an application of ProGibb (Gibberellic Acid) on pasture. ProGibb is an ideal tool to use to assist in overcoming the "feed gap" that we have witnessed over the last month or so. Vetch stands have been an outstanding example of the feed benefit that can be achieved.

There are many farms that could use a feed boost right at the moment or an application to vetch prior to cutting for hay.

### Summer Feed

Considerable research and species development in recent years has resulted in vast improvements in both irrigated and non-irrigated Summer Pasture options. We anticipate that seed suitable for summer forage crops will come under pressure as the sowing season approaches.

Please contact our agronomy team to discuss these recent developments and lock away your summer requirements.

### Pasture pests

Red Legged Earth Mite activity has continued to cause damage in pastures. Insecticide applications may have to be repeated to eradicate

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Buy 1 x Triguard 20 L and receive a slow cooker valued at \$40\*

further infestations. Make sure that grazing withholding periods are adhered to subsequent to any sprays taking place.

### Spray topping

Grass weed control will be a focus for many clients on some early pastures over the next few weeks. Halting seed set on problem species such as barley grass and annual ryegrass will certainly prove beneficial on paddocks destined for renovation or fodder crops next year.

### Silage and hay making

Fodder conservation will begin in earnest during the latter part of August. We have a complete range of silage wrap, net and bale twine in stock. The well-known net and twine range previously distributed by Integrated Packaging will now be sold under the AgriNovatex label.

Give our store staff at either Murray Bridge or Nuriootpa a call for pricing, orders and deliveries on all your silage and hay packaging requirements.

### Spring topdressing

Give either store a call to maximise spring pasture production and order topdressing products. You could win up to \$20,000 back on eligible spring pasture products like the Hay, Grass, Fodder or Pasture Boosta range from IPF, just go to [www.groundrules.com.au](http://www.groundrules.com.au)

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**Viti and Horticulture**

**Bud Mites** have slowly become more evident in many vineyards in our region. The most effective control is achieved late in dormancy using high rates of Sulphur and spray oil. This simply means that the window for treating bud mite is about to open as vines will be at woolly bud stage in the next few weeks. If bud mites have established populations in your vineyard last season, action should be taken as their activity will generally increase if left untreated. Contact our viti agro's should you require further information on timing and spray rates.

**Soil Moisture**

Soil moisture levels are less than ideal at the end of July. Subject to rainfall totals over the next couple weeks supplementary irrigations in vineyards prior to budburst may have to be considered. Our lower than ideal rainfall totals year to date have replicated the last couple drier seasons. From the experience of those seasons, vineyards that had irrigation applied in late winter certainly saw both improved yield and fruit quality benefits later in the season.

Navigating the challenging moisture management decisions can be much easier with the assistance of soil moisture monitoring equipment.

The six Farmer Johns/MEA weather stations across the Barossa are available for your information including the new station in the new vineyard at The Barossa Cellar at Vine Vale.

You can view the info via the following link <https://barossa.greenbrain.net.au/> Give Adam Pietsch a call to discuss the value of soil moisture monitoring and how easily it can be available for your vineyard.

**Manage Salt**

Lower rainfall totals have certainly highlighted the salinity levels that exist in some of our local horticulture enterprises. Plant health is obviously impacted by high salt levels. Typically, a wet winter and spring period naturally leach salts through the soil profile as rainfall moves down the soil profile. This natural leaching hasn't occurred yet and is unlikely to take place prior to the growing season this year.

Aqua-Cal can help manage salinity in the root zone. It is a unique soil treatment that is effective in opening soils and releasing salts from the soil structure. Aqua-Cal can reduce soil EC and works best where soil is able to drain in order to relocate sodium from the roots. The calcium in Aqua-Cal takes the place of sodium in the soil, so the salt can then be leached beyond the root zone by rain or irrigation. High soil calcium levels help to protect against increasing salinity and improve soil structure – this leads to better root growth and in turn reflects in improved crop yield.

We have an offer on Aqua-Cal that many growers may be able to take advantage of if salt is an issue. Simply purchase Aqua-Cal from Farmer Johns in August to assist in managing any salinity issues that exist in your enterprise and receive a bonus gift or product.

**Weed control**

Most of the vineyards and orchards in our region have had good knockdown weed control take place over the last few months and as the dry conditions have continued subsequent weed germinations have been slower than we would normally expect to see. An opportunity now exists to consolidate this good early control with a residual herbicide application. Long term weed control will assist in conserving moisture and reduce the ability of some pests to breed in overgrown understories. Most residual herbicides require rainfall to incorporate the product into the soil profile. The forecast over the next few weeks is therefore conducive to good control.

Call Shaun or Adam to cover off any of these issues for your individual situation.

**Planning spray programs.**

Please give any of the FJ agro's a call to review seasonal spray programs. It is important to manage insect, fungal and weed resistance via product rotations. An annual review also provides an opportunity to include any potential new actives into your seasonal plans.

**Fruit Trees** will soon be bursting into flower. Plan your fungicide spray program with our experienced staff. Make sure early copper and fungicide applications are timed to eliminate fruit blemish and disease.

Discuss fertiliser applications to maximise the coming seasons fruit crop.

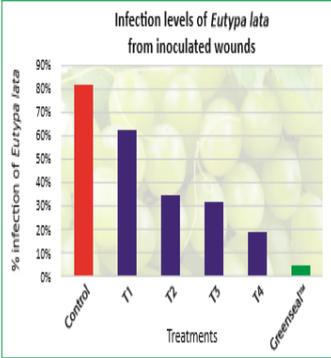
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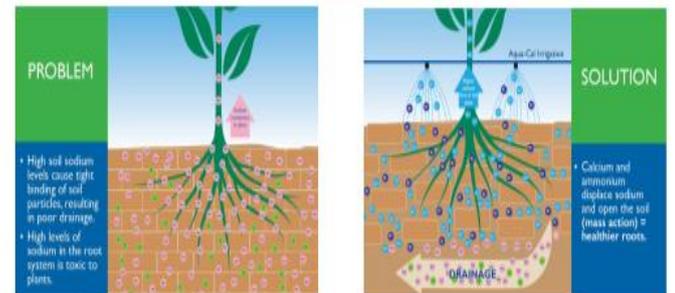


SPRING PROMOTION





## MANAGE SALINITY WITH AQUA-CAL





- Stoller's Aqua-Cal helps manage salinity in the root zone. Calcium in Aqua-Cal takes the place of sodium in the soil, so it can then be leached beyond the root zone by rain or irrigation.
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\*One per person



## Livestock and General

### Shearing

The annual wool harvest has started in our district. Farmer Johns have a full range of shed requisites including new Evo shearing gear in both stores to cater for all your shearing requirements.

Give either Simon at Murray Bridge or Randall at our Nuri store a call to discuss and determine the most suitable lice treatment for your flock.

We also have gas operated applicators available for you to use when purchasing product from us to make the administration of off-shears pour-ons a little more straightforward to apply.

### Fly Treatments

This season looks likely to present a higher level of fly strike risk given the extended and higher than average rainfall potential. We also carry the most effective fly treatment products in stock to assist in negating this risk. There will be far more pleasant tasks to do on the farm over the spring period than the arduous task of chasing flystrike in the flock should a serious wave occur. Effective early prevention utilising new chemistry with a long residual payout offers the best solution in this area of management.

Again, talk to our staff to work through the options available to find the most suitable product for your situation.

### Feed Supplements

Most graziers have managed stock through the difficult cold period over the last few months. Prime lamb producers will be keen to see their stock make some serious weight gains over the next couple months as the spring flush presents higher value feed.

Making a loose lick such Performance Feeds MagPlus available to stock will overcome any nutrient deficiencies stock face and also aid

in preventing health challenges such as bloat, toxicity and milk fever. We have a range of the Performance Feeds products in stock for all livestock classes and for stock in open grazing or feedlot situations.

### Fence Posts

Post supply has improved a little over the last month or so but as we head into spring, we expect to see deliveries tighten up as typically happens at this time of the year. Please give us some lead time to ensure that any product you might require over the next few months is available and ready for the job! Call us to organise all fencing and trellis orders and delivery times.

### Stock yards and handling equipment

We are able to assist in the supply of all livestock handling facilities, cattle and sheep yards, crushes, sheep handlers, livestock weighing systems. Give our store staff a call to discuss the best handling solution for your livestock enterprise.

### Tanks, poly pipe and water infrastructure

Having dealt with a couple hard water supply seasons some clients will no doubt have a focus on upgrading or increasing the on-farm water storage and delivery systems to reduce the burden of water shortages.

Give us an opportunity to quote large capacity storage tanks, poly water tanks and all pipe, trough and associated valves and fittings.



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