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Call us to organise enrolment in a Chemcert refresher course in the coming months.



Despite still missing a general “soak” across the state August has been relatively kind to our region with some solid falls over the last few weeks. These rains have probably saved a fair amount of

crop in some marginal areas as well as stabilised moisture in the higher rainfall zones pointing to more average yields being achievable.

We have heard in recent days that hay is landing on farm at over \$600 per tonne in some drought affected areas of NSW and Qld.

A reasonable amount of that price is also the freight component but still represents an attractive margin over grain for croppers in dryer areas where crops will struggle to finish. The long-term purchase of hay at these rates is unsustainable but nevertheless is an opportunity for some as the new fodder season kicks off.

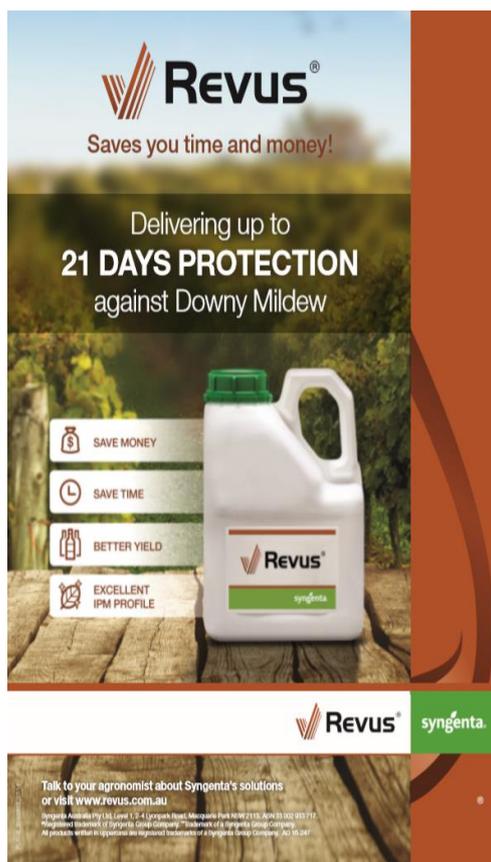
Even though hay demand is high in regions remote to our location spring feed also represents a challenge for some of our grazer clients. Continued frosty conditions have suppressed the flush that would normally begin. Coupled together with drier than ideal soil moisture, pasture stands look likely to run out earlier in the season.

We will see new season potato crops hit the market shortly while larger plantings are beginning for the 2019 supply.

We all know how windy the season has been so far, these conditions have been particularly challenging for new season onion plantings in the Mallee.

More importantly though, the football season is on the home run and we all look forward to daylight saving starting in less than a month!!

Greg Schubert



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Quote of the Month

"If you always do what interests you, at least one person is pleased."

- Katharine Hepburn

Viticulture/Horticulture

Budburst

The 2018-2019 viticulture season has kicked off with Chardonnay budburst taking place over the last week of August. Evidence of bud movement in shiraz and other varieties across the Barossa will put the pressure on to finalise the new seasons spray programs as well as completing the remaining dormancy tasks prior to the season being in full swing. A few warm days forecast in early September will push vine growth along a little more rapidly.

Mites

Mite damage has become more evident in many vineyards in recent years. If you are battling their invasion in your vineyards, control needs to take place at woolly bud stage, prior to budburst. If this window is missed mites will continue to increase in number and impact vine health. The window for control in 2018 will rapidly close over the next few weeks, depending on variety and location.

Check with our viti agronomists if you would like confirmation on the growth stage and rates for mite treatment.

Soil moisture

Low winter rainfalls obviously equate to low soil moisture levels in agriculture generally but in particular vineyards across the Barossa. Based on information gathered from the various sites that we monitor across the region the average vineyard moisture depth where winter irrigation has NOT been applied is moisture just reaching 60cm.

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Seasonal reminders

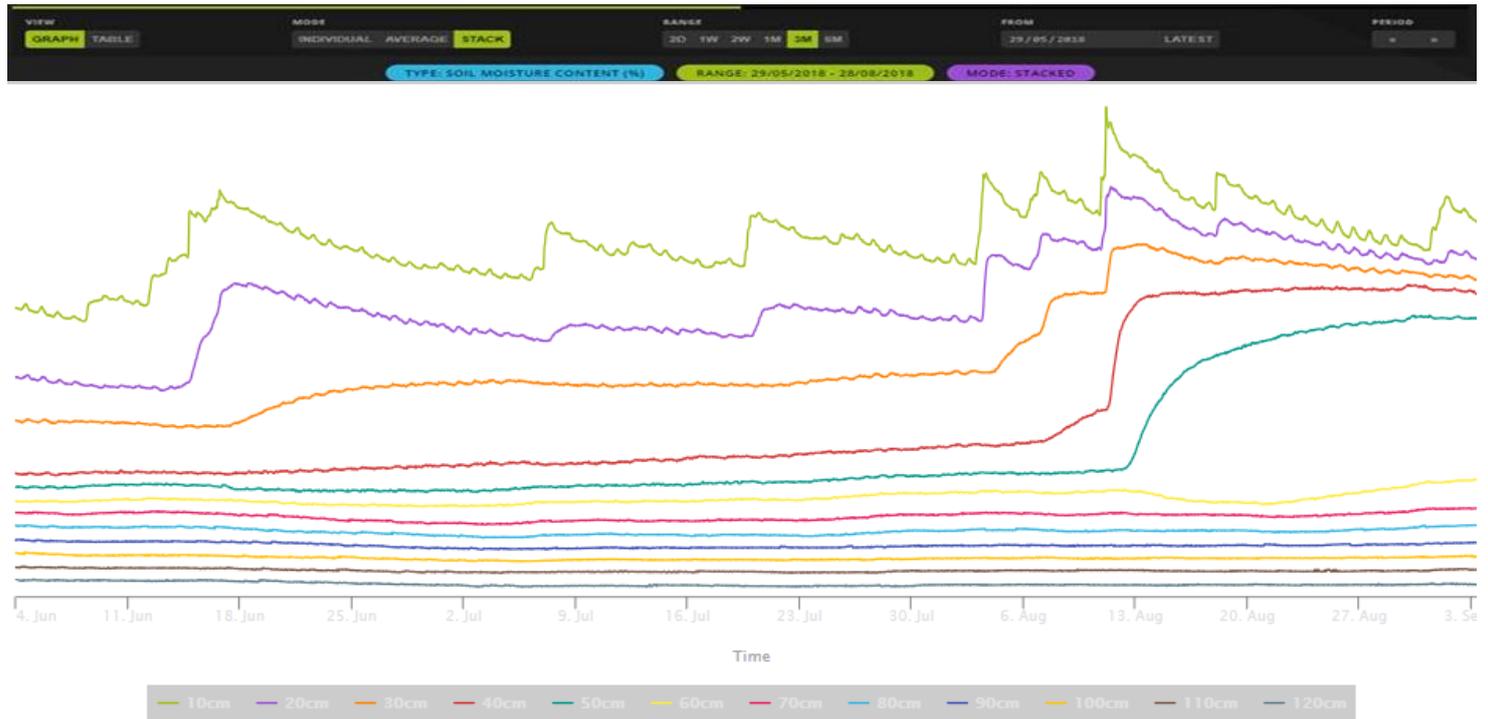
- Hay season has started – call for all twine wrap and net requirements.
- Make the best use of limited feed reserves with a Gallagher strip grazing system. Battery and mains energisers in stock.
- Consider topping barley grass and ryegrass to halt seed set.

- **Spray Red Legged Earth Mite for the spring Timerite control. This application reduces the severity of autumn hatchings.**
- **Early bird spring offer - buy 1,000L Super Kelp and receive an extra 200L at no charge.**
- **Clean boom sprays with All Clear to remove all chemical residues.**

- **Calibrate vineyard sprayers before the start of the spray season. Replace nozzles for accurate water and chemical rates.**
- **Philmac fittings, poly pipe and troughs for all water supply.**
- **Please return all Chep pallets to either of our yards so that they can be de-hired to Chep.**

Cont from page 1 Some sites indicate that moisture penetration is as shallow as 40cm!

The example below is from a vineyard near Nuriootpa. Recent rain events are evident in increases from the shallow readings but certainly not at depth.



It is important that good moisture levels are present in the rootzone for even budburst and for strong and uniform early season growth. If you have irrigation water available, topping up the profile should be a strong consideration prior to budburst.

Salinity

Salinity is an issue that many growers in the Barossa have to deal with in their vineyards. As we have already seen, low winter rainfall will also mean that any salt accumulated as residual sodium last season will more than likely have been carried over and remain in the top profile. Aquacal can be used to assist with a final flush of sodium from the rootzone. Aquacal is easily administered in conjunction with any top up irrigations applied.

It may be prudent to test water supplies to analyse overall quality but particularly check for salinity.

Call our agro's to discuss this in more detail and to arrange water tests.

Nutrition

Early season nutrition should be managed to achieve desired canopy growth before soil profiles dry out. Omnia's Mega-Kel-P and the Neutrog products are good options to meet these targets.

Soil tests are valuable in determining levels of nutrient available to the vine at the beginning of the season. These results will also allow yield and quality parameters to be managed more effectively.

BioForge

We conducted a field trial last season using BioForge to assist vines over the stressful dry summer. The results achieved with a single application of the product have been quite positive. We recommend you have a look at the results via our website or speak with either Shaun or Adam.



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Broadacre Cropping

Frost

Some crops are pushing into head slightly earlier than normal. Frosts have been rather common over the last couple months. They are likely to continue into spring so we will need to be vigilant to ensure there aren't any unexpected surprises at harvest. Frost symptoms may not be obvious for 5-7 days but it would be prudent to check low lying light coloured soil types and typically frost prone areas subsequent to low overnight temperatures. We can assist in identifying affected crops if you have any doubts.

Septoria continues to tick away in the back ground in many wheat crops.

While Net Form of net blotch is an emerging problem in susceptible barley varieties such as Planet and to a lesser extent in Compass. We would normally expect to see fungal diseases become serious issues in wet seasons. Even though we are drier this season the regular small rain events have still provided enough moisture to spread these diseases through the canopy.

Green leaf area in the ripening plant will play a critical role in the grain fill growing phase in seasons such as we are currently experiencing. Paddock history, inoculant from a previous stubble, disease susceptibility and yield potential all play a part in your decision making with fungicides. Talk to one of our agronomists if you need further assistance with this decision!

Chickpeas

If you have chickpeas growing in this seasons rotation you need to continue with your fungicide program. Ascochyta is present in crops at levels high enough to cause real concern. Applications of registered products such as Barrack, Veritas, Aviator or Captan should be included in this program.

Whatever products are chosen to be included you will also need to be mindful of grazing withholding periods and export slaughter intervals for post-harvest grazing of stubbles.

Hay

There has been some new seasons hay cut on the Adelaide Plains and in the Mallee. Some crops in the Mallee are obviously going to struggle to fill grain and therefore having them utilised as a hay crop might return a higher margin. A new supply of hay will be good

news to livestock producers in drought affected regions still trying to source a diminishing supply of fodder!

A recent presentation from the fodder conservation industry has analysed hay fires subsequent to the extreme 2006 drought.

Higher numbers of hay fires occurred in 2007. It was also evident that oaten hay never matured as a result of the 2006 dry season and there were no heads in crops when they were cut. Hay yields were very low also due to the adverse weather conditions. Despite these circumstances hay kept well for several months.

Throughout 2007 regular hay fires took place across Vic, NSW and SA to a level higher than in previous years Typically hay fires happen within weeks of baling, not months. At the time, hay appeared stable with high nutritive value and moisture was at an acceptable 11-12% cured. High sugar content was also present with little lignin.

The question then is what was the cause of the unusually high incidence of hay fires? Everyone knows that it's moisture, or is it?

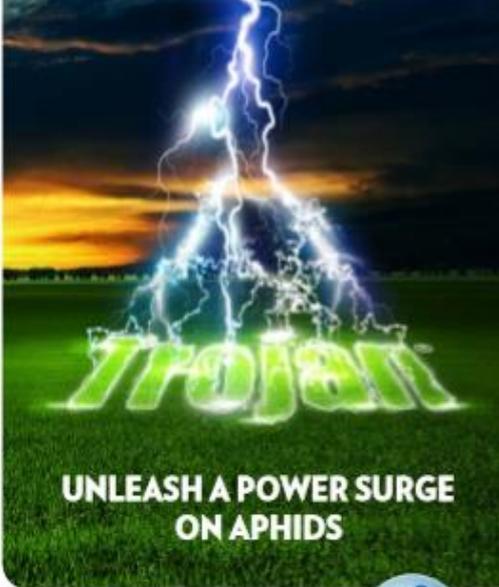
Normally the time between cutting and baling is somewhere in the range of 2 -3 weeks. In 2006 it took 6 weeks or more to cure the hay, but what were the bacterial counts in the hay that year? 4-6 weeks to cure hay = hundreds of millions yeast present. An immature crop means high sugar levels with perfect 12% moisture readings but yeasts are dormant. Rain events occurred in early 2007. With high humidity levels this moisture causes yeasts to wake up generating heat and moulds. It was concluded that the cause then was NOT the moisture but the microbes that cause combustion! Once hay is infected with these microbes, safety is compromised.

Common mistakes that add to fire risk include waiting too long to bale hay, infected hay is then the norm. Time is the enemy, not moisture.

Make Hay Infection enemy number one. Hay baled 7 days (Oaten) maximum after cutting. Macerate the hay if necessary. Ted hay and also flip if necessary creating soft breathable windrows. For domestic hay bale at 17-18% total moisture and for export hay at 15-17% cured plus dew.

Most importantly test hay for mould & yeast at baling & again at 30 days and consider using preservatives at baling.

For further information on this discussion please talk this through with one of our agro's.



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Livestock

Enzyme Feed Additive

We have been selling the Profelac milk replacer range for hand feeding orphan lambs, kids and calves. Within the instruction table on the bags there is mention of the BioStart RUMINANT product that can be used in conjunction with the milk supplement when feeding.

These notes have generated plenty of enquiry and discussion from users. We now stock this probiotic digestion enhancer. It is formulated to give stock a boost at important times such as weaning, pre-lambing and at feed changes.

Periods of dietary stress associated with weaning and changes in feed disrupt the natural balance of digestive microbes in the rumen and is a major cause of weight checks and poor performance. Its concentrated fermentation extract and digestive enzyme formulation is a rumen digestion aid for small ruminants and young cattle. BioStart RUMINANT aids rumen digestion efficiency during weaning and feed (grain, grass, forage) changes. It aids transition feed digestion efficiency as a balanced blend of feed digestive enzymes and fermentation extracts.

Call the store team to discuss all your livestock nutrition.

Vaccination

Don't forget to administer the booster Glanvac shot to later drop lambs. This shot ensures the lifelong protection of your stock is setup with the subsequent annual booster.

We stock the full Glanvac range as well as Eryvac for arthritis.

Call either of our stores for orders.

Grass Tetany

Grass tetany typically happens when older lambs and calves are putting production

pressure on their mothers. In normal seasons this usually happens at the end of autumn and into winter when feed reserves are low and the nutritive requirements of milking mothers aren't being met. Given our tighter feed situation this season we may see an increase in these symptoms as season long issue. Be vigilant in looking for the early signs of the condition.

Performance Feeds WeatherPro MagPlus is a highly weatherproof mineral supplement containing extra levels of magnesium for sheep and cattle grazing pastures. Supplementing with MagPlus can assist with preventing and treating symptoms associated with grass tetany and calming nervous livestock.

We stock a range of the Performance Feeds loose licks for grazing and confined livestock. Call Ashley, Emma or Randall for further information.

Fence Posts

Post supply continues to be tight and some sizes in higher demand, common products are currently experiencing long lead times. We endeavour to keep up supply as best we can with a continual order program. This system does get tested with an influx of client orders from time to time. Ideally we would like to hear from any clients who require posts for any projects over the next 6 months or so. This will allow us to more capably look after your orders specifically rather than on an ad-hoc basis.

Please discuss these orders with our store team sooner rather than later.

Water Supply

It may be prudent to review livestock water supply as some dams may not be viable in sustaining stock over the summer. We have good stocks of poly pipe, troughs and associated fittings ex our yard. We can also assist in calculating water pressure, flow and delivery head etc.



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All Account queries:

Phone 08 8562 3892
Fax 08 8565 7889

Di Fromm
di@farmerjohns.com.au

Bridget Hoffmann
bridget@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

Adam Pietsch 0408 571 419
adam@farmerjohns.com.au

Anthony Ellis 0438 488 606
anthony@farmerjohns.com.au

Craig Kowald 0418 524 793
craig@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

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

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