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1. Ensure sprayer calibration and coverage are up to the task!
2. Order Canola seed for 2022.
3. Have a conversation with us about your 2022 fertiliser asap!
4. Apply an appropriate fly protection to sheep.

All of the Farmer Johns team take this opportunity to wish you and your families all the best for Christmas and New Year.

We trust that you will be able to celebrate some special time with those closest to you and also with those family members you haven't been able to see for some time.

Christmas and New Year Trading Hours

Friday	24 th Dec - Open
Saturday	25 th Dec - Closed
Monday	27 th Dec - Closed
Tuesday	28 th Dec - Closed
Wednesday	29 th Dec - Open
Thursday	30 th Dec - Open
Friday	31 st Dec - Open
Saturday	1 st Jan - Closed
Monday	3 rd Jan - Closed

Nuriootpa

Client drinks and BBQ at the Nuriootpa store the 21st December from 3pm until 5pm

Murray Bridge

Clients should diarise Friday the 4th Feb 2022 for the annual FJ's client night with further details to be advised closer to the date.



We have finally had a better run of harvest weather! Obviously, the frustrations over the early weeks of November when wet weather messed with hay

and harvest have eased a little. Hopefully we continue to get warm dry days more favorable to reaping as rapidly head toward Christmas!

I had the pleasure of viewing a couple interesting Zoom presentations in the last weeks. One that was particularly relevant to us was from the Michael Every, a Global Strategist with Rabobank based in Singapore speaking about the current global shipping crisis.

In 2020, COVID-19 became a global pandemic, and lockdowns ensued factories, restaurants, and shops all closed, bringing the global supply chain almost to a halt. In this context, container carriers had no visibility on future demand and did the only reasonable thing we would all do - cut capacity.

Years of low sea freight rates resulting in rigorous cost-cutting by carriers have left them

in a great position to maximise profits now that the market has turned with the epi-centre being in the Pacific region. At present 10% of global container capacity is waiting to be unloaded from a ship at anchor outside some port.

In essence, this means that the capacity to arrange and move product (including fertiliser and agchem) has had a serious impact on price and availability of stock!

Unfortunately, who benefits from the massive profits of the current shipping disaster and who will end up paying the costs, is ultimately a (geo)political issue, not a market one and certainly outside of our local level of influence. With all these things considered, we expect 2022 will be a very interesting year!

Christmas is a special time for Marlene and I. It provides us an opportunity to spend a little time with our wider family, those we don't regularly catch up with and allows us to re-establish those personal relationships that are sometimes overlooked or put aside in the busyness of life!

We wish you well for Christmas and thank you very much for the support you have provided to our staff and business during a challenging year!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

“There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something besides ourselves.”

- Danielle Carson

Viticulture and Orchard

Sprayer calibration and spray coverage is a regular topic of conversation at this time of the season. After the recent hail event, many shoots were damaged and consequently broken in subsequent major wind events that also occurred last month. This damage in turn is likely to prompt lateral shoot growth. Combined with the ideal warm growing conditions and good soil moisture levels, we will see vines rapidly develop large dense canopies. With this in mind, accurate adjustments to sprayer calibration over the remainder of the season will be of utmost importance to maintain disease control. Applications need to achieve coverage within the full canopy to the point of run-off. A good method that can be used to determine this is by adding Surround to the spray tank. Surround will be very visible as an inert kaolin clay deposit, indicating penetration of spray solution into the canopy, droplet size and overall coverage. Subsequent sprayer adjustments can sort any shortcomings if the result hasn't been satisfactory. Our agro's can also assist in sprayer calibration and set up.

Fungal diseases:

More rainfall is predicted for the remainder of the season. If this occurs ideal environmental conditions for disease will be a watch-out further into the growing season. Maintaining a robust spray program is the key to reducing the risk of disease outbreaks late in the season. We have just experienced a wetter than average November including several severe weather events. The risk of diseasecont page 2

Seasonal reminders

- Farm firefighting equipment should be serviced. Check out our range of new units, pumps, hoses and accessories, all in stock now. Call for quotes and orders.
- Return Electrocoup secateurs to our Nuriootpa store for the annual service. This service will extend the pro-rata warranty on the unit.

- **An Australian wide shortage of Chep pallets has put pressure on supply of some goods – please return all Chep pallets to assist in the logistics chain.**
- **New bright, highly visible First Aid kits in stock. All farm vehicles should be stocked with a kit for those unforeseen occasions – call us now!**
- **Get summer weed sprays in the shed for use post-harvest fallow cleanup.**

- **Order fencing material for the new Year farm renovation program. We stock the full range of Waratah fencing products and accessories.**
- **Large range of water troughs on hand. We also keep Vinidex poly pipe and Philmac fittings in stock to ensure trouble free supply and for new water supply projects. Call either of our stores for orders.**

from page 1 ...outbreaks is still prevalent.

Be sure to check fungicide WHP's and any other restrictions from your winery partners as we proceed over the remainder of the season. Please contact our agro's if you need to review your program based on the higher-pressure season we are currently presented with or for any other application queries.

Early Botrytis sprays will have concluded with the completion of flowering across the majority of the Barossa Valley region. The next opportunity to apply a botryticide is prior to bunch closure. Timing on botrytis spray applications is vital to ensure those actives are used effectively and to manage development of resistance. Blocks with greater susceptibility are those with susceptible varieties, that have experienced damage to shoots, leaves and/or bunches during recent weather fronts and historical infections. Old wood can transmit spores from the previous seasons.

Downy Mildew alerts were issued for our region on several occasions over the last few weeks. Subsequently field observations across a large number of vineyards haven't yielded any evidence of oil spots that would typically appear after a primary infection. We will continue to monitor vines on our routine pest and disease inspections for any change in their presentation.

Powdery Mildew has caused most growers grief at some stage over the years and is still the most prevalent disease in our region. The weather conditions that we have experienced over the first weeks of the season have been quite conducive for this insidious disease and we expect that this will continue. The optimum temperature for spore germination and growth of the fungus is 20–30° C with infection possible when temperatures are between 6-33°C – pretty much every day since budburst! A solid Powdery preventative program is important to maintain vine health and ultimately fruit quality and avoid late season outbreaks that are very difficult to control close to harvest.

Again, check with our agro's update or modify your spray program given the ideal disease conditions that are likely hang around in coming weeks. **Light brown Apple moth (LBAM)** have been observed in selected blocks. If left unattended they will continue to develop into the summer season. Look for signs of their activity such as young caterpillars on the shoots, webbing (particularly obvious when leaves are folded), egg masses or moths. LBAM typically have a two generational lifecycle. Insecticide withholding periods are largely restricted to 4mm-7mm berry size but this is determined by the choice of product. The most critical time for control is when young caterpillars are apparent. Many beneficial insects such as lacewings, spiders and predatory wasps all play a part in reducing LBAM populations allowing them to become useful tools in an integrated pest management program. New generation insecticides are much more species specific than old products and are therefore also friendlier to these predator species as well.

Soil Moisture is generally greater in the subsoil compared to last year at this time but recent warmer weather has seen increased demand during flowering and early berry development. Moisture levels have reduced in the topsoil. Despite receiving good rainfall totals during November, understanding soil properties and water holding capacity is still important to determine adequate irrigation events.

Moisture monitoring equipment certainly eliminates the guesswork and can accurately assist with the develop of a strategic irrigation plan.

Orchards

Scale were a real issue in most citrus fruit blocks this season. New actives targeted at scale do a great job on controlling Red Scale etc but Summer Spray Oil applied at the correct timing will also dramatically reduce their numbers. Spray timing and total coverage of fruit is essential in achieving a good result.

Our orchard monitoring has revealed an unusually large amount of pale green/yellow leaves on all aged trees in recent months. Although Orchardists have been applying Zinc & Manganese, subsequent leaf analysis results have indicated deficient levels of these elements in trees. We stock a range of nutrition products suited to rectifying these deficiencies utilising fertigation systems or via foliar application.

If you haven't undertaken any nutrient analysis for the last few years, we recommend that you arrange this task with one of our staff after this season's harvest.

Stone Fruit are also susceptible to disease in the warm, humid conditions we have recently experienced. It is worth noting that some newer products will also be effective on a range of other fungal diseases providing you with a hassle-free harvest. Brown Rot is a case in point and can be controlled by a number of new products targeting fruit diseases. Utilising a preventative program will ensure you harvest saleable and quality fruit for drying. post-harvest applications of nutrients should be applied soon after harvest to set up the tree to come out of dormancy with more vigour.



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Broadacre

Summer weed germinations have occurred subsequent to recent wet weather across all farming regions in Australia. Locally, we have seen these early plants rapidly develop during last week's ideal growing conditions. Some early germinations of Caltrop have seed pods set. Add in Potato Weed, melons, Witch Grass, Fleabane, wireweed, volunteers and Tomato Weed and the pressure will certainly come!

Skeleton Weed is growing rapidly in areas where historical populations have been present, especially in regions across the Mallee. Lontrel will provide good control of Skeleton Weed post-harvest. Silver Leaf Nightshade will just love the current warm moist conditions too. Amicide and Ester 680 have typically been used on Silver Leaf Nightshade but continued populations in the same areas suggest that this probably isn't the best option.

As in any situation where a herbicide is used for control, summer weeds are always best sprayed while they are small and the plants are fresh. This will obviously be a challenge in paddocks still to be harvested. Temporary permits are in place for some product formulations of glyphosate use over barley pre-harvest.

Please call any of the FJ's agronomy team to discuss all your summer weed control options in more detail and to work through the challenges of juggling harvest and weed control in the same paddocks!

Seed Orders for Season 2022

It is very important to let us know if you want to grow canola in season 2022 with all of the new, preferred options experiencing very high demand and rapidly selling out. We would like a thorough understanding on what varieties you wish to include in next year's program including an expanded area sown to the Roundup Ready technology after a successful "toe in the water" season this year. We have some volumes of canola seed on order, backed with a growing number of customer orders. You should ensure that your canola seed requirement is included in this list too – call your FJ agro ASAP! A number of key cereals will be available next season with the following new cereals suited to our region. **Calibre Wheat** is the Scepter replacement from AGT. It has increased resistance to Powdery Mildew compared to Scepter and a longer coleoptile compared to most commonly grown wheat varieties.

Kingbale Oats from Intergrain are a Clearfield tolerant oaten hay variety, a world first. Kingbale is a mid-maturing variety and is an ideal option for use where there are IMI residue concerns from previous crops. Kingbale is a tall variety with good early vigour and a similar disease and agronomic profile to Wintaroo. **Commodus CL Barley** is a Clearfield Compass type also from Intergrain. It is a high yielding, mid maturing variety with similar potential to Compass and is ideally suited to lighter soils and medium-low rainfall environments.

Fertiliser is a focus for all of us at the moment!

We have a reliable line of communication with our global fertiliser supply chain. All indications at this time are the current prices for phosphates are here to stay. To provide some background into the drivers of this current pricing the following points should be considered. China is not exporting any fertiliser into the global market at the moment and this is likely to remain as the status quo until after the Winter Olympics in February. Strong demand across the global market is outstripping available supply which is resulting in product being hard to source from alternate manufacturers. Obviously, this scenario is pushing prices higher. Add the major global shipping issues that have compounded lead time and freight costs to the mix and the resulting challenge to get fertiliser into Australia on time for an April sowing target start to look tight. **It is now quite evident that it is important to have a reasonable volume (if not all) of your 2022 starter fertiliser secured.**

However, **our view on nitrogen is a little different** at this point in time. We believe the price of N will come off in time for our top dress season post sowing and are therefore taking a "wait and see" approach with urea volumes.

On farm grain storages will be filled over the coming weeks. Whilst harvest is a priority at the moment, grain care within on farm storages should also be considered to ensure insect pest activity is negated. The Australian grain harvest is tipped to be bigger than the last few seasons and as quality is likely to vary, more grain will probably be stored on farm. It is therefore important to ensure you have an appropriate volume of grain protectant on hand to care for the grain you have in storage.

Pasture

Speak to the staff at either of our stores for the best advice on the best option for your stored grain.

In a "normal" summer season a level of risk will dampen enthusiasm when we discuss **summer forage options** here in SA. This is especially the case if those discussions are dry land focused. However, higher rainfall events over the last few weeks have prompted a number of graziers to sow summer forage pastures to take advantage of the good soil moisture levels present at the moment. With the current LA Nina weather cycle in place further rain fall events will certainly enhance the performance of those stands.

The range of summer forage options include perennial grasses, annuals such as sorghum and millet as well as brassica species. All these options provide an additional source of nutrition for livestock and are particularly useful in assisting to finish lambs and sale cattle.

We recommend you have a chat to any of our agronomy team if this is an area that you would like to explore further for your particular enterprise.

Hay testing can be undertaken at any time to determine the nutritional value of supplementary feed supplies. Unfortunately, there has been a reasonable level weather spoilage to hay over the last month. It will be particularly important to establish the nutrient levels in any hay that will be fed to stock over the summer and autumn period, especially when targeting ewes and cows in preparation for lambing and calving.

Feed tests are quite economical with the results also providing a good comparative value for those clients involved in hay marketing.

Please give any of the FJ team a call if you require further info.

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Livestock and General

November might have been the precursor of an extended period of unpredictable wet weather over summer. Increased vigilance will be the order of the day with **routine monitoring for flystrike** seen as a high priority for sheep producers.

Any stock losses suffered as a result of flystrike are difficult to deal with. However, whilst sale prices are at the current high levels stock losses will hurt even more than they typically do. A wide range of very reliable products are available for use in the prevention of flystrike on sheep, so there really isn't any excuse for high levels of flystrike to occur even in a high-pressure season such as the one we might have just entered!

ClikZin will give up to 11 weeks protection with a WHP that allows marketing flexibility or use

later in the season at a more suitable cost.

Clik Extra will provide long term control, protecting sheep over the entire summer period.

We also have a range of treatments in stock for topical wound dressing to any stock that have suffered a fly attack, such as WSD flystrike powder, DeadMag & various Extinosad dressings.

Livestock Nutrition will be paramount going forward. High-quality spring pastures have hay off over recent weeks leaving volumes of lower quality dry feed available over the summer period. We stock the Performance Feeds and the TPM range of loose licks. Having loose lick nutrition supplements available ad-lib will enable livestock to utilise the low-quality residual feed more efficiently. Loose licks should also be made available to stock turned onto stubbles post-harvest. Stock might source a reasonable level of nutrition from residual grain but once this has been cleaned out stock will continue to benefit from any supplements made available.

In addition to loose licks we also stock a range of stock blocks, trace elements and molasses etc. for on farm livestock supplementation. Please talk to any of the FJ team to sort the best supplement for your stock and to arrange orders and farm deliveries for bigger volumes.

Pink eye occurs in cattle when the outer surface of the eye becomes damaged by sunlight, abrasions, trauma, dust or dry conditions and the bacteria *Moraxella* genus is present. Pink eye could be a more common incidence over the course of summer this year simply because there are heavier loads of grass seeds in paddocks. Grass seeds are a common cause of eye infection. Flies will also carry infections as the pink eye bacteria is very contagious. **Piliguard from Coopers Animal Health** can be administered via vaccination as an aid in the control of Pink Eye. Arrest Easy Dose can be applied as a backline treatment on cattle and will reduce nuisance fly activity on cattle and subsequently also reduce the spread of the bacteria too. Should a topical treatment such as Terramycin be required on isolated infections, withholding periods (WHPs) and export slaughter intervals (ESIs) must be observed for any animals subsequently destined for sale.

Call either of the FJ stores to talk further to any animal health and nutrition query you have relevant to your livestock operation.

Stock up before Christmas

We are generally challenged with deliveries over the Christmas, New Year and January holiday season and so suggest that you think forward a little in ensuring that any livestock and general merchandise orders are flagged over the next week or so to enable us to fill these requirements before the holiday season begins.



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