

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Order Fertiliser!
2. All Seed orders are a priority.
3. Review your seed dressings.
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5. Order fencing material.
6. Look after the chooks!

The goal this autumn should be to get crops and pastures away as quickly as possible.

Order Gypsum and lime for the autumn spreading program.

We welcome our new staff member **Kurtis Ward** to the FJ's team. Kurtis has a keen interest in broadacre cropping and pasture production. Kurtis will initially spend some time in the Nuri store but will be an active member of our agronomy team. Please make yourself known to Kurtis next time you are in the Nuri store.



Kurtis will be based out of our Nuriootpa store



We predicted that soil moisture management after a particularly dry spring, would test many summer crops. Record hot and dry conditions continue to challenge horti businesses. Managing water allocations in

spuds, onions and vines has been a major focus for our growers over the summer period. Marlene and I had a week in Central Queensland during February. This was organised subsequent to the birth of our new grand-daughter late in January. Our son Harry, Sarah and their family live at Springsure in the Central Highlands. Up until now they had been somewhat insulated from the drought that has affected most of Western Queensland. We would normally expect to see green grass there at this time of year, as their rainfall generally arrives over the northern "wet" season, from October through to February. Unfortunately, that hasn't been the case this year. In addition, they (as well as many other dry areas) missed any spin off from the recent Townsville cyclone event.

We mustered a couple mobs of cattle and marked some late calves while we were there. Due to the harsh season they took a very aggressive weaning approach, removing some calves off their mothers while they were in the yards. In a more normal season, these calves most certainly would have been left to grow on a little more!

We can honestly say we have had a tough year here locally. Most of Australia has suffered very badly from the extreme weather events over the last 12+ months! Rain, hail, frost and heat have taken their toll on many communities. Despite all the asset-based challenges we deal with each day, I think the bottom line is to still value one's personal health and wellbeing. Last week I was advised that a friend within our industry had been diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease. This is obviously a difficult time for him and his family. Along with a lot of others our thoughts and prayers certainly include him. We can look with optimism toward a better season but in his situation much more determination is required to remain positive! **Greg Schubert**

Quote of the Month

"It's not your salary that makes you rich, it's your spending habits"

- Charles A. Jaffe

Broadacre Cropping

In last month's newsletter we pre-empted the job lists that need to be ticked off in preparation for the 2019 cropping season.

One of the most pressing or top of the list jobs is your **Fertiliser** supply.

We believe that the current market presents the best value for farmers to commit to planting fertiliser in preparation for the forthcoming cropping season. The market is running late and we need to give some consideration to the logistics of supply and realistic timelines in terms of getting the product from city-based warehouse into farm storages.

The recent excessive rainfall in Northern Queensland has also damaged the rail network between Mount Isa and the Townsville port facility. This will restrict the supply of DAP and Granuloc Z from Incitec Pivot's Phosphate Hill plant for the next 6 months or so. Incitec Pivot have secured alternative product from the global trade to fill these gaps but we anticipate a potential lag as shipping times also need to be taken into account. This situation may also mean that other suppliers take a flurry of unexpected orders and as a consequence fill their booking times quicker than anticipated.

All that said, it would be appropriate to organise your fertiliser and it's pickup sooner rather than later!

Seed: there are a number of new varieties which are performing well or provide an agronomic advantage. Vixen wheat from Intergrain is one such example. Vixen has performed very ... [cont page 2](#)

Seasonal reminders

- Autumn is our main lambing season. Order tags and vaccines in readiness for lamb marking! You will also need to stay on top of predators as other food sources are very scarce too!
- Mega bins in stock – call the Nuri store for all orders.

- Try the new Seclira fly bait around the farm. Attract flies with the spray on product with no odour!
- Now is an ideal time to feed all vermin – rats, mice and rabbits. Most natural feed reserves have been depleted to the lowest levels for many years. Vermin will take baits very easily. Bunny Bait, rat and mouse bait as well as bait stations.

- Order rainwater tanks ready for the first autumn showers. Polymaster have tanks from 200ltrs – 5000ltrs!
- Order trellis and fence posts now!
- Wine making supplies available ex the Nuri store.
- Order Jeffries Mulch. Mulch assists in improving soil health and structure in all farming situations as well as moisture retention!

From page 1 ... well in a limited number of trials in SA so should be considered in wheat programs.

Two new Clearfield pulse varieties look promising too. PBA Hallmark XT lentils are a medium lentil, providing a yield advantage over Herald and Hurricane.

PBA Bendoc beans are the first Clearfield bean variety developed by the University of Adelaide. Obviously, the Clearfield treatment options might be very useful in rotations in our region.

As we have been harping on about for a while now all seed supply is under pressure so if you require any of these new options or are still needing to shore up general supply give us a call as soon as possible.

GMO review in SA You may be aware the SA Government last week released its report from the review into the SA GM Moratorium. A copy of the report can be found here:

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/genetically_modified_crops/gm_review.

Public consultation on the report is now open. If you wish to submit feedback on the report, please find more information on how to do so here:

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/genetically_modified_crops/gm_review/public_consultation_on_gm_independent_report.

The closing date for feedback is 5pm on March 6th 2019.

Seed Preparation There will no doubt be some seed cleaning, application of fungicides and insecticides to take still place. Several newer generation dressings are certainly worth considering. Systiva from BASF has again proven its worth in yield benefit, even in a tough 2018 season. Systiva protects against all the biggest seed-borne and foliar diseases including both forms of Net Blotch as well as suppressing Rhizoctonia in both barley and wheat. Systiva ensures strong, early crop establishment.

Vibrance from Syngenta is the industry benchmark cereal seed treatment for protection against seed and soil-borne diseases such as Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Seed-borne Net Blotch and a range of smuts and bunts in wheat, barley, oats and triticale. Vibrance provides outstanding Rhizoctonia control and delivers enhanced vigour through good root health for better crop performance.

We would recommend checking with our agro's to confirm the product you select for your situation is the most appropriate to deal with any disease and insect threats that might be present.

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- **Strong blackleg resistance** of R-MR for extra security
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EPR (End Point Royalty)

Please call our agronomy team for further info and for all seed orders.

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Systiva
Seed Treatment Fungicide

Think bigger

Systiva is now the biggest thing in seed treatment because it controls all the biggest seed-borne and foliar diseases in barley, such as both forms of net blotch, and suppresses Rhizoctonia in wheat too.

All that protection boosts early vigour to help build bigger plants.

So don't just make your usual plans for this season - think bigger. Use Systiva to turn good seasons into great ones.

Find out more at crop-solutions.basf.com.au or contact your local BASF representative on 1800 550 300.

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Hallett Gypsum (calcium sulphate) is a natural, premium grade product, proven to increase yields and improve soil structure.

Hallett Gypsum, produced at Blanchetown, is a familiar product with a new name. It has been used for many years to improve soil structure and provide the macro nutrients, calcium and sulphur, which are essential for plant growth.

For further information speak to the team at Farmer Johns.

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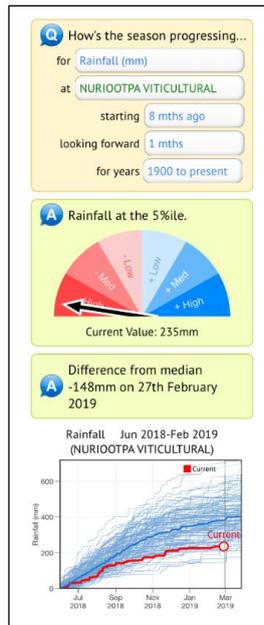
Viti and Horticulture

Vintage 2019 is well under way. The impacts of the dry season and our hotter than average summer are being fully realised as well - reality is a tough teacher!

The image to the right shows how dry it has been from July until now. The comparative graph covers all rainfall years from 1900. You can see that we are well down the “premiership” table! We have been sounding like a broken record in regards to moisture management.

The current season highlights the real opportunity that growers have to review how their management of different blocks has actually performed – e.g. irrigation systems, soil moisture and its scheduling, soil health and overall vine health and nutrition.

Having made that assessment, there might also be some alternative or improved management



options available to include that our viti agro's have seen used successfully elsewhere. Our blokes visit numerous vineyards and sites across a large geography and so are an ideal resource to discuss these issues with. The standout improvement that many Barossa vigneron could make is utilising automatic soil moisture monitoring systems. We have had regular feedback from customers with this technology at their disposal indicating how much better those blocks have performed than they had previously or others that have still been managed more traditionally! We have a number of options available in this segment including leasing equipment. This might be attractive for clients with the will to change after a particularly tough season.

New products

Our business group AgLink, provides our agro's a role in assessing new products and chemistry prior to its release to the general market as well as different management options associated with the use of these new products. We have several new products on our radar including conventional powdery and botrytis fungicides and several new biological botryticides. The final assessments on these trials are being undertaken at the moment. Whilst the season has resulted in very little disease pressure to really test these products, we view the ongoing assessment of new actives as an important and valuable part of our role and commitment to our clients. We are planning on looking at annual ryegrass management and so will be looking for suitable vineyards with lots of ryegrass! Give Shaun or Adam a call if you are interested in hosting any of these trials.

Pasture

Fertiliser

With last season's dry growing period behind us, establishing the correct fertiliser requirements for the coming autumn will be more important than ever for pasture and broadacre crops. Potentially lower than average nutrient removal will have taken place over the last 12 months. Residual nutrients left in the soil subsequent to the close of the season mean it will be difficult to predict application requirements accurately as has been the habit in the past. A series of representative soil samples combined with known crop removal figures will give a good indication of what blend and volume of fertiliser needs to be applied to successfully meet the 2019 production targets. Make every \$ work for you in setting up the 2019 season! Contact our agro's to take the soil samples and to interpret the results.

Aerial spreading of fertilisers will be penciled in once the fire ban season concludes – the same planes on bushfire stand-by are used for this job, so we need to be a little patient in the meantime.

Although it doesn't take long to spread the fertiliser once it has been dropped on the airstrip, we do need to have our “ducks in a row” prior to the aircraft becoming available. This requires comprehensive mapping and paddock identification to ensure there are no holdups at the time of application. If you haven't completed any pasture topdressing in recent years the continuing strong stock and wool prices provide an opportunity and should be a catalyst for action this season! If you would like to apply some nutrition to your steeper or less accessible country to boost both pasture and stock productivity, please contact our agro's so that your property is included.

Pasture seeds have now, for the most part, been ordered and are on the way to our stores. As would be expected supply of small seeds will probably cause a number of challenges over the course of the season. There are some species that are in quite short supply now, so be sure to discuss your requirements early to avoid stock out problems leading up to the sowing period.

We have the ability to mix small amounts of custom pasture blends to suit individual needs and specific paddocks. Please don't hesitate to chat to our agro's if you feel you have a situation that current, off the shelf blends don't satisfy.



Hammer 400. Kills a lot of weeds. Fast.

The spike for fast brownout of hard to control broadleaf weeds pre-cropping, when mixed with knockdown herbicides (glyphosate, paraquat or glufosinate based).

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Livestock

Water supply to livestock is of paramount importance especially during hot weather. We have been in the process of breaking records over the summer in this department and so water infrastructure has been under the microscope.

PIRSA's On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme was established last year to assist projects with a one off 25% rebate up to \$25k to primary producers in drought affected areas.

Please speak to our staff about the eligibility of your farm water supply requirements.

Despite the dry run we have been experiencing **Fencing** is still well and truly on the farm maintenance program.

We stock and recommend the complete range of products from Waratah.

Their range is Australian made from virgin material with superior coatings designed and manufactured to withstand the harsh environment we put fences into.

Give our team a call to quote and sort all your fencing needs.

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400ltr
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200 - 50,000ltr
RAINWATER TANKS

TROUGH
250 - 600ltr
SUPA TROUGH

SEPTIC TANKS
3100 or 4550ltr

Polymaster

Chooks are at the bottom end of the pecking order on most farms but **Healthy Chooks** require good gut health! It helps protect against parasites and other harmful organisms that exist naturally in their environment. Importantly, a healthy gut also help chooks absorb more nutrients from their food, which means they can produce more eggs, so everybody wins! Commercial poultry feed that contains pro- and prebiotics is the easiest and most effective option as poultry nutritionists have done all the hard work, taking away the inconvenience and risk of you adding your own supplements to feed or water. Your chooks will get the right ratio of probiotic and prebiotics with every beak-full of food. Watch out for Barastoc's new and improved Golden Yolk which has been fortified with PoultryStar probiotics!

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