

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Be vigilant for late season disease!
2. Order all fert and seed for 2022.
3. Prepare for vintage 2022.
4. Soil testing to determine nutrient requirements for the next crop.
5. Ensure livestock maintain condition with feed supplements.

**Murray Bridge clients should diarise Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022 for the annual FJ's client night with further details to be advised closer to the date.**

### **New FJ's Staff Member**

We are pleased to welcome Maddison Rathjen to the Farmer Johns team. Maddi will be based at our Murray Bridge store in a Sales and Store Person role. Maddi grew up on her family's horticulture and grazing property at Zadows Landing. She is an active member of the Myponga community and combined sporting club. Please make yourselves known to Maddi when you are at our Murray Bridge store.



Happy New Year! I hope that you have been able to enjoy some time relaxing with your family over the Christmas and New Year period.

Renewed focus on Covid restrictions have dampened down the usual enthusiasm for family and social get togethers. It is likely that we will have to continue to deal with these precautions for some time to come! Media reports have made most of you aware that supply and elevated input prices will be the norm as we begin the new 2022 year in agriculture.

Although this situation may have a serious impact on many producers, we have taken steps to ensure that we are able to supply all our clients regular needs over the course of the year. There is some reliance on our global suppliers that their forecasts will also be fulfilled at the appropriate time over the course of 2022! This also includes orders placed for the 2022/23 horticulture growing season.

We believe it would also be prudent for clients to be proactive in forward planning basic agchem requirements for the products that will be used in cropping programs throughout 2022. Products such as knockdowns and pre-emergent herbicides are relatively predictable with little change in volumes. Blanket fungicides are applied across most crops as a general protection and so volumes are also predictable and can therefore be forward ordered/purchased with confidence. Barring sustained and adverse weather conditions, which no one is able to predict, we can reassure all clients that their forecast volumes will be supplied. We are working very closely with all of our suppliers and believe that will be key in remaining well informed and ahead of any curve balls thrown our way in 2022.

Now, more than ever is also the time to consolidate the strong partnerships that you rely on to ensure continuity of supply to your business as well! We pride ourselves on our ability to meet the needs of our clients through technological advice and support and reliable supply of all quality products!

**Greg Schubert**

### **Quote of the Month**

"The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it's the same problem you had last year."

— John Foster Dulles

## **Viticulture and Orchard**

### **Maintain vigilance for disease in summer horti crops.**

Our agronomy team are regularly inspecting crops on their routine monitoring circuits around the region. Late last month Powdery Mildew was detected in several local vineyards. Once it has a foothold and left uncontrolled Powdery Mildew will continue to develop even in dry conditions. Cool, dewy nighttime conditions will sustain the disease. We also found some Downy Mildew infections earlier in November after heavy storm rainfall events. Little rainfall and warmer conditions over the remainder of the year has assisted in relieving some of this disease pressure.

Be sure to continue to check susceptible areas in your vineyard and those more susceptible varieties as you near the end of your spray programs. If any disease is present and if further focused control is required ensure that WHP's and your winery partners spray protocols are also satisfied.

It is quite likely that another rainfall event will arrive during January and so some preparation should be made toward potential late season outbreaks of botrytis. Biological botrytis products have a short withholding period, allowing those protectants to be used quite close to harvest. Products including Serenade Opti, Serifel and Botector fit into this category. These products have also experienced higher levels of demand across other summer horti crops and so we recommend you organise your supply of these actives with us sooner rather than later.

.....cont 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.
- Please return Electrocoup secateurs to our Nuriootpa store so that we can carry out the annual service. This service will extend the pro-rata warranty on the unit.

- **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 farm water supply projects.**
- **Include Surround in the spray tank to reduce sunburn and heat stress in summer horti crops. Surround is also a very useful tool to check spray application efficiency.**

- **Use Ficam or Coopex around the house and sheds to control flies, spiders and other nuisance insect pests. Ideal under eaves and around animal housing etc.**
- **Rainwater tanks are available on short lead times - give us a call for size options and quotes. Increase your on-farm water storage capacity before the autumn rains.**

"with you in the **GROWING** business"

from page 1 ... **Soil moisture** has started to reduce due to the vines higher demand as bunch closure begins. Obviously, the hot weather over the Christmas and New Year week also added to vine moisture demand. Our soil moisture monitoring results have indicated that blocks where lighter sandy soils are prevalent have experienced the greatest decline in available moisture compared to heavier clay soils that typically hold more moisture. Understanding the properties of your soil and their varying water holding capacities is vital in determining irrigation patterns. Please contact any of our agro's for all moisture monitoring options or any queries you may have with existing equipment.

**Vintage preparation** will be top of mind for most growers over the next few weeks.

You have no doubt pilfered the bucket supply over the last 12 months and so the scavenger hunt through the shed begins! Buckets have many other uses around the farm and so may have suffered a little worse for wear with broken or missing handles etc. We are certainly here to help with all your pre-season harvest preparation. We have a good supply of grape picking buckets and replacement handles, Mega grape bins, bin paint and picking snips in stock. We also have a range of sun protection, hats, sunscreen and fly nets in stock to keep you and your workers safe and comfortable.

#### **Bird control**

Birds are persistent pests and can incur significant damage in both vineyards and fruit trees. They happily forage in pastures and scrub blocks but at the first sign of fruit ripening, turn their full attention to fruit! Controlling birds becomes difficult as they can become quite comfortable with your control efforts and they become more confident. Ideally a number of control methods need to be used and changed regularly to preserve an element of surprise. Taking serious action with the 12 gauge might also improve results as well as provide a bit of short-term satisfaction for yourself too. We have some bird scaring options in stock to assist you in your efforts with scare guns, sonic speakers, hawk kites and shimmering tape to name a few. Bird net is still the most reliable method of excluding birds from foraging in your summer fruit crops. A range of net widths are available and suited to the trellis system used in the vineyard. If bird netting is a consideration for your enterprise, it would be appropriate to order nets sooner rather than later as supply is generally tight as harvest approaches. PIRSA have funds available to assist with the initial purchase of bird netting with some conditions applicable.

Come in store to see our display of bird deterrents or to discuss your bird netting requirement with our store team.

**PIRSA Storm Grants** are also available to assist those producers deal with the aftermath of the hailstorms in October and November. Many local blocks suffered as a result of these storms and so are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 per business.

These grants are to help pay for the costs of clean-up and other emergency measures including rebuilding or replacing damaged or destroyed on-farm infrastructure, to assist the immediate recovery of primary production enterprises. Such costs can also include the labour for 'clean-up' or the repair/replacement of infrastructure and even fungal sprays used to reduce disease outbreaks in damaged blocks.

The grant closes on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. If you haven't already applied more information on the grant and the application process is available on the following link: [https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/emergency\\_management/storms?shorturl Storms](https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/emergency_management/storms?shorturl Storms)

#### **Orchards**

The stone fruit harvest is well underway with some varieties done and dusted. Although it is a busy time keeping up with all the jobs associated with fruit picking, it is also very important to pay some attention to the orchard once the crop is removed.

**Post-harvest nutrient applications** should be administered as soon as practical after picking in order for the trees to replenish nutrients removed via the crop and to set the tree up for dormancy and the subsequent crop next season.

Post-harvest **testing of stone fruit trees** should be completed within three weeks of harvest. Obviously testing will determine current levels of nutrient available and also assist in selecting an appropriate blend of nutrient to correct any deficiencies. Please call for assistance with all plant testing jobs.

#### **Chep Pallets**

**Chep pallet supplies across Australia are at critically low levels. Under supply agreements all Chep Pallets remain the property of Chep Australia and so all Chep pallets should be returned to our stores or call us to arrange a suitable time for collection.**

“with you in the GROWING business”

## Broadacre

**Seed Orders for Season 2022 should be placed as soon as possible and so we reprint the note from our last Landlink.**

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!

We also included some further details on new varieties that will be available for the 2022 season. You can review the notes we made referencing those in our Dec Landlink that was emailed to you and is still available on the Farmer Johns website.

### Summer Weeds

After the initial germination and flush of growth, **summer weeds are starting to stress** which will now make them harder to control. Rates that would have given good control a few weeks back will no longer do the job on these hardened stands at the moment. There is likely to be a number of paddocks in this situation as germinations happened well before many crops were harvested and so weeds were able to grow on over the latter weeks of harvest. If you have paddocks that still need to have herbicide applied to a weed infestation it would be prudent to review your "go to" rates to ensure satisfactory control is achieved.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Farmer Johns agronomy team if you would like a further opinion on the weeds you still need to deal with.

**Soil testing** should be viewed as a priority this year given the increased cost of all nutrition inputs.

Grid sampling paddocks over the coming months will provide accurate information which can then be utilised to produce prescription nutrition maps for variable application rates of lime, gypsum, phosphorus and potassium.

We recommend testing for pH, phosphorus and exchangeable cations (Ca, Mg, K, Na). Although more extensive than basic soil testing, this work is cost effective for the detailed information that is provided. The information can subsequently be used to structure a targeted and much more effective use of nutrition inputs to increase productivity.

Please contact our agro's to discuss nutrient mapping for your situation and to arrange for grid samples to be taken. We are also able to undertake routine soil tests and Deep N tests over the summer months as well.

**Fertiliser** for the 2022 season needs to be sorted over the coming months. There are a lot of opinions on the likely scenario that will take place over the next few months. We believe we have an accurate view of the global fertiliser supply situation and are therefore able to assist you in making sound decisions heading into the 2022 season. We do urge all our clients to speak with our team sooner rather than later about your fertiliser requirement in order to also understand the supply timelines more fully.

**Seed cleaning and dressing applications** have commenced with 2022 rotation decisions being made. Once again local experience indicates that more robust seed dressings utilising the most recent and targeted formulations certainly improves bottom line returns on farm. Systiva, Vibrance, Rancona Dimensions and Evergol Energy all have a fit within this segment and should be considered as preferred products in your crop plans. In addition to fungicide protection, Cruiser FS is the preferred insecticide to protect cereals against Russian Wheat Aphid.

**Hay testing** can be undertaken at any time to determine the nutritional value of fodder being offered for sale or if you are a buyer, the quality and feed value of the hay being considered for purchase.

A reasonable amount of hay within the trading system has suffered some weather damage and so 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.

We have test kits in store or alternatively are able to assist with the task.

## Pasture

**Careful grazing management** over the summer months will assist pastures longevity and also preserve soil health as well. Avoid allowing stock to graze residual paddock feed to the point where paddocks are bared out.

Perennial species will respond to early season moisture but require the plant's reservoir of energy be preserved which is usually within the bottom 4 cms of the plant. Over-grazing pastures reduce these energy stores and they subsequently re-establish very slowly once the autumn break arrives. Overgrazing, again and again, can also cause plant deaths during summer resulting in depleted plant numbers and bare pastures giving invasive weeds more opportunity to take over.

Well managed pastures will rapidly spring back to life and provide early autumn feed soon after the autumn break arrives.

**Seed and Fertiliser for Autumn pasture** renovations should be sorted earlier than you typically would attend to these inputs. Obviously, the same scenario applies to pastures as is currently the case for broadacre nutrition products. Seed supply continues to experience high demand as good returns allow graziers the opportunity to renovate larger areas of pasture than would normally be undertake. Call either of our stores!



**KEEP THINGS CHILLED WITH SLEDGE**

Every 10L drum of SLEDGE purchased during Jan-Feb 2022 goes into the draw to win this amazing Icebox

**SLEDGE**  
HERBICIDE

*Now, that's an ice offer...*

sipcam.com.au

**SIPCAM**

## General Merchandise and Fencing

**Rabbits** are present in noticeably higher populations at the moment! Numbers have increased over the last months of 2021 as a result of higher volumes of available feed. As the old "breeding like rabbits" saying goes if left unchecked, rabbit populations will continue to escalate.

The most effective time to bait rabbits is when their natural feed reserves are at their lowest. This is obviously over the summer and autumn months here in central South Aust. Bunny Bait is an oat-based product manufactured to target rabbits specifically. Ideally the targeted rabbit population should be "primed" prior to baiting by first feeding plain oats. Once the rabbit population are consuming a regular amount of feed oats the baited oats can then be administered in the same proportion as had been regularly consumed over the priming period. A second dose should be provided 3 or 4 days after initial doses to clean up any remaining rabbit populations. Call either of our stores for all vermin bait supplies.

**Olsson's Free Choice System** identifies nutritional deficiency in livestock and satisfies the deficiency effectively. Studies have found all ruminants need a source of protein (nitrogen), a source of sulphur and a source of trace elements in order to be at their most productive. We place these major minerals in individual supplement blocks, allowing the animals to choose which minerals they require as they require them. No time is wasted and deficiency is corrected quickly and effectively. By feeding the Free Choice program over the standard multi-nutrient block, the animal has the ability to choose and balance what they require- this ends up reducing consumption by up to 25%.

The Free Choice Southern System includes: Peak 50 with 7% Urea (urea supplement for protein) or Peak 50 No Urea (protein), 16% High Sulphur (sulphur) and Mineral Health Essentials (complete trace element blend). Because the Free Choice System splits the macro minerals, animals can have a choice in their nutritional requirements. They can satisfy their own nitrogen requirement, sulphur requirements, and can balance their own sulphur to nitrogen ratio by consuming varying amounts of urea and sulphur blocks separately, avoiding over consumption.

**Fencing** will be on the agenda for a number of clients over the next couple months. We have an extensive and full range of posts, wire and associated ancillary products to complete all fencing jobs.

Although we have a large range of products in stock, we recommend the premium Australian made Waratah brand as the best option for all our clients.

John Lysaght opened his first wire mill on the banks of the Parramatta river in NSW in 1884 to produce the first Australian made wire netting - and the Waratah brand was born. By the end of 1890 Australia's rabbit plague was out of control. To keep the rabbits at bay the famous rabbit proof fence went up from Starvation Bay in the south of WA 1122 miles to the north of Port Hedland.

The launch of the Star® post in 1926 made Waratah a household name, paving the way for large-scale fencing. Three years later, the Great Depression struck the world, forcing the Waratah plant to make further improvements in productivity.

Innovation has continued over the decades. Waratah's research and development team consistently strives to improve their products and their application for Australian farmers. More recent additions with Longlife Blue wire coatings, GalStar MaxY® fence posts and Stocksafe-T® prefabricated fence.

Although it's now a long way since 1884, some things stay the same, and that is the tenacious capacity of Australian farmers to always reinvent themselves - and so will Waratah.

Call us for all your fencing requirements.



**OLSSON'S NEW IMPROVED BLOCK RANGE**

**NOW WITH ADDED VITAMINS**

- Increase Fertility
- Increase fetal development
- Increase milk production
- Increase wool growth
- Increase weaning weights
- Suitable for all weather conditions

### Farmer Johns

53 Railway Terrace  
Nuriootpa SA 5355  
Phone 08 8562 1311  
Fax 08 8562 1966

190 Thomas Street  
Murray Bridge SA 5253  
Ph 08 8532 5264

#### All Account queries:

Phone 08 8562 3892

Accounts  
[accounts@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:accounts@farmerjohns.com.au)

#### General Manager

Greg Schubert 0412 739 396  
[greg@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:greg@farmerjohns.com.au)

### Chief Operating Officer

Gavin Keller 0417 886 038  
[gavin@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:gavin@farmerjohns.com.au)

#### Murray Bridge Branch Manager

Ashley Clothier 0488 128 169  
[ashley@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:ashley@farmerjohns.com.au)

General Sales  
[salesmb@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:salesmb@farmerjohns.com.au)

#### Nuriootpa Branch Manager

Sam Horn  
[sam@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:sam@farmerjohns.com.au)

General Sales  
[sales@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:sales@farmerjohns.com.au)

#### Commercial Sales Manager

Peter Wendt 0408 849 142  
[peter@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:peter@farmerjohns.com.au)

### Agronomy Team

Craig Kowald 0418 524 793  
[craig@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:craig@farmerjohns.com.au)

Katelyn Keller 0408 571 419  
[katelyn@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:katelyn@farmerjohns.com.au)

Kurtis Ward 0438 488 606  
[kurtis@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:kurtis@farmerjohns.com.au)

Mark Egarr 0409 703 175  
[mark@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:mark@farmerjohns.com.au)

Randall Verco 0427 922 283  
[randall@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:randall@farmerjohns.com.au)

Shaun Falkenberg 0417 887 180  
[shaun@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:shaun@farmerjohns.com.au)

Steve Hein 0407 769 250  
[steve@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:steve@farmerjohns.com.au)

Tim Harris 0459 230 156  
[tim@farmerjohns.com.au](mailto:tim@farmerjohns.com.au)

"with you in the GROWING business"