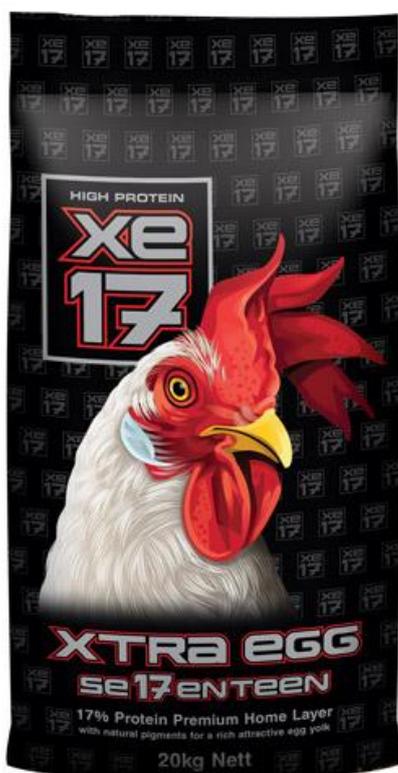


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1. Monitor pulse crops for heliothis.
2. Order Canola seed for 2022s.
3. Sort bale net and twine orders.
4. Ramp up the early protective fungicide program on the vineyard.
5. Treat sheep before fly strike.

## Don't overlook the humble chooks!



Chooks generally get the scraps, but in reality, we miss the fresh eggs they provide when they go "off the lay"! Top up their diets with a high protein feed such as Laucke XtraEgg, they will reward you with a regular contribution!



There has certainly been a change in daytime temperatures over the last few weeks but the little top up last week was certainly very welcome!

We sent an email statement to all our internet connected clients last week with our thoughts on supply and pricing heading into the 2022 season.

Media reports in Rural Press publications, Landline and the ABC's Country Hour have all suggested challenging supply and escalated pricing are likely to impact the agricultural industry going forward.

Our policy has always been reasonably bullish in maintaining good levels of stock in our stores to cater for our client's normal seasonal requirements across all market segments.

We have also been flagging a tightening line of supply for some time and so the circumstances that are now presented have been predicted for a while.

Although this is the case, we also don't believe there is a need for our loyal clients to be too concerned at this time.

We have placed a large volume of forward orders with our suppliers to cover all of our client

requirements for the entire 2022 cropping season as well as most of our 22/23 summer horticulture demand. Obviously, this is a little bit "airy" as we don't have too much idea on what sort of season next year will present! I can say that we have continued to be bullish in our product estimates and are confident that we are able to cover all those clients that have supported us over previous seasons.

I simply ask that as a supporter of the Farmer Johns business you too should work with your preferred FJ staff member to also determine a basic agchem requirement for next year's program.

When product becomes available and based on these early collaborated plans, we may press you to also hold stock on farm earlier than normal.

Should the La Nina event firm over the coming weeks and play out over the summer months as the BOM have suggested, we will see demand for horti fungicides and summer knockdown herbicides tighten up for a short period of time.

Please speak to your normal FJ contact to firm orders and product deliveries sooner rather than later!

In partnership, we can meet the current supply challenges and continue to enjoy the rewards available to all involved in primary production!

**Greg Schubert**

## Quote of the Month

The secret to getting ahead is getting started!

- Mark Twain

## Broadacre

Routine agronomy inspections across our region have revealed some pest activity that should be managed. **The Native Heliothis budworm can found be in many pulse crops.** Once thresholds are reached Heliothis will do some serious damage in the maturing pods. If your pulse crops haven't been treated with an appropriate insecticide yet, we recommend a thorough crop inspection to determine their level of activity with the view to a subsequent spray being applied.

Our agro's are able to assist with any crop checking if required.

**Crop topping will be a routine occurrence this season!** The unfortunate aftermath of a dry start to the season is our current persistent presence of late germinating weeds. Their presence certainly highlights the value that both a pre sowing knockdown and pre-emergent herbicide provides to any winter crop!

Registrations allow the application of glyphosate over wheat and barley (some limitations apply) if timing of application and crop maturity aligns. A late season or pre-harvest application of a .....cont page 2

## Seasonal reminders

- Order all posts to ensure on time delivery for re-trellis and summer fencing jobs! We also have a full range of fabricated fence, plain wire and accessories.
- Maintain stock water troughs and water lines to ensure trouble free operation over the summer months.

- Clean up spring weed growth around the farm yard before it gets out of control. Check out our range of ute and back pack sprayers to make this job easier – in stock now.
- Order Nally Mega Bins early to ensure on time delivery before vintage.
- Call either store to arrange collection of empty 110ltr Enviro's

- and 1000ltr shuttles.
- Please return all empty Chep pallets.
- Check tank storages, troughs and poly lines before summer demand increases – full range in stock!
- 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.

from page 1 ..... registered herbicide is useful in halting seed set in situations where weed populations have not been able to be effectively controlled earlier in the crop's life.

Sharpen is another great option if late germinations of radish, brassica weeds or thistles are evident in cereals and pulse crops. Applied up to the watery ripe stage Sharpen has activity on immature seed pods and so adds another herbicide group to their control, rather than repeating a Group 4 (Amicide) application.

Please contact any of the FJ's agro's for more specific details pertaining to these late season applications to ensure timing and weed growth stage provide a satisfactory result.

**Seed** demand is expected to be strong over the next few months as broadacre croppers consider their rotations for the 2022 season. Obviously, the continued elevated canola price will prompt increased areas sown to it in our region as well. Having a number of clients "dipping their toe" in the Roundup Ready technology this season will also see an increased level of demand for RR Canola seed in this space as well.

Outside of the Roundup Ready varieties we expect that all canola seed including TT lines will sell out early.

Unfortunately, there will be a limited amount of canola seed available for sale and as we experienced this season, the early decision makers will be rewarded with supply.

Please contact any of the FJ stores or one of our agronomy team to sort through your preferred seed options sooner rather than later.

### Grain protectants

Grain crops are beginning to hay off in the earlier areas of our district, so as we turn our attention to preparation for the harvest some time should also be spent in ensuring on farm grain storages undergo a pest control and grain hygiene check. There has been some rationalisation of available products for use in this space and so we recommend having a review of what products have been used in the past as well as determining the most suitable product for your situation. The time that grain will be stored and the target market might be considerations in this discussion.

Please give either of our stores a call to ensure you have appropriate supplies on hand well before it is required.

**Forward planning for season 2022** should be a priority over the next month or so. We have flagged a few watchouts in regards to supply and availability for a range of products applicable to the broadacre cropping market. A couple major items in this discussion are both fertiliser and glyphosate supply. Although there is still a fair period of time between our current season and the start of the 2022 season, we have taken steps to ensure that our clients will have supply available when these products are required. The annual argy-bargy that takes place over the summer time regarding shipping and pricing of these commodities will have a more serious tone this year. Despite media reports on this subject propagating a level of panic in recent weeks we will continue work with our global suppliers to lock away our annual requirements just as we have in the past.

Please talk to us about your plans as well.

### Pasture

Most pastures have hit their straps in terms of spring growth and some earlier stands destined for fodder preservation have been transformed into silage. We will see **the annual silage and hay harvest swing into top gear** over the coming few weeks as pastures and sown forage cereals reach maturity. We have a full range of silage wrap, net and twine on hand for all silage and hay making jobs - give us a call to sort pricing and deliveries.

**Pasture pests** have still been active and although their damage is somewhat screened by the active spring pasture growth, they still impact overall production and can reduce seed production on sub clover stands.

Spring applications of insecticides such as Lemat for Red Legged Earth Mite control will not only clean up the current damage but will also negate egg laying and therefore reduce the impact of these insects in the autumn next year.

Check with holding periods prior to applying any product to ensure you don't interrupt your grazing rotations and hay making plans!

Give any of the FJ agronomy team a call for further information.

**Spray topping** jobs have become evident across the district over the few weeks as annual grasses run to head.

The spraying window is open now and action should occur at any time whilst seed heads are still at the milky dough stage. Spray application rates should be aimed to halt seed set but still preserve underlying feed. Further spring growth of perennial and sub clover species in topped pastures will also benefit with the inclusion of an insecticide (as mentioned above).

If grasses are allowed to harden off they will present as an issue in prime lamb grazing enterprises.

Paraquat will generally have less impact on perennials and sub clover and so is considered a better option over glyphosate for pasture topping.

Call our pasture agro's if you would like another opinion prior to spraying.



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## Viticulture & Orchard

**Early season foliar programs have started** over the last week or so since vines have gone past budburst. A thorough calibration check should be carried out on the spray unit prior to commencing the spray season. Old nozzles and jets should be replaced to ensure accurate product and water rates are applied to the target crop at the various growth stages indicated on product labels.

Some products are applied in very low volumes and so it is critical that accuracy is achieved in the spray program.

The BOM has continued to piffle on about a wetter than average spring! If this does eventuate over the next couple months we will also likely see a correlated escalation in the incidence of fungal diseases if vines and trees are left unprotected.

On that basis there might also be a need to review the intended spray program to ensure that a more robust protection program is implemented. Some new fungicide actives (such as Belanty) are available this season and could be valuable for inclusion in a resistance management program as well. We will generally see the visible mildew disease present on leaf surfaces later in the season. However, even these outbreaks begin their life within the leaf cells early in the season (now).

More rain fast products should take precedent over older compounds that don't provide longevity in adverse weather ie: sulphur.

Growers should plan for botrytis management this season. Botrytis doesn't normally cause too many issues for the majority of the Barossa growers but will in a warm, wetter season. Most of us will remember those serious outbreaks that have occurred in the past where serious crop losses were common.

Early season botrytis protection provides very good disease control deep into the growing season. Biological options are available for use late in the season.

Downy Mildew protection sprays are no longer routine in some spray programs especially if disease pressure remains low. We recommend that growers maintain downy protective sprays prior to any rain events this season.

Always check spray coverage at the beginning of each application and when rates are changed. A simple addition of Surround to the tank will provide a very visible example of the coverage your unit is providing.

If you would still like assistance in reviewing your spray program and for further advice on alternative products that could be included this season, it's not too late to speak with one of our horti focussed agronomy team. They are also able to assist with the calibration of your sprayer set up to achieve the best result for your crops canopy.

### Foliar nutrition

Trace elements should be applied before flowering to overcome any deficiencies that may affect fruit set. In broad terms zinc, manganese and magnesium will assist fruit set but historical soil and petiole sampling will indicate the areas of nutrition that should be targeted in your vineyard. It is advisable to slot in some site sampling this season if a year or two has elapsed since any previous soil or tissue tests were taken.

Results from these tests will indicate any changes that have occurred subsequent to nutrition applications that have been made. Alternatively, test results will also highlight situations where insufficient nutrition is available to the crop.

Our agronomy team can assist in determining the amount of nutrient removed by wine grapes during the previous seasons crop. Minimum NPK and micronutrient threshold levels should be maintained in a sustainable manner to ensure the future health and production goals are achieved. We have a full range of foliar applied products in stock and most are very compatible with the range of fungicides we support.

### Frost

Some isolated damage from recent frost events is evident in the Barossa. If your vineyard has sustained any frost damage, we recommend that you follow the Stoller Stress Management Program - that's obviously for the vines and not you!

Extreme stress events such as frost or hail can have a devastating effect on crop growth and yield.

Stollers BioForge, Foli-Zyme and WL Zinc Chelate all contain nutrients that will assist the plants restorative capability and promote strong tissue and root growth to overcome such stressful events.

Local trials have provided us with the confidence to recommend growers use these products as part of all nutrition programs regardless of the weather circumstances.

**Soil Moisture** levels are generally at satisfactory levels but a drier than expected September has tempered earlier hopes of full profile across all vine and tree crops in our regions. Some pre-budburst irrigation was undertaken in vineyards where rainfall was a little light over the latter parts of winter. We have continued installations of soil moisture monitoring systems over the last few weeks and still have a number of sites to complete. Soil moisture monitoring is the most accurate way to determine actual available soil moisture and to manage irrigation applications over the course of the growing season. Timely irrigations and the ability to determine application volumes will also assist in managing fruit development and crop quality. Obviously, water constitutes a large proportion of the horticultural enterprise infrastructure and production costs and so every endeavour should be made to leverage the best value in regards to its use. If you are still "water monitoring fence sitter" and would like to discuss the pro's and con's applicable to a system in your business please give either Shaun or Katelyn a call, they will be more than happy to discuss the options available in more detail. Check out the data on any of the 16 publicly accessible Green Brain sites across the Barossa Valley to also see the information that you could have available on your own block - [Barossa Valley Weather Station Network \(greenbrain.ag\)](http://Barossa Valley Weather Station Network (greenbrain.ag))

## Livestock and General

**Flies** have been active over the last few weeks and especially so since last weeks rain events. Humidity levels have increased the incidence of infestation in some areas.

Later season lambs have been a target of these pests on some properties. Graziers need to be a little vigilant whilst the current environmental conditions continue.

Those producers that are yet to apply routine treatments of a long-acting fly protection to sheep flocks prior to harvest need to be on the front foot at this point in time!

We have a number of product options that will provide extended protection over the harvest

period too. The worst interruption to harvest is the need to jump off the header to chase flyblown sheep!! We recommend you take the time to review your annual fly program with our staff as soon as practical and get this job done.

**Livestock Nutrition** should remain on the radar as recent rain provides a further flush of spring pasture growth. Continue to make MagPlus loose licks available to both sheep and cattle especially if those stock are grazing forage cereals. Some more marginal areas will have seen pastures begin to hay off and stock grazing those blocks will also experience a decline in feed quality as well. Young stock should have a balanced nutrient ration made available ad lib so that they continue their targeted growth planes.

Breeding ewes need to be cared for a little more particularly over the next couple months as they finish their mothering duties and are prepared for joining. Both body weight and condition scores will influence fertility and conception rates. Continued escalated stock prices should be motivation enough ensure top level attention to detail in all breeding flocks.

Call either Randall or Simon to discuss all these matters relevant to your enterprise in more detail.

**Rat and Mouse** populations generally build up around the farm once weather conditions are more favourable for their activity. Good feed reserves are available after a better spring growing season and low residual populations survived over the winter season. We expect that a higher level of

paddock activity might also be evident once we approach harvest. We need to be proactive in ensuring that these populations are knocked down early where possible to avoid an explosion later in the year.

Recent data from the GRDC indicate that there are some isolated areas with high populations in SA. We don't want to experience similar infestations to those building again in NSW.

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