

Landlink

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Fungal infections detected!
2. Spray to conditions
3. Kickstart with ProGibb.
4. Plan, Plan, Plan!
5. Order trellis posts.
6. Worm test for drenching.

- Save the date - Viti Seminar

Thursday 8th August

Our annual viticulture update will provide relevant information prior to the 2019 viti season beginning. Call the Nuri store for further details.



Even though the last financial year has been a little more challenging in comparison to those prior to it, thanks very much for the support you have given to our business!

The landscape has certainly changed over the last month as crops continue to develop especially with the decent rains most received during June. It is refreshing to see the new growth in crops and pasture paddocks. Recent cold conditions have meant feed is still at a premium for all livestock and so producer focus continues to be on keeping nutritional requirements up with supplementary sources.

If you participate on any of the various social media platforms or watch TV you most certainly will have come across some media the last few months relating to the glyphosate (Roundup) debate. No matter if you are a supporter of agriculture and

the products used in modern day food production or not, you should be aware of the facts prior to being led along by the media about the safety of glyphosate. No doubt as an Australian food and fibre producer, you have had to defend what you do on your farm at some stage in the past. Depending on the company you are in at the time, this can be difficult if those people have little understanding of the ag industry. The CropLife Australia website has a large amount of information about the crop protection industry, the steps taken to ensure the food we eat is safe and answers to many other frequently asked questions. I would suggest you spend a little time on the site - <https://www.croplife.org.au/> It could be a handy reference when talking with your own families, your kids and their "towny" friends when they also doubt if you are making the right choices for their long term well-being. **Greg Schubert**

Quote of the Month

"Keep on going, and the chances are that you will stumble on something, perhaps when you are least expecting it. I never heard of anyone ever stumbling on something sitting down."
- Charles F. Kettering

Broadacre Cropping

In general, winter crops have come up well, but we are starting to observe some agronomic issues which you need to be aware of and that may need some action over the next few weeks.

Some **fungal disease** is evident with **Septoria** being found in many "wheat on wheat" paddocks. Scepter is susceptible to Septoria and inoculation has occurred via spores being present on previous seasons wheat stubbles. Obviously, this is a watch out if you have Scepter wheat in your program. Should further rain events continue, an early fungicide should be considered for its control. This early fungicide application will also be timely for eyespot control.

Spot form of net blotch and **leaf scald** has developed and is evident in some barley crops. There is a wide spread on disease ratings in many of the current varieties grown. This means that the expression of the disease is dependent on which strain of a cereal leaf disease present in a particular crop. Barley crops should be closely monitored and if evident a strategy needs to be determined for the individual paddock.

Rhizoctonia has also started to appear as the soil temperatures have dropped. It has been more evident in later sown crops. Once again, it highlights the importance of a quality seed treatment being used on seed when crops are grown in soil types conducive to rhizo. If rhizoctonia is present in any crops, be proactive and apply some foliar nutrient to stimulate both top and root growth.

As we have been warning, some **chemical residues** are starting to appear as roots continue to grow. First signs will appear in the headlands or any overlaps within the crop. Previous experience has seen early zinc and nitrogen applications being beneficial in assisting the crop push forward. In severe cases Omni Boost K or Folizyme would be warranted and therefore considered before the zinc and nitrogen option.

Urea supply remains incredibly tight, most of you will be aware of this situation from recent conversations on orders. If we are fortunate enough to receive follow up rain this month the situation will continued page 2



Many clients use bulk bags for fertiliser, grain and feed. Incitec Pivot Fertilisers have produced an instructional video outlining the correct procedures for handling their bulk fertiliser bags safely. Have a look at the link if you are a bulk bag user. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjFLR7ahW_4

Seasonal reminders

- Avoid damage between herbicide applications. Use All Clear to decontaminate and clean boom spray, lines, nozzles and filters.
- Barley marketers will require spray info on crop management at time of delivery. Manage on farm spray history by keeping spray diaries and devices up to date.

- Electrocoup F3015 pruning tools in stock as well as a full range of parts for most models.
Call into the Nuri store
- Cold weather will drive rodents indoors. Keep up the baiting program. We have a range of baits and stations in stock.
- Keep the firewood stack replenished
Castrol chain saw lube in stock!

- Please return all Chep pallets to either of our yards so that they can be de-hired to Chep.
- Water is still at a premium – catch all runoff with a Polymaster tank!
Orders to either store.
- Advantage and Bromar sheep feeders control intake and ensure all stock access supplements.
Call for pricing and for deliveries.

"with you in the GROWING business"

from page 1 probably get worse. Continue to assess your rainfall year to date and expected crop yields and based on these assumptions, calculate a nitrogen budget. We are recommending a more conservative approach this season given the limited plant available water in the soil at the moment and taking into account the BOM forecast rainfall outlook.

Frost and spraying. We all know that we shouldn't apply herbicides in extreme, frosty conditions but too often we do anyway. Weeds need to be actively growing to take up the herbicide. They are not active after frosts. A longer-term view needs to be taken in these situations. At the end of the day, frost compromises the result you will get from your herbicide application and can have a negative impact on the crop's health. It is widely known that grass selective herbicides, such as Status (clethodim), efficacy is substantially reduced by frost where ryegrass populations have evolved resistance.

It's about planning ahead. We can't afford to see any compromise in the use of herbicides that need to remain as effective options on hard to kill weeds!

The anticipated release of **Clearfield oats** will allow for brome and barley grass control in oat crops where currently few options are available. Seed will obviously be in big demand – please flag your interest with us so that we have a chance to adequately cover all our client orders.

Pasture

ProGibb SG

The recent cold days have slowed plant growth right down, returning pressure to managing livestock feed. Some hay is still available but pricing and freight make sourcing it difficult. ProGibb SG might be just the answer for your tight feed situation! ProGibb SG will increase plant growth even in adverse, cold conditions. ProGibb SG is particularly useful when applied to phalaris based perennial pastures. Results with ProGibb SG will be enhanced where good soil nutrition levels have been maintained as extra

growth needs to be sustained. Obviously, pasture will struggle even more over the cold depths of winter on a low nutrient plane when all the extra stresses of frost, waterlogging and shorter daylight hours are thrown into the mix too. Results will be very visible and even more so if the ProGibb SG is tank mixed with Easy N or OmniBoostK to give the pasture a nutritional boost as well. We suggest that if you haven't used ProGibb SG previously you spray paddocks and intentionally leave a few strips untreated to check out the difference yourself. Give our agro's a call if you wish to discuss this further.

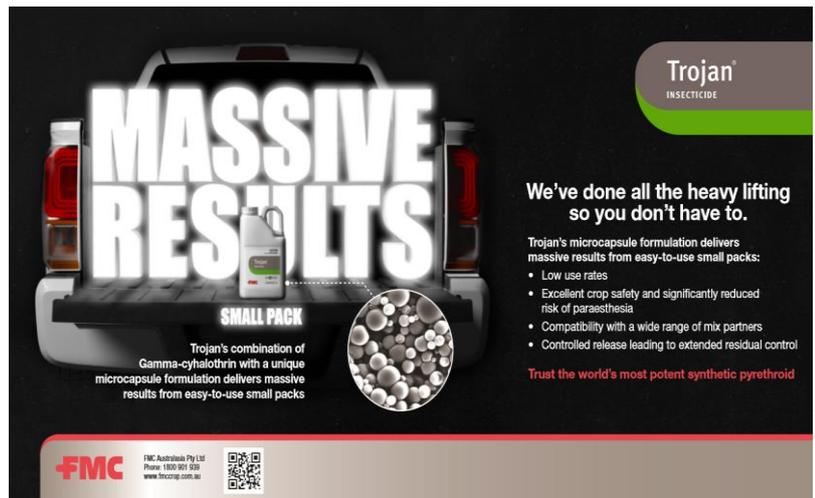
Weeds and insects in pasture

As moisture is at a premium in all farm enterprises, we need to ensure it is utilised for the plant populations we are trying to grow rather than a weed population that doesn't add much value to livestock production. In addition to historical weed species present on your property, we recommend that you keep an eye on areas where any bought in hay has been fed out. Any weed seeds that may have been introduced with the hay should be identified and treated prior to their long-term establishment. Common broadleaf weeds such as cape weed, erodium's, mustards and radish can all be controlled with a selective herbicide such as Ecopar.

Pasture pests have been very active over the last few weeks with serious numbers of RLEM evident in sub clover based pastures. As pasture growth has slowed now, their activity and the subsequent impact they have on productivity will certainly reduce feed availability.

Pastures should be treated with an insecticide included with any broadleaf herbicide applications to ensure these pests are eradicated. When product options are considered other beneficial species such as dung beetles need to be taken into account as well. Both Le-mat and Imidan fit into this category nicely.

Contact out staff for all pasture and animal nutrition issues that might be causing grief on your property.



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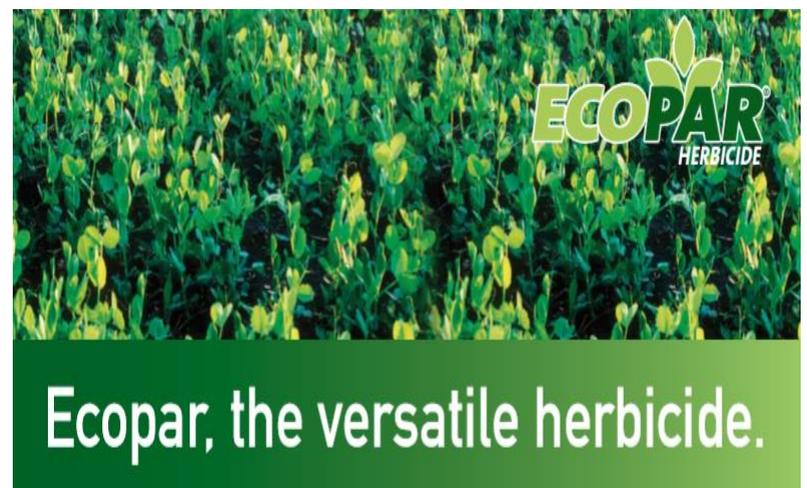
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Viticulture/Horticulture

Plan, plan, plan!

While we shiver our way through winter, there is ample opportunity to give some thought to the activities that need to take place in the vineyard once spring arrives. A key consideration needs to be orders placed for materials such as posts and wire, composts and mulch and planting materials – stock from your nursery supplier.

Post supply continues to be tight with backorders blown out for months. Strainer posts are of particular concern. Please call if you need any number of these at all to enable some chance of delivery in the spring time!

Mulch demand for use in horticulture has escalated significantly with continued successful examples of its ability to enhance moisture conserving efficiencies. Mulch processors have also been stymied with lower throughput of green waste as a consequence of the ongoing dry conditions. It is quite likely that water restrictions will continue to impact volumes going forward in the near term. Again, plan and place orders even if they need to be adjusted closer to the time of delivery.

The viticulture industry is quite buoyant across the whole of Australia and so nurseries supplying planting materials have also experienced increased demand for their production too. It would be prudent to discuss orders with those businesses as well.

Virus testing should be undertaken now for any top

working that might be undertaken. These tests are quite straightforward and should be completed before the job occurs to avoid any disappointments later after the hard yards have been put in! Call our viti agro's to assist with testing if this is on your program this season.

Weed control programs should be ramped up to ensure invasive populations don't use your valuable moisture! Rye grass herbicide plans should be at the top of the hit list as we continue to have more reports of difficult to control populations in and around the Barossa. Data indicates that we have one of the most resistant populations of rye grass compared to all other regions in the country! Talk to our agro's about the options for herbicide rotations and formulate a season long plan now. The most important thing once this review has been done is then to stick to the plan!

Although we have had a few cold days in the last week or two, conditions have generally been ideal for spraying. The basic rule for good weed control is to spray weeds while they are small. Herbicide labels will most commonly indicate grass weeds should be in the range of 2 - 5 leaf to early tillering growth stage.

Water will be the biggest focus for most growers in all horticulture segments especially if that water is sourced as part of the MDB supply. Restrictions will impact water availability while competition from users in other regions will also be chasing hard adding further to the cost and supply of water.

Water budgeting should be paramount in your season planning program. Plan for different water use scenarios over the course of the season. Water availability might also play a part in other 2019 plans such as re-working and re-planting. Water will need to be "in the bank" before vines are planted. We have seen some very expensive programs come unstuck over the years as a result of poor water supply! We can assist with formulating a water budget taking into account volume, quality and period of use - talk to us!

Installing moisture monitoring tools now will be a giant step forward in taking care of the water issues in your vineyard!

Order any vine guards now to avoid the inevitable supply bottleneck that takes place early in spring. Give the Nuri store a call!

Winter time is also a good time to spend some time in a warm office planning and **updating the fungicide spray** program. There will be a number of new fungicide options available prior to the beginning of the viti spray season including Serifel from BASF. Serifel uses naturally-occurring bacteria to create a shield of protection against botrytis on grapes and strawberries. Its registration came through last week.

Please contact either Shaun or Adam to talk to these viti issues in more detail or contact any of our FJ agro's.

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Livestock

Australia's new definition of lamb – what you need to know.

What's changing? The definition of lamb is changing in Australia. The current definition of lamb is 'A female, castrate or entire male that has 0 permanent incisor teeth'.

The new definition is 'an ovine animal that: (a) is under 12 months of age; or (b) does not have any permanent incisor teeth in wear.'

This means a lamb is able to cut one or both of its permanent central incisor teeth, as long as they are not in wear. This effectively provides producers an opportunity to market lambs in a small window where previously lambs were recognised as hogget's immediately they lost their 2 front lamb teeth. Check the Sheep Producers Australia website <http://sheepproducers.com.au/lamb-definition/> for further details.

Dublin Cattle market will be held after the lamb sale on Tuesdays rather than the historical Monday sale time that has been in place for many years. If you are a supporter of the Dublin sale centre your agent will have communicated this change to you but for any smaller producers who may have missed this change please be aware.

Worm management

Quite obviously we have just come through the driest summer and autumn period on record and as a consequence we can expect that less worm larvae will have survived during these conditions too. We have had some recent faecal worm tests back indicating lower worm numbers. Having said this, it would still be prudent to take samples to ensure that your decisions are made on the results of your flock and not someone else's remote to your location.

There were a large number of local sheep held in confinement compounds over the summer and autumn and, as these sheep were probably treated for internal parasites at the beginning of this period, better worm control could also be reflected at the moment. We have mentioned the relatively low levels of pasture available across our region at the moment so it is also important to manage ewes with lambs over the next few months as well – hopefully this situation improves as the daylight hours start to increase again in July!

Lamb Marking

Obviously, a tough season has also impacted live lambing percentages. Predators such as foxes and crows have also continued to frustrate grazier clients with their callous attacks on ewes and lambs. Despite the unfortunate seasonal situation we are experiencing, animal health programs shouldn't be compromised and surviving lambs need to be given the best opportunity to perform to their maximum potential.

Please call any of our staff for assistance with all livestock production issues, to organise worm and drench tests and to discuss alternative product options in drench and parasite rotation reviews.



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