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Chep Pallets

We have received several notifications over the last few weeks from our suppliers warning of product deliveries being compromised because of a lack of Chep pallet supply to ship products from warehouses!

This scenario has occurred due to the logistical nightmare going on at the moment within the transport industry – warehouses full and slow turnaround times with Covid restrictions and forced work force absenteeism etc.

It is even more critical that all Chep pallets are returned as soon as possible subsequent to either picking product up from our stores or after deliveries are made.

It might also be useful to transfer stored product on farm to plain pallets so that the blue Chep pallets can be de-hired back into the freight and logistics system.

Please call us if you would like to source plain pallets to utilise on the farm and to free up Chep pallets up.

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.
- Clean up spring weed growth around the farm yard before it dries out. Check out our range of ute and back pack sprayers.



Recent storms have caused some significant damage to broadacre and vegetable crops and vineyards and orchards across our region.

This is most unfortunate for many of our clients, we certainly feel for all those that have suffered crop losses. Agriculture can be a difficult business and with the inevitability of weather events such as hail, wind, frost and flood as well as summer bushfires, the challenges such as those recently experienced in our region, will no doubt continue to take place in the future.

Even though everyone involved with primary production is aware that this is the case, these events aren't easy to deal with when they happen "at home".

I urge all those affected individuals and families to engage in conversations to help each other over this challenging period and to look out for anyone that might be struggling under these pressures, whether that might be neighbors, friends or family members.

In addition, give any of our team a call as they

also provide a listening ear and can offer some assistance through the experience they have had across a wider representation of the impact across our local region.

A quick update on the product supply issues that we are challenged with heading into the 2022 season. We have been very proactive in ensuring that the products you would typically require for your cropping programs are available prior to you requiring them next year. We ask that you continue to work with your usual FJ contact when sorting your rotations and product volumes.

We also expect to be able to supply all of our client's fertiliser requirements but ask that you liaise with us over the coming weeks to ensure accurate volumes and blends are communicated.

Farm fertiliser storages should be ready to take advantage of delivery opportunities when fertiliser arrives at warehouses.

There will no doubt be a level of frustration occur over the next six months or so. We know that with good planning and clear and transparent communication and co-operation we will work through this challenging period together!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"By working faithfully eight hours a day you may eventually get to be boss and work twelve hours a day."

– Robert Frost

Viticulture and Orchard

Hail damage across the Barossa and Eden Valley vineyards late last month and further afield in the northern and Riverland viticulture regions has been an unfortunate challenge that has to be faced and dealt with this season. In many cases, the extent of damage will have negative, prolonged effects for future cane growth and overall vine development in upcoming seasons. Many blocks have sustained varied damage across the vines present and as a consequence those blocks will need to also be treated differently.

Whatever the overall effect is in your patch, it is important to ensure that the appropriate steps are taken to reduce the ongoing impact of such an event.

Ensuring adequate nutrition is available to hail affected vines should be a priority in assisting them recover from the stresses of hail damage.

Key nutrients required by vines at this time are calcium, zinc, and in some cases nitrogen.

Calcium is important for plant cell structure and integrity which ultimately reduces the susceptibility of plants to pathogenic organisms.

Zinc plays vital roles in the shoot elongation and the development of leaves, pollen and berries. While Nitrogen is a key factor in growth and development of the overall vine but it is important to determine if increased vigour is desired during this time and if the amount of crop remainingcont page 2

- **Order Nally Mega Bins to ensure on time delivery before vintage.**
- **Call either store to arrange collection of empty 110ltr Enviro's and 1000ltr shuttles.**
- **Castrol Oils provide unsurpassed engine protection in all conditions. Give us a call to quote all harvest lube requirements. On farm deliveries can be arranged.**

- **Rossi boots are back in stock – treat yourself to a new pair for summer.**
- **Give the garden and lawn a top up of Neutrog to keep them in top condition and deal with the summer heat.**
- **Order all Arrow livestock handling equipment. Check out their catalogue or call us for quotes on yards, ramps and crushes etc.**

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from page 1 warrants nitrogen applications.

Product options that are suitable to supply the aforementioned nutrients include the following products. **Foli-Zyme** is a product from Stoller. It contains an appropriate range of nutrients including nitrogen, potassium and calcium along with micronutrients, as well as co-factors designed to restore healthy growth to plants after major stress events. **Zinc chelate** and **Zinc/Manganese chelate** are also Stoller products that provide a source of zinc and manganese in a readily available form to assist vines overcome deficiencies at this time.

We suggest it would be appropriate to discuss these options in further detail with one of our agronomy team, appropriate to your situation and vineyard location.

For advice on fertiliser rates and programs, please speak to our agronomists.

Fungicides

While vines are stressed and have physically evident bruising and wounds, they are much more susceptible to disease. The high impact of large hail has caused damaged and decaying/necrotic tissue which is subsequently an ideal infection point for botrytis.

Botrytis treatment should therefore be escalated to a higher level of importance within the spray program.

Chlorothalonil is a Downy Mildew and Botrytis protectant. It provides robust protection and so is a particularly useful inclusion to any spray program where previously low risk of botrytis infection was accepted. Further rain events are expected over the next few weeks so early modification of your program should be undertaken now.

Other considerations and actions to reduce the long-term impact of hail damage might include a range of mechanical treatments such as pruning to remove damaged canes and promote new clean growth. If there was an anticipation that recently damaged blocks may be reworked in the next year or two the current situation might also provide an opportunity to bring those projects forward?

Any of the FJ agronomy team are able to assist with advice, an "outside set of eyes" and also an ear to help you work through this very difficult time.

Flowering is well under way in the Barossa. Flowering is also the seasonal reminder to undertake **petiole testing**. Petiole testing provides a very accurate and real time measurement of the nutritional status of your vines and is a reflection of the success of any fertiliser program you have implemented in the vineyard.

Petiole samples need to be taken during the flowering period, preferably early in the day before any impact from warm day time temperatures. Instructions are included with the sample kits that we supply. This representative sample is then forwarded to the laboratory for testing and subsequent results notified to you via our agronomy team. Petiole tests can be backed up with current soil tests and also tissue tests with the results cross examined to build a substantial knowledge that can be referred to when any future nutrition applications are considered.

Our viti agro's can assist with all nutritional advice and for further info on the petiole, tissue and soil sampling processes.

Despite the damage that recent weather fronts have done across a large number of vineyards, the accompanying rainfall was welcomed and did a bit of a job in topping up soil profiles.

Weeds might be a by-product of the recent wet weather events too. Unfortunately, any solid rainfall events will promote a germination of weeds under vine and in orchards. Care needs to be taken as crops develop and so the herbicide used will also need to be considered in order to avoid off target damage.

Basta is generally recognised as the herbicide of choice as the weather warms and its activity enhanced under more humid conditions. Basta has good activity on a large range of weeds and does a particularly good job on most broadleaf weeds.

Give our agro's a call to discuss any specific issues relevant to your individual situation.

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Broadacre

Our first season with **Roundup Ready Canola** has been extremely positive and those clients utilising the RR technology in their rotations have been very comfortable with the in-crop management over the season. Given the challenges we have locally with clethodim resistance, **Roundup** herbicide mixed with clethodim has a synergistic effect to control both glyphosate and clethodim resistant ryegrass. The **Roundup Ready** technology has also given growers another option to control late germinations of wild radish, a weed that does challenge in some cropping rotations.

Canola seed is in high demand, obviously driven by high commodity prices. While we have placed many early orders, supply will be a challenge. The canola seed situation will be speculative until the processors confirm their supply capability on the back of the harvest weights. We encourage anyone seeking seed for the 2022 season please contact any of the FJ's team to register your canola seed requirement as soon as possible.

We continue to monitor Heliothis and Diamond Back populations in canola and pulse crops. Generally, DBM have been well below threshold levels and have not been a major concern, however their numbers will typically rise as we get warmer days. The majority of spraying jobs already undertaken has targeted Heliothis populations through the use of either Karate or Trojan.

As the **winter cropping season moves into harvest**, there are some opportunities in later crops to **spray top wheat, barley, legumes or canola**. Sharpen has proven an invaluable tool to tank mix with either glyphosate or paraquat to improve control of thistles and broadleaf weeds. Crucial from Nufarm is registered/ permitted across a range of crops for topping. Most croppers will be aware of the very minimal tolerances for some weed seeds (ie; Potato Weed) in grain samples. Using herbicide products that are registered for weed control in these late in-crop situations is important and protects our export integrity.

Summer weeds are emerging with all the usual common species such as potato weed, caltrop and melons starting to come through after recent rainfall. As always, small weeds require lower rates of herbicide and will be far easier to eradicate than large advanced plants later. Applications of herbicides to smaller weeds will also give a much better result. This is even more critical given the difficult supply and upward pricing pressure for all herbicide inputs. Please contact either of the FJ stores if you do require further supplies of any herbicides for use over the summer season.

Fertiliser is a challenge, maybe as challenging as it has been over the last decade. China has restricted exports of phosphate fertiliser which will in turn have a major effect on the Australian market. If the shortfall can't be made up by either local production from Queensland's Incitec Pivot Fertiliser owned Phosphate Hill or Maaden in Saudi Arabia, we will have a shortfall of starter fertiliser in Australia at the beginning of the 2022 cropping season. There are four major fertiliser companies who import the bulk of Australia's fertiliser requirement. All four are currently searching the globe for additional fertiliser tonnes to bring to Australia. It is still early but we ask all clients to work with us for your 2022 volumes and be organised and ready to collect fertiliser whenever it becomes available.

Weed Resistance has already been mentioned earlier in this article and is generally recognised as a key management issue across most cropping, dairy and horticulture businesses. Evidence of resistance to grass weeds (especially annual ryegrass) and some broad leaf weeds in local farm enterprises is also quite common. Some clients might have suspicions of weed resistance on their properties but haven't undertaken tests to determine the level that does exist in weed populations. **Why risk applying a herbicide that could fail due to herbicide resistance?** Resistance testing identifies which herbicides are effective and which ones are not from the nominated products that you typically include in your program. It is much more economical to pay for herbicide resistance testing than to spend thousands of \$\$\$'s on herbicides that are not going to be effective on the target weeds. Assuming (and not confirming) that the survivors in the paddock are either resistant or alternatively, the result of problems with application is expensive and very frustrating. This test is simple and provides the facts to enable effective weed control going forward. Discuss the test procedure involved before slashing, spraying or harvest. Now we find ourselves at the pointy end of the season there are probably just a few important things to note or consider:

Pasture

Some **summer fodder crops** have been sown over the last month or so on the back of positive rain forecasts. With the advent of late spring rainfall, most of our operating areas have good levels of soil moisture. Further planting can still be undertaken over the next weeks. Check out what is new in this space for summer. We have Millett, several Sorghum types, Brassica and Chicory all in stock ready to sow. These are excellent mix partners or they can be sown as straights for high quality summer feed along with a range of other options available to order.

Those summer fodder blocks already up and away should have nutrition applied when rain fronts provide an opportunity over the coming weeks. Please talk to our stores to ensure your required product is available.

If its green it should be monitored for insect pest activity and treated with an appropriate insecticide to protect the developing plants during their early growth. Pastures under irrigation pivots will need to be managed a little differently but certainly both insect pests and weed activity will impact production.

Check in with our agronomy team for any assistance in summer pastures.

Hay production is almost done and dusted in the mixed pasture and cropping zones but is still at top speed in the higher rainfall regions within our market area. We have stock of silage wrap and net wrap still available for top up stock for these jobs.

There is likely to be reasonable hay volumes available for sale over the coming months. No matter whether you are a vendor or purchaser of hay, the most convenient time to undertake fodder testing is during hay production.

Testing hay to determine its nutritional feed value will assist both parties to determine the fairest sale price. We have Feed test kits available at our stores or call one of our agro's for assistance with testing.



Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) is calling out to all farmers and farming communities to be vigilant as we get closer to the waste export ban on all whole used tyres, including baled tyres which comes into effect 1 December 2021.

There is a possibility that unused or segregated farmland may be used to illegally dump or stockpile waste tyres by tyre collectors who cannot secure viable markets or fall short of meeting the necessary requirements to obtain an export licence.

Unmanaged stockpiles may become the responsibility of the farmer or landowner where illegal dumping and stockpiling has occurred. TSA has seen such occurrence first-hand and continues to monitor known stockpiles and share information with regulators.

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Livestock and General

Recent reports have highlighted that the level of resistance has increased in **Blow Flies**. As we enter an unpredictable period of weather patterns, with elevated chances of above average rainfall, fly pressure is likely to increase as well.

Sheep producers can use several management strategies to minimise the development of resistance or at least delay its onset. As with all insect pests, an integrated approach to reduce reliance on insecticides should be adopted.

Sheep bred for resistance to flystrike will obviously reduce fly activity on the farm.

Shearing or crutching at times that maximise

protection against flystrike will also aid the pressures of fly strike. The farm grazing plan will also affect the level of scouring that takes place in the flock. Scouring is obviously a main attractant to sheep blow flies.

Although taken somewhat for granted, docking lamb tails at the correct length does influence the level of fly strike that might occur in sheep.

If an insecticide is applied to sheep, care should be taken to ensure that it is applied correctly and according to the label directions. Be aware that resistance to one insecticide may cause a cross-resistance to another related insecticide. If treatments for lice and flystrike are deemed necessary, use different insecticides and appropriate classes for each pest. Also use insecticides from different classes for treating and preventing flystrike. It is important to understand the biology of the sheep blow fly and to limit the number of insecticide applications made in any one season.

Call either store or speak with Randall or Simon to determine the best fly strategy for your situation & budget.

Livestock Nutrition will be paramount going forward when the high-quality spring pastures hay off over the next few weeks. We stock the Performance Feeds and TPM range of loose licks. Fed ad-lib they will enable livestock to utilise this low-quality residual feed more efficiently over the summer. Initially stubbles that have recently been harvested might offer stock a reasonable level of nutrition but once residual grain is eaten, stock will also benefit with supplements being made available.

We also stock a range of stock blocks, trace elements and molasses etc. for on farm livestock supplementation – call either store for orders.

Stock water troughs should be inspected prior to the onset of warmer weather. A reliable and accessible water supply for all livestock over the summer season will provide peace of mind for yourself too.

We stock a large range of poly and concrete troughs and also poly pipe, fittings and floats and valves.

Troughs should be cleaned regularly to remove contaminants and any that have been out of service over the winter time should be inspected to ensure the supply lines, floats and valves are all operating correctly.

Call either of our stores for all your water supply needs.



Fruit Snips 300L Long Nose / 310T Short Nose

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

General Manager

Greg Schubert 0412 739 396
greg@farmerjohns.com.au

Chief Operating Officer

Gavin Keller 0417 886 038
gavin@farmerjohns.com.au

Murray Bridge Branch Manager

Ashley Clothier 0488 128 169
ashley@farmerjohns.com.au

General Sales
salesmb@farmerjohns.com.au

Nuriootpa Branch Manager

Sam Horn
sam@farmerjohns.com.au

General Sales
sales@farmerjohns.com.au

Commercial Sales Manager

Peter Wendt 0408 849 142
peter@farmerjohns.com.au

Agromy Team

Craig Kowald 0418 524 793
craig@farmerjohns.com.au

Katelyn Keller 0408 571 419
katelyn@farmerjohns.com.au

Kurtis Ward 0438 488 606
kurtis@farmerjohns.com.au

Mark Egarr 0409 703 175
mark@farmerjohns.com.au

Randall Verco 0427 922 283
randall@farmerjohns.com.au

Shaun Falkenberg 0417 887 180
shaun@farmerjohns.com.au

Steve Hein 0407 769 250
steve@farmerjohns.com.au

Tim Harris 0459 230 156
tim@farmerjohns.com.au

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