

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Mind WHP's.
2. Chemical trespass.
3. Bud mite sprays!
4. Worm test before drenching.

Email Statements

A large volume of our invoices and monthly statements are currently forwarded to clients by email.

This increase also corresponds to the increase in online banking transactions as a normal part of daily business activity.

Given continued increases in postage rates we would like to transact all of our invoicing and send monthly statements via this delivery method.

We seek your assistance in this process by advising your correct email address to our accounts staff.



Seasonal reminders

- Keep the vermin off new plantings – order vine guards and stakes before the job!
- Order fence and trellis posts well in advance to ensure supply – long lead times still in play.
- Treat yourself to a new pair of Rossi work boots.



The continuing change that has been part of the rural industry for many years goes on. Some of our older clients will remember the morphing of stock and station agents into the two big corporates

that currently offer their services in that segment of the market. Having just two significant stock agencies prompted the formation of a number of independent companies offering alternative marketing avenues. A couple weeks ago the ACCC approved the purchase of Ruralco here in Australia by Nutrien, the North American parent of Landmark.

Ruralco are more widely recognised in the Australian merchandise market via their network of CRT stores, previously operated as totally independent shareholder businesses and also the national Ruralco real estate and stock agent network including the CIAA stock agency business locally.

Simultaneously Elders have also proposed to takeover the AIRR merchandise business incorporating it into its national network too. This proposal is currently before the ACCC with an announcement date for its approval in mid-September.

It is interesting to sit back and observe these moves that effectively shift market share from independent businesses to corporate dominance. It is also interesting to contemplate the perceived benefits for those companies and the many associated franchises down the "order".

It is a crying shame that we continue to see the ownership of our well-known house brands fall into the hands of foreign corporates.

I expect that our clients would still prefer to have a number of service providers present in the market and not be dominated by international players with shareholder investors focussed on dividend and share value.

There are still two significant independent groups in the Australian rural merchandise market – AgLink and NRI.

Farmer Johns is a member of the national AgLink group. AgLink is a collective of 13 individual businesses that account for approximately 23% of the Australian agchem market.

We are proud to remain very much independent and relevant to our independent thinking clients! We are in this "growing" business together!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"Our greatest fear should not be of failure... but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter."

- Francis Chan

Broadacre Cropping

There is little doubt that most croppers across the country are hoping to see some **regular spring rainfall over the coming weeks**. We would certainly be on that train locally too!

We are on a par year on year with rainfall at the moment and crops generally look good across the central regions of South Australia.

Should the season turn early though, the same watchouts that we flagged last year should be top of mind over the ensuing weeks as well. Prior to any chemical applications a label check will reveal the **with-holding period** of the product being used. You will need to be aware of the with-holding periods (WHP) for all herbicides and insecticides. Products which are used late in the season, such as Amicide (with a 7 day WHP) and Paradigm (with a 2 week WHP) are a couple examples relevant to our district. Fungicides particularly can be a trap. Opus (Expoconazole) has a 6 week WHP. Tazer Xpert and Opera only have a 3 week WHP but have an export slaughter interval (ESI) of 3 days. This simply means that after observing the withholding period for grazing, or cutting for stock food, livestock that have been grazed on treated or fed treated crops should be placed on clean feed for 3 days prior to slaughter. In our region where many crops are grown and ultimately destined for the local and export hay markets it is most important to read labels and give consideration to the end use market for the fodder you produce.

- Clean herbicide residues from boom spray tanks, lines, filters and nozzles with All Clear prior to any fungicide applications. All Clear decontaminates all herbicide residues including SU's.
- Spray around the house with Ficam to keep the spring invasion of millipedes at bay. Does a great job on flies and spiders too!

- Please return all Chep pallets to either of our yards so that they can be de-hired to Chep.
- Rev up the garden with generous applications of Neutrog products – Rapid Raiser, Bounce Back and Sea Mungus.
- Check out our moisture monitoring options (rent or buy) for more efficient water use in your vineyard.

"with you in the *GROWING* business"

Roundup Ready Canola

Obviously, most of our broadacre clients will have followed the discussion on the changing regulation of Roundup Ready crops in South Australia. It is likely that you will have also formed some views on whether or not this technology is right for your enterprise or not, and what your actions might be when rotation decisions are made to include such varieties. It will be good to have the opportunity to include these crops as an option and compete with our interstate peers on a level playing field.

RR Canola will be available in South Australia next season. Science has advanced agriculture in South Australia since Roseworthy opened in 1883. Gene technology in crop development is just another tool to enable us to advance our efficiency and production. We recommend that you base your consideration with an open mind, not swayed by public emotion or biased media representation but rather on the science and agronomic benefits that are now available to your individual enterprise.

Our local **Research Development and Extension (RD&E)** trials demonstrate that prolonged pre-emergent herbicide activity is continuing to control weeds. An example here of two new products from BASF on our trial site (BAS851H and Luximax) in split applications under high ryegrass and wild radish pressure. The photos below were taken 11 weeks after application (IBS) and still shows good activity on wild radish.

Pasture

Some late herbicide applications have still been made on pastures, with barley grass running to head in earlier and drier regions. **Spray topping** these stands should be considered with current feed availability and ground cover.

Hay and Silage production will begin on early crops over the next few weeks.

We would appreciate the supply opportunity for your wrap and twine requirements, please give our store teams a call for all quotes.

RLEM treatments in spring reduce the overall populations in subsequent seasons significantly. Check out the TimeRite program and spray timing details in our last Landlink via our website.



Chemical Trespass and Surface Temperature Inversions

Since PIRSA/Biosecurity SA began compiling chemical trespass statistics in 2004, 17 percent of the complaints received by its Rural Chemicals group have been about spraying in vineyards. This is on par with the number of complaints about spraying in field crops.

Herbicide application in vineyards is not a major concern, although extreme care needs to be taken with paraquat use. The greater concern is agricultural chemical applications (fungicides, insecticides, etc) to the grape vines by various forms of air blast sprayers.

The main public concerns about chemical trespass from vineyard spraying are reported and perceived health effects and reported and perceived contamination, e.g. rainwater. Off-target contamination of produce by agricultural chemical residues is also a potential trade risk.

Under SA legislation, anyone using an agricultural chemical product must take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise:

- Actual or potential contamination of land, animals or plants outside the target area
- Actual or potential harm to human health or safety
- Other unintended actual or potential environmental harm.

Grape growers can significantly reduce the risk of chemical trespass by: • Spraying in suitable weather conditions • Using suitable equipment, and • Having that equipment properly set up and calibrated.

Spraying when a surface temperature inversion is present creates one of the biggest weather-related risks of chemical trespass. An inversion layer can “trap” airborne pesticide, preventing it from dispersing to non-damaging levels and the trapped pesticide can then move laterally with air currents with potentially damaging effects on sensitive situations.

Inversions frequently form in the late evening and strengthen overnight (being strongest near sunrise) before being eroded by mid-morning as the air near the ground heats up again. Indicators that a surface temperature inversion is likely to be present include: • Mist, fog, dew or a frost have occurred • Smoke or dust hangs in the air and moves sideways, just above the ground surface • Cumulus clouds that have built up during the day collapse towards evening • Wind speed is constantly less than 11km/hr in the evening and overnight • Cool off-slope breezes develop during the evening and overnight • Distant sounds become clearer and easier to hear • Aromas become more distinct during the evening than during the day

DO NOT spray when inversion conditions are present.

Some product labels, mainly herbicides, now contain warnings about inversions and a few specifically prohibit using the product if a surface temperature inversion is present at the application site.

Speak to our agro’s for further assistance or send an email to PIRSA.RuralChemicals@sa.gov.au

Viticulture/Horticulture

Woolly bud – Budburst is underway on early varieties here in the Barossa. This simply means that the window for treating bud mite is rapidly closing. If bud mite have caused damage in any vineyards in previous seasons, their activity will inevitably increase in subsequent years. They need to be treated when vines are at the woolly bud stage, so time is of the essence in those affected vineyards!

Contact our viti agro's should you require further info.

Some **fungicide programs** are still to be sorted and should be a priority over the next few weeks to assist in early control of fungal diseases and especially powdery mildew. We are all aware that powdery infections occur at the beginning of the season and then show up later in the season, generally around Christmas time with serious visible symptoms.

Nutrition post-budburst, both via fertigation and foliar applied will get the vineyard away to a good start. There are a heap of options available to take care of this job but we have refined our range to a number of key products that we have achieved great results with and know will deliver satisfactory results.

One of these products is **Mega Kel P**. It is formulated to provide vine energy prior to flowering and consists of a complex formulation of high phosphorus and trace elements, in combination with included biological and hormonal stimulants.

A key function of phosphorus in plants is for plant energy, together with the kelp and trace element package, root flushing and the production of sugars is enhanced.

After the cold winter Mega Kel P is the perfect input to get your vines back on track. It will trigger root growth, act as an anti-oxidant and improve plant energy for flowering and fruit set.

Potatoes

PREDICTA® Pt (Pt = potato) is a DNA-based soil testing service that helps potato growers identify which soil-borne pathogens pose a significant risk to their crops, so steps can be taken to minimise the risk of yield loss.

We are accredited to carry out these tests for clients and provide a fast and cost-effective way for growers to: **1)** determine the soil-borne disease risks **2)** help inform variety choices and **3)** guide management to minimise losses.

Results of PREDICTA® Pt tests determine the amount of pathogen DNA present in soil samples. Test results are reported under two categories:

Disease Risk categories: the risk of yield loss associated with a particular level of pathogen DNA has been determined and displayed using a graphic to indicate a 'low', 'medium' or 'high' disease risk.

Population Density: category for 'tests under evaluation' as the relationship between yield loss and pathogen level has not been determined. Population density categories enables new tests to be reported to growers faster, as developing disease risk categories can take several years. Results can be used to rank levels of inoculum in different paddocks, monitor changes in inoculum during different phases of the cropping sequence and confirm disease diagnosis. Results will be reported once a week in August and September; every two weeks in May, June, July and October; once a month for the rest of the year. Please call Mark Egarr on 0409 703 175 to discuss this in more detail.

“with you in the *GROWING* business”

Livestock

Worm Tests

We have taken a considerable amount of worm test's during the past the month with a high percentage of those test's returning above the 200-250epg (eggs per gram) safe/monitor level. Obviously, the drench options available to treat worms is extensive. We would highly recommend a worm test is undertaken prior to starting any drench program to ensure that the worms present in your flock are correctly targeted with a product that will eliminate them. In addition, there has also been a number of test's indicating worm levels below the 200-250epg with a few returning zero, with drenching not required at all. Ideally faecal samples should be collected and posted to the lab on either Monday or Tuesday mornings. The results will be returned to us by the end of the week allowing interpretation and drenching recommendations to be discussed.

Please contact the friendly staff at either Murray Bridge or Nuriootpa to arrange an on-property test.

Bloat

Keep an eye on livestock and be mindful of bloat as we head into spring. We are aware of some stock losses this season. Some supplementary feeding with hay or having lick available will alleviate this issue.

Royal Adelaide Show

Good luck & all the best to all of our customers exhibiting at the Royal Show. We look forward to hearing about your successes and braving the chilly nights!!!!

Heiniger

THE ALL NEW
ICON FX

SLIMMER. LIGHTER. BETTER.

ICON CYCLONE - THE HANDPIECE
USED BY THE WORLD'S TOP SHEARERS.

SHEARING COMBS & CUTTERS
SWISS QUALITY & PRECISION.

<p>DIESEL STORAGE</p> <p>400ltr NEW CUBE UTEPACK</p> <p>→ Bundled available</p>	<p>WATER STORAGE</p> <p>200 - 50,000ltr RAINWATER TANKS</p>	<p>TROUGHS</p> <p>250 - 600ltr SUPA TROUGHS</p>	<p>Polymaster</p> <p>SEPTIC TANKS</p> <p>3100 or 4550ltr</p>
---	---	---	--

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
Fax 08 8532 5284
www.farmerjohns.com.au

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

Craig Kowald 0418 524 793
craig@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

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

“with you in the *GROWING* business”