

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Accounts and Admin Staff

We have introduced many staff over time and so take the opportunity to put a face to the names in our "nerve centre".



Marlene Schubert manages and oversees the office and admin team as well as keeping Josh Frydenberg off our backs!



Ally Eustace takes care of our supplier accounts, ensuring they are all happy to keep pallets coming!



Karen Aldridge does the same with client's accounts and supplier deliveries to keep the MB admin ticking.



Dee Hunter does everything else because she is new and therefore doesn't get a choice!

Give them a call anytime for everything admin.



It has been great to get a bit of sun on the skin over the last week or so. However, we will continue to look forward to any spring rain events heading our way over the coming weeks!

Every time I turn our TV on in recent weeks I get another dose of Covid (not in the physical sense!) Afghanistan, China and "the Power"! No doubt many of you are also dealing with stressful challenges too or having difficulty thinking more positively about stuff.

A long time ago Marlene and I listened to an "adviser" who was trying to get everyone to think a bit more positively about life and destress a little. He suggested that all we needed to do was make our bed in the morning. Making your bed every morning improves your life!

If you are a busy person that doesn't take time to make your bed, chances are there are other things going on in your life that are also out of control! Here are five ways that making your bed every morning improves your life.

It gives you a feeling of accomplishment. This gives you an instant feeling of success and the feeling that you are on top of things. You feel

organised and ready to take on the day. Just a couple minutes of easy work sets the tone for the rest of your day.

It creates a positive state of mind as you go to bed. You've had a bad day and all you can think about is getting to bed and going to sleep. The bed isn't made and there are clothes everywhere. This makes you feel even worse! Do you recall how you felt when you last stayed at a hotel, when you enter a clean tidy room? You can create this same mood and setting at home every day!

By making your bed, you are starting to declutter your space. A decluttered space lowers your level of stress. Who doesn't want a bit of calm amongst the roaring "noise of the world"?

It prevents embarrassment. I bet when you get unexpected visitors you try to unobtrusively sneak around to tidy up a bit! If they happen to head past your out-of-control bedroom on the way to the loo, you will be particularly embarrassed. A clean, made-up bed will be the centre of their attention! It leads to other good habits. Once you get in the habit of making your bed, you'll look for a little more organisation because you like how it makes you feel. These better habits become addictive and will start to show up in other parts of your day!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"Arguing with a fool proves there are two."

– Doris M. Smith

Broadacre

Although we still seem to be overweight on windy days, we have scored some much better spraying weather over the last couple weeks. This has seen compacted spray applications occur across a large area of broadacre crops over the latter parts of August.

For most of our market area the wet July has set up a favourable yield outlook and so crops are looking pretty good given the late start. Long range forecasts suggest that a wetter than average spring is likely with a negative IOD being the main driver off the coast of WA.

Consequently, it's quite clear that fungicides are going to be a big focus over the early parts of spring as crop canopies continue to mature. Most clients will be aware that fungicide supplies are quite tight and so need to be proactive in ensuring that supplies of product are on farm.

Limited ideal spray days seen herbicides applied to crops outside of what would typically be considered as optimal timing. A number of early post emergent sprays were missed in cereal crops which has also seen a need to control sizable, advanced weeds. Talk to one of our agro's if this is an issue for you.

The new pre-emergent herbicide Callisto, has shown its value in long term broad leaf weed .. [cont page 2](#)

Seasonal reminders

- Have Hi Mag loose licks available during spring time to ease the incidence of grass tetany and bloat.
- Manage spring pastures through rotational grazing with Gallagher Electric fencing systems.
- Order all posts to ensure on time delivery for the spring trellis and fencing jobs!

- Give the garden a decent dose of Neutrog with Sudden Impact, Rapid Raiser, Who Flung Dung and Sea Mungus!
- Order tree and vine guards to keep vermin off the cuttings, tube stock and shelter belt plantings.
- 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 personally stamped Nally Mega Bins early to ensure on time delivery before vintage.
- Fencing supplies always in stock.
- Please return all Chep pallets.

"with you in the GROWING business"

from page 1 in these situations, providing up to 10 weeks residual activity. Annual Ryegrass populations continue to be a challenge in earlier sown crops where limited control occurred prior to sowing. **Overwatch has done an outstanding job on some serious ryegrass infestations** this year. It can be used as part of an overall farm plan to manage populations of ryegrass when other products have failed. Ideally you will have a conversation with one of the FJ broadacre agro's and determine a plan to include on these paddocks in 2022.

We would typically start to see some **Lucerne Flea** populations start to appear as the season progresses. They are evident in a number of crops across the region and have done some quite serious damage in some instances. Keep an eye out for them or get one of our agro's to check suspicious damage to confirm the pest culprits. Actives such as omethoate (Le-Mat) and dimethoate (Danadim) will fix these little critters nicely. We expect to also find Russian Wheat Aphid activity over the coming weeks as the weather continues to warm.

Fertiliser and Nitrogen

We have been talking for some time about supply and pricing challenges of many primary production inputs as global dynamics with food security and subsequently farm commodities are becoming much more geopolitical conversations.

Freight is a major issue in the supply chain as suppliers are struggling to find shipping options. Freight prices have moved from \$35 per tonne ex China to over \$65, while bulk cargo from the Arab gulf has gone from \$30 to \$100 per tonne. Obviously, these costs find their way down the line to the consumer. We are aware that all Australian fertiliser suppliers are bringing their phosphate shipping schedule forward due to the concerns around timely supply for the 2022 sowing season. High prices generate a level of caution across the supplier base, distributors and consumers. Industry forecasts indicate a requirement for extra fertiliser for what is predicted to be a bigger Australian market again if the weather is kind. We believe it might be prudent to have a conversation about the pros and cons of fertiliser purchases now as these global conditions continue to put further pressure.

Broadacre Seed

We receive notifications, trial results and data sheets on a regular basis espousing the benefits of new seed varieties for broadacre crops, both in cereals and pulses. The best way to determine the suitability to our region and to your enterprise particularly is to "have a look" at them in the growing season prior to sowing them yourself.

Real improvements in production look like being available for the 2022/23 season, worthy of your consideration. Names including Calibre wheat (RAC2721), Cyclops barley (AGTB0200) and Minotaur barley (AGTB0213) should be worth an inspection if you are attending any trial sites or field days. The Farmer Johns team will be arranging opportunities for clients to attend various industry sites to view relevant trials and demo's over the coming weeks too. It might be appropriate to flag your interest in tagging along if you are looking for some new variety options. Please mention this next time you are speaking with them.

Pasture

Maximising production from pastures should be the goal in all grazing enterprises all year round. However, as spring conditions are the most conducive for pasture growth some effort should at least be made to capture the immediate opportunity to improve silage and hay yields and also through grazing management as prime lambs and weaners are turned off. Talk to the FJ agro's about options that you could use to improve your pastures production over spring and also how to set up irrigated pastures for the warmer months ahead. Good soil moisture levels and forecast above average rainfalls in coming months might be the catalyst to "have a go" at utilising a summer forage option for grazing further into the warmer months.

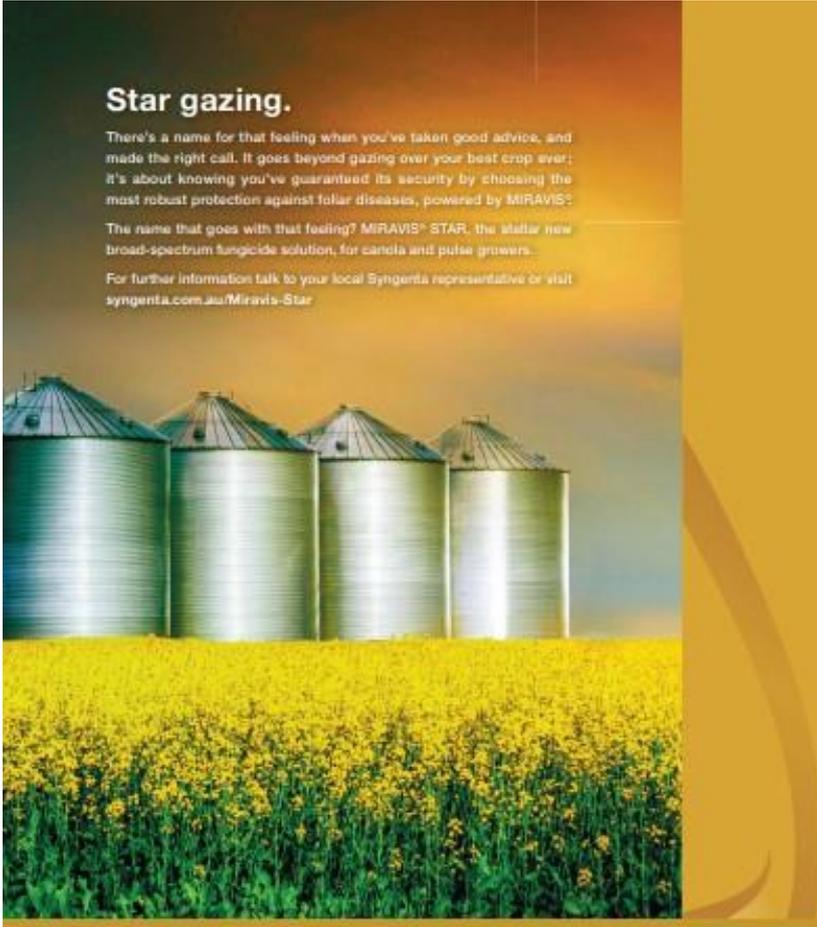
While environmental conditions allow species such as sorghum, millet and

Again, talk to our staff about which might be best suited to your situation.

Nitrogen in pastures will obviously provide a good return on the cost incurred with current high stock prices in mind. The key is to ensure that any surplus pasture produced is actually utilised. Nitrogen based fertilisers are most effective when applied during the "growing phase" of the pasture and also whilst there is good moisture present in the soil profile. You will no doubt all be aware that urea as the key nitrification source in our cropping and pasture systems is a little scarce at the moment. Other nutrient options that will do the job over the spring flush in pastures include the IPF Boosta range as well as a number of similar blends we have available from other fertiliser suppliers.

Call any of the FJ's pasture focused agro's to sort this relevant to your location.

Pests will continue their voracious, destructive habits over the spring period as well. Red Legged Earth Mite should be treated in spring to reduce their autumn hatching in next year's pastures. Check the ideal TimeRite spray date for your location for the greatest impact but observe WHP's.



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Viticulture & Orchard

Stone Fruit Trees will require attention over the coming weeks. The key to a successful harvest requires a little time spent planning now. Review the fungicide program, plan for nutrition supplements and ensure any insect pests are considered as part of the seasons management strategy. There are several new fungicides and insecticides released in recent months that might be worth including in the spray program. Please give any of the FJ team a call to explore these further and to sort orders and product deliveries.

Phomopsis is a fungal disease that targets the leaves and canes of grapevines. It is a disease that overwinters as spore bodies infect woody parts of the vines. Spores can spread through rainfall events by splash dispersal to new, young vine shoots. Signs of infection are first apparent on the canes and are usually a result of latent spores from the previous seasons infection. Infected canes have bleaching occurring with black spotting and visible cracking occurring at these sites causing weak areas. During the growing season, leaves begin to show black spots with a yellow halo. If you have noticed any of these symptoms in your vineyard and think that you may have Phomopsis, speak to our agros for fungicide options.

Scale insects begin to mature quickly as the weather begins to warm at this time of year. They also produce numerous eggs during the growing season. Scale eggs hatch during the summer months and then quickly disperse and to consume sap from vine canes. Scale insects produce “honeydew” to protect their source of food. It also attracts ants. The ants and Scale form a symbiotic relationship. Ants protect the Scale from other natural predators while Scale provide honeydew to feed the ants. Seeing large numbers of ants in the canopy is an indicator of Scale being present in the vineyard.

It is important to control Scale numbers to ensure sooty mould doesn't develop on the vines leaves and bunches from the honeydew present. Oil sprays can be used effectively to suffocate scale. Repeat applications may need to take place in the future to maintain control of Scale populations.

Soil biology and the symbiotic relationship that they share with plant roots.

Plant roots are important components in any soil profile. Not only do they improve soil structure and stability, they also provide resources to microorganisms as part of the rhizosphere. The rhizosphere is the area of soil that is directly influenced by root activities and are home to a number of microorganisms. Microorganisms can form a symbiotic relationship with the plant as they receive resources from the root system while microorganisms allow for a greater access of nutrients for the plant. Improving soil biological diversity decreases the instance of pathogenic organisms and therefore, ultimately increasing overall plant health.

Omnia manufacture a range of products useful in improving soil health.

Rhizovator is a product that promotes biological diversity of beneficial organisms in the soil and improves the availability of nutrients to the plant.

Rhizovator PC has help added to the formulation. This product is useful in promoting extra root stimulation while also improving nutrient availability, yield and fruit quality.

Bacstim contains beneficial *Bacillus* species that form a symbiotic relationship with the plant. Once introduced to the soil, the *Bacillus* improves nutrient mineralization and uptake, encourages root growth through the production of phytohormones, increases leaf chlorophyll levels and increases crop biomass and yield. Omnia has two products in this range designed for viticultural use, **Bacstim D** and **Bacstim 100**. The Bacstim D can be used to improve crop resilience to biotic stresses. The hardy *Bacillus* strain (*Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*) has the ability to form spores during tough environmental conditions while being able to reproduce again once conditions are more favourable. The Bacstim 100 is a product containing a number of *Bacillus* strains to maximise yield and quality.

The incorporation of both Rhizovator and Bacstim allow for the proper introduction of beneficial *Bacillus* strains while providing the support that they require to colonise efficiently and continue to enhance soil health and ultimately production.

Spray Recommendations

As the first vine leaves begin to appear, some thought must be given to starting the seasons spray program. A wetter than average spring is predicted for the 2021 season. A robust spray program is important to reduce the risk of fungal diseases especially in a more disease conducive environment. Our agros are very well qualified to help develop a recommended spray program tailored for your vineyard, considering appropriate rotations, spray intervals and including new chemistry. Compatible nutrient products can be included to also meet your targeted quality and yield goals.

We have been highlighting the difficult supply issues that our industry is facing globally, with viticulture focused products also included in this situation. Please speak with our staff to ensure your product requirements are locked away and early deliveries are triggered. It will be far better to have your base spray materials in your shed on farm rather than waiting for future deliveries over the course of the season.

The major change in chemical sprays for export wine (as recording in the AWRI Dogbook) is the change in withholding period of Mancozeb and mancozeb based products. Mancozeb is now restricted to use no later than 80% flowering and a maximum of three spray applications per season and only two consecutive sprays allowed. This has reduced the spray options that can be used for Downy Mildew control later in the season should that need arise.

Spring Mulch Applications will ensure that the valuable soil moisture accumulated by the good winter rainfall we have received is conserved for the growing season. Well manufactured and composted mulches will reduce moisture loss through evaporation and also suppress weed germinations. If you still require mulch for your vineyard or would also like to experience the benefits that mulch will deliver, get in contact with our agros or call either store as soon as possible to ensure supply and delivery time lines.

Livestock and General

Flies have been active over the last few weeks, especially during the recent last warm days of August. This is a timely reminder of the potential issues that sheep graziers might face during a wetter than average spring period. **Clik Extra** offers up to 29 weeks protection against blowfly strike. 29 weeks protection will see the fly problem negated over the entire spring and summer period, in fact, right up until the last weeks of March next year!

Recent sheep sales have reached record levels for both ewes and lambs.

These sale prices must motivate all producers

to ensure stock are protected against fly attack.

Call either our Nuriootpa or Murray Bridge stores to order Clik Extra or speak with Simon or Randall for further details on rates etc.

Zolvix has been reviewed by the APVMA. As a consequence of this review, they have approved the reduction in the Export Slaughter Interval from 84 days for Zolvix™ Plus to 21 days and 14 days for Zolvix (effective immediately).

This reduction results in a wider suitability of Zolvix for use on internal sheep parasites in more local flocks.

Again, talk to us about the benefits that Zolvix might deliver to your sheep flock.

Shearing is well underway and so the decision on what **Off Shears Back Liner** should be used will be the topic of conversation over coming weeks. The question needs to be asked, "Has the same product been used for a consecutive two-year period?" if so, it is now time to change! There would be nothing worse than having to muster and re-apply a lice product to control parasites because resistance has occurred.

Take the opportunity to review the program well prior to shearing and "put back" into the livestock stock that are providing the ideal returns we have already mentioned.

Twine, Bale Net and Silage Wrap

Finally, some noticeable growth has started to take place in paddocks destined for silage or hay production with cutting likely to kick off later in September. Give either of our stores a call for all twine and wrap pricing and to arrange on farm deliveries of orders.

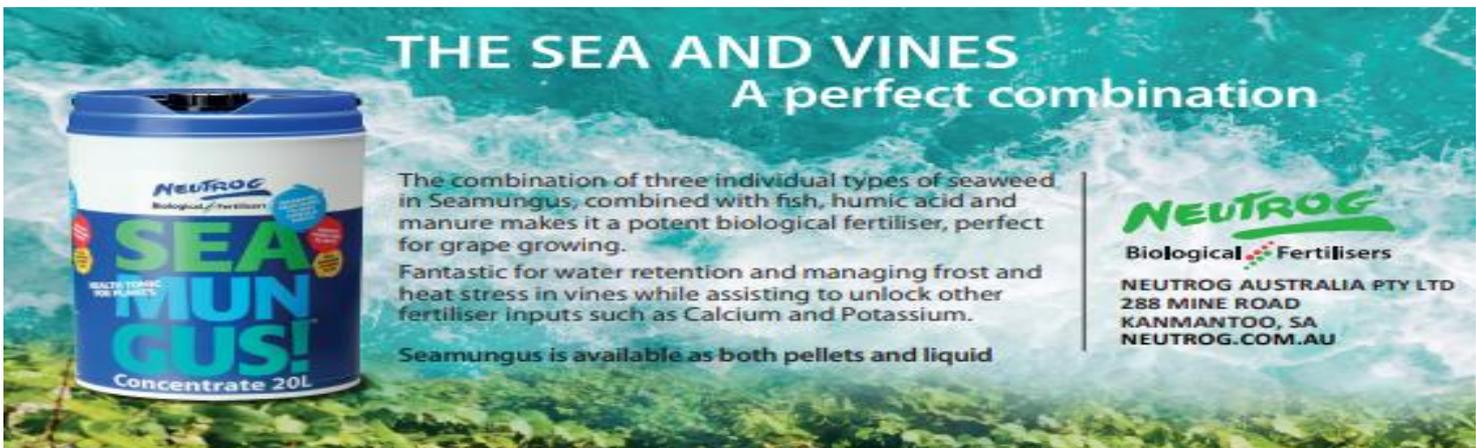


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