

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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2. Keep up with fruit crop nutrition.
3. Stay on top of summer weeds.
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5. Be bushfire ready.



Harvest is underway with some quite surprising results given the very low rainfall figures. Modern crop varieties together with our advanced farming technologies have proven to be invaluable!

We have started our planning for the 2025 year. Some product orders need to be placed 12 months in advance of our expected offtake. Our planning is very focussed on monthly product forecasts and the supplier's capability of meeting these schedules. Given the unpredictable political circumstances across the globe at the moment, there is a level of uncertainty across most manufacturing segments. Energy supply and pricing will play a significant role in agchem and fertiliser production. Both Russia and the Middle East are key sources of energy. China holds the trump hand in the manufacture of raw ingredients for agchem manufacture. All manufacturers have taken a conservative approach in stock levels as their production margins are pressured by a current oversupply of product.

All this said, our intel indicates a relatively flat market heading into 2025. Most products are likely to remain priced around current levels. Both the Incitec Pivot and Wengfu fertiliser businesses are on the market. These companies hold a significant share of the local Australian fertiliser business. They have also taken some serious losses over the last couple seasons as global fertiliser prices have adjusted downwards. These are just a small sample of the challenges and considerations we take into account when we lock our orders away for the 2025 season. Above all, we plan to ensure a reliable and uninterrupted range of products are in place for your programs!

Most of our clients will be aware that Shaun Falkenberg finished his time with Farmer Johns during October. We thank Shaun for the service he provided to both our business at Nuriootpa and for the support he gave to many clients over the 16 years he was with FJs. I am sure you will join us in wishing Shaun well for the future!

Greg Schubert



Order Polymaster rainwater tanks now to ensure delivery prior to Christmas!

Quote of the Month

“Most people think too small, aim too low and quit too soon”

- Richard H Headlee

Viticulture

Despite the frost early in the season across all viticulture regions, vines have thrived since the thunderstorms and heavy rain during October. Vineyards that were **frosted are about 2-3 weeks** behind those that weren't affected by the freezing temperatures. Coupled with the conducive growing conditions over the last few weeks, growers that assumed an aggressive nutrition program subsequent to those frost events are seeing new growth and bunch formation offering some level of return this season. The current strong secondary growth looks likely to provide a sound base for next seasons grape crop as well barring any further weather events that may retard canopy development over the remaining months of the growing season.

One down side from the frost events that is quite visible in many vineyards are the large **sucker populations that have pushed from the base of vines** as a result of the frost stress. In some situations, this presents as an opportunity to replace any vines suffering from other trunk related issues such as Eutypa. Alternatively, suckers can be desiccated with an application of Spotlight herbicide, rather than the more expensive (and time consuming) option of physically breaking the large volume of shoots off.

Most vineyards have either finished flowering or are well into flowering. There is still **time to slot in late petiole samples** to monitor the vines nutrition status. These nutrient check-ins will back up previous tissue and soil test results, giving a very accurate account of the vineyards ...cont page 2

Darcee Hobarth-Hage joined the Nuri team in November.

Darcee has a genuine interest and hands



on experience in beef, sheep and broadacre farming. Darcee lives in Freeling. Please make yourself known to her next time you are in our Nuriootpa store.

Seasonal reminders

- Knock out rabbits with a dose of Bunny Bait. Natural feed reserves are less palatable now making bait an attractive feeding option.
- Castrol Oils on hand for all the harvest service jobs. Call us for quotes orders and deliveries.
- Use Trough Blocks over summer to kill algae in tanks and troughs.

- Keep your lawn in top shape over spring with a dose of Neutrog Sudden Impact for lawns.
- Return all Chep pallets, 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro's ASAP. We are looking for any empty non returnable fert and glyph shuttles.
- Vaccinate lambs against Pulpy Kidney prior to their introduction to new stubbles and grain toxicity.

- A Bird Control Laser will keep starlings at bay over the fruit season. New model available for warehouse use against pigeons. Call FJs for more info!
- Poly pipe from Vinidex and Philmac fittings always in stock. Make sure the farm water supply system is up to scratch before the really hot weather kicks in!

“with you in the **GROWING** business”

...cont from 1/ ability to carry and ripen the fruit crop.

Vines have grown through a number of growth stages quite rapidly. It is very important to check growth stages prior to any fungicide applications and adhere to applicable maximum residue limits (MRL) and withholding periods (WHP). Simple adverse weather conditions holding up spray applications for just a couple days may be the difference in some situations. Some growers might also intentionally push spray applications out a little to relieve cost pressures especially in situations where fruit sales aren't guaranteed. Always check the product label as well your wineries requirements and of course the industry Dog Book.

Our viti agro's can also assist in accurate advice for your specific circumstances.

There is evidence of LBAM and Vine Moth activity in a number of regions across our market areas. Insecticide applications should be carefully considered prior to application taking into account low crop loads as a result of early season frost impact. Maximising any application with an accurate insect threshold assessment will provide the best result both from a cost and control view. There are a number of chemical options available for these pests depending on the growth stage.

Similarly, **increasing levels of Grapevine Scale** are present in most regions and should be treated appropriately with either Trivior or Movento. Trivior is also registered for LBAM control so might be preferred where both pests are present.

Our viti agro's are always available to assist with these matters or for any other issue you might discover in your patch.



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Citrus & Orchards

Flowering in most orchards has completed with fruitlets varying in size from 6 - 20 mm. The storms that occurred during the last few weeks prompted a bump in fruit sizes too!

Routine spray programs are in place. Ideally the spray unit should be recalibrated prior to applying any product to ensure correct chemical rates and effective coverage results from the application. Coverage can be simply checked with either water sensitive paper or a few kilo's of Surround can be added to the tank and sprayed onto a sample of trees. Resulting Surround kaolin clay deposits will be very evident, so provide an accurate indication of the coverage achieved with the spray rig. Adjustments can then be made to overcome any coverage deficiencies.

Fertigation and foliar supply of nutrients have ensured orchards maintain vigour and even fruit development. **Stop-Drop** can be added into foliar applications in the next couple weeks. Please contact our Ramco team to sort any additional citrus nutrition and to order GA products in advance.

Gall Wasp activity has been seen in a number of locations during our routine orchard monitoring. Picador or Samurai systemic insecticides will sort Gall Wasp and halt their breeding cycle. Early citrus varieties should be treated promptly, while it would be prudent to wait for later varieties toward the end of November to ensure timing is in line with the pest activity and growth stage. Aim at newly laid eggs into fresh tissue, in turn picking up next year's emergence. Picador will also prevent aphids, Leaf Miner and Red Scale. Care should also be taken to ensure the 20-week WHP on Picador is adhered to.

Catch up with our Ramco team to discuss your pest management options specific to your situation or to arrange an orchard visit. This might be more important if Gall Wasp and other insect problems have been an ongoing problem in your block.

Weeds are very active prompted by the recent storms that have passed through the region. Growing conditions that are ideal for the crops we tend are always more conducive to weed growth too! Caltrop develops very rapidly once it has germinated and spreads rapidly to become a bigger problem. Orchardists who used Alion early in the season have certainly seen the benefit now compared to growers who have had to go back with repeat applications of knockdown herbicides. Again, call one of our team for help with your weed management plan.



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Broadacre

Harvest is well under way in most regions. Most pulse crops are being crop topped to assist in reducing weed seed set on escapes of Ryegrass, Milk Thistle and Wild Radish. Any late season chemical applications should also take into account applicable WHP's and within Export Slaughter Intervals (ESI) for the product being applied if the residual stubble is intended to be grazed subsequent to harvest.

Sharpen is a robust product but carries a 14-day grazing withholding period as well as the following ESI statement "Livestock that has grazed on or been fed treated forage, fodder, stubble or fallow should be placed on clean feed for 30 days prior to export slaughter."

Sledge is an alternative herbicide option with no ESI and only a 7-day grazing withholding period for pulses. However, Sledge does not offer quite the burndown package on Wild Radish and Milk Thistle to that of Sharpen.

Please check in with our agro's for the most appropriate product for your situation.

Canola windrowing and desiccating is all but completed. A reminder to growers that paraquat is not registered as a desiccant for canola. The two most robust options are; Diquat (Reglone), which should be the priority in Roundup Ready Canola and can be applied from 70% colour change. Alternatively, registered glyphosate products such as Nufarm's Crucial or DST can be applied from 20% colour change.

Check in with our agro's for any additional details if you require further information.

Regrowth on hay paddocks as result of the mid-October rainfall is very evident across all our territory. Hay producers have had to get their skates on to prevent ryegrass germinations running up in the ideal growing conditions. Ryegrass is obviously Enemy Number 1 in broadacre cropping systems. A double knock spray program might be the best way to deal with these extensive germinations as a zero seed set target is in place.

Seed supply for the 2025 cropping season is a fair focus for us at the moment. The rapidly concluding dry finish to the season here in SA hasn't provided too many advantages to those seeking volumes of seed! Growers are therefore encouraged to give some serious thought to what your program might include next year. More importantly though, please communicate your seed requirements to us as soon as you are able so that we in turn can have the best chance of sourcing seed well in advance. We have already been active and so despite the season we have just experienced, we need to reassure all customers that our seed supplies are looking quite positive at this early stage.

Seed dressings applied over the grain cleaning season can have a significant impact on the performance of the crop. This has been evident in past seasons but even more so in the drier year we have just experienced across all districts. Strong, early vigour leading to rapid establishment has seen crops treated with products such as Rancona Dimension or Systiva outperform those treated with basic old chemistries.

Please ensure you have a chat to our agro's before you have your seed dressing completed.

Most of you will be aware that **Paraquat and Reglone** are under review via the AVPMA. Submissions were required to be forwarded by the end of October. Originally it was planned to have this process completed early in the New Year. However, as a large number of submissions have been received by the AVPMA it is likely that the period of review will be pushed well into 2025. It appears that both these actives will be available for the most part of 2025 with a revised use label in place for 2026. We should take the approach that the proposed label that was publicised some time ago will probably replace the former label when this happens.

Most producers who have used these products as part of their weed management systems in the past will probably need to plan a program that either excludes paraquat or has minimal rates included going forward. Additives such as Sledge and Terrador will become key in tank mixes into the future.

Pasture

Irrigated pastures have been sown with Sorghum, Millet, Maize and Lucerne being most popular. There are some areas of IMI Sorghum and mixed species blends where conditions are suitable. As in all areas recent rains prompted germinations of caltrop, melons and thistles. These should be cleaned up to eliminate their contamination of the resulting fodder. Call our agro's for assistance.

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Fly strike has been evident in a number of situations across the region subsequent to the Mid-October thunderstorms. Obviously, sheep should be treated sooner rather than later to avoid fly strike issues, but any treatment over the coming weeks will still provide robust control over the months ahead. Backline treatments offer the best long-term solution in reducing flystrike and are relatively easy to apply. If you haven't completed a summer fly control program yet, please give any of the FJs staff a call to determine the most appropriate product for your flock.

While the sheep are in the yard it might also be prudent to have a quick check in worm populations. FEC testing will provide a well-informed snapshot of worm burdens in the sheep enabling a summer treatment when paddock stocks of eggs are likely to be lower.

Call any of the FJ team for assistance with this as well.

FICAM is established as a popular product for the control of millipedes and other nuisance insects around domestic buildings. Millipedes will seek refuge from the heat, congregating in damp dark locations around the house and garden. This makes them an easier target as they congregate in easily identified locations.

Ficam is registered for use in and around dairies, kitchens, animal housing, commercial and industrial buildings. It provides residual control of spiders, earwigs, flies, European wasps, cockroaches and many other insect pests.

Ficam provides good residual effect on hard surfaces such as concrete, paved paths and walls for up to 6-8 weeks.

The summer fire season has begun a little earlier this year with some relatively serious incidents already taking place. These events should be a reminder that even in a dry season the threat of bushfires is still very real. Some action should be undertaken to reduce any residual fire danger load around sheds and dwellings but care will need to be taken as stands have already dried.

Check out the capability of all on farm fire systems, upgrading worn or broken accessories to ensure all plant is reliable and ready for use.

We have a range of fire pumps available to add to your fire protection plant or for replacement should that be necessary. We also have a number of fire unit options suitable for either ute or truck mounting including the Polymaster range that are fitted with reliable Honda powered pumps.

We have a full range of hoses, fittings and nozzles in stock. Give us a call to assist with your fire season review.

Although stocks of dry feed across most properties is negligible, **supplements should be provided to manage livestock nutrition** leading up to the breeding season. Nutrition programs generally take priority in conversations when discussing ewe management up to joining. However, above all else it is **very important to have plenty of quality water available** over the summer. Secondary to water is maintaining the correct balance of supplements to increase feed and dry matter utilisation. When animals drink less, they will eat less and lose condition which is vital over summer when joining ewes. We stock and sell a full range of water supply products as well as Performance Feeds and TRAC nutrition supplements.



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