

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Review horti spray programs.
2. Stay ahead of weeds in spring.
3. Monitor all crops for insects.
4. Plan the drenching strategy.
5. Manage livestock nutrition.

On July 30, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) published its proposed decisions on the reconsideration of paraquat and diquat. The proposed removal of higher rates of use are concerning and further compound the flexibility and practical options available to Australian farmers. Non-agricultural situations, including around sheds, roadways, paths and firebreaks are also to be removed along with registrations in orchards, vineyards and pasture, including spray topping for prevention of annual ryegrass toxicity.

We encourage all clients to log in via the AVPMA web site and complete the Public Consultation Document – [Paraquat Public Consultation Document](#) before the 28th of October 2024

We are pleased to introduce Adam Conradi as our Blyth Store Manager

Adam will be known to most of our Blyth clients, having grown up



in the Blyth community and through involvement in local sports clubs. Adam looks forward to partnering with you.



horticulture crops.

A large number of cereal crops are being grazed or cut for hay to at least salvage some fodder value. Frost damage in horticulture is also far more visual than the largely invisible effect when frosts occur in broadacre crops.

The consequence of these current circumstances and the serious financial impact that seasons such as this thrust upon individuals also has an insidious side-effect – personal well being and mental health. October is Mental Health Month. Mental Health Month is a national event that takes place every October and aims to improve community awareness and interest in mental health and wellbeing. The 2024 theme is “Its time to talk about mental health”.

Focus over the month aims to raise awareness

about mental health, reduce stigma and encourage people to prioritise their mental wellbeing as much as their physical health. There is no doubt that as a result of the very difficult season we are dealing with at the moment, individuals who hadn't previously been challenged in this area may need some support in the months ahead.

Being open and discussing this year's theme “it's time to talk about mental health” can help create a better understanding and supportive community around those struggling with mental health issues and the environment they are dealing with. Seeking help for mental health issues is a sign of strength.

We are all connected within our communities and if one person is struggling with mental health, we are all struggling.

We need to take personal care of ourselves to stay well, in order to keep meeting our own needs and the needs of those around us.

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.

- Alvin Toffler

Viticulture

Frost and what action to take after damage has occurred has been the hot topic across all viticulture regions in recent weeks. A number of industry communications have been circulated to growers subsequent to the frost events that caused serious damage in most viticulture regions during September. In summary, given current low soil moisture levels irrigation should be the first step to help vines reduce stress. Ideally nutrients applied post severe frost events should promote strong, fibrous growth rather than rapid soft sappy growth. Consider applying products such as BioForge, Folzyme and kelp-based products with the addition of zinc. Zinc plays a vital role in the shoot elongation phase and for the development of leaves, pollen and berries. Calcium is also an important nutrient used by plants in cell wall, membrane structure and integrity which ultimately reduces the susceptibility of plants to pathogenic organisms.

Calcium applications should also be included if water sources have high salinity levels.

Some canopy management may also be necessary after severe frosts to provide a higher level of activity from basal shoots.

Please contact any of the FJs agro's to discuss all nutrition and canopy options in more detail and with consideration to the level of damage in your vineyard.

Petiole sampling should be conducted in the next few weeks, either pre-flowering or during flowering. Petioles results will provide a very accurate assessment of the current nutritional status ...cont page 2

Seasonal reminders

- Knock out the spring invasion of earwigs, millipedes, spiders, flies and other nuisance pests around the house with Ficam or Coopex long residual surface treatments.
- Vignerons are taking the opportunity to top work vineyards. Trellis posts, wire and accessories all in stock.

- We are looking at a long dry summer (?) ensure on farm water supplies are ready for the workload. Tanks, troughs, poly pipe and fittings always in stock.
- Keep your lawn in top shape over spring. Lawn beetles are active - ask our store staff for lawn and turf care products including the Neutrog range of fertilisers all in stock.

- Return all Chep pallets, 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro's ASAP. We are looking for any empty non returnable fert and glyph shuttles.
- Vaccinate all sheep and lambs into feedlots and confinement feeding to guard against clostridial diseases. Full range of Glanvac and Eryvac vaccines in stock.
- Use Rapigel for tennis elbow!

...cont from 1/ of the plant but more importantly, detect any deficiencies that may exist. Understanding your vines nutrient requirements more fully allows much more informed decisions to be made when formulating an overall nutrient plan and will ensure resources are channeled into the correct products. Although sampling is a relatively simple task our agro's can assist if you require assistance or are pressed for time. Blocks that have underperformed in past seasons should be targeted as priorities this season.

Fungal diseases will still be active even in the dry conditions we are experiencing at the moment. Early protective sprays are key to powdery management later in the season.

Care should be taken to ensure that fungicide applications are made during optimum spraying conditions. Keep an eye on the Barossa weather network which will provide this information Particular attention should be paid to historically susceptible areas in the vineyard or where problems were detected late in the season last year after the Jan/Feb rain event.

Again, catch up with any of our agro's to review your fungicide program and ensure some new chemistry to the market is included to rotate chemical groups. The AWRI Dogbook is a useful tool to look into WHP's, resistant management etc.

On Farm Connectivity Round 2 Grant funding will be open soon. Keep an eye out as 3G is being turned off on 28th October and steps need to be taken to upgrade any communication network still using this soon to be out dated network – weather stations, moisture monitoring, pump switching, tank level indicators etc etc. Check the following link:-

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-communications-arts/better-connectivity-plan-regional-and-rural-australia/farm-connectivity-program/farm-connectivity-program-round-2-information-suppliers>

Citrus & Orchards

Citrus growers have been enjoying a solid harvest season to date with some Midnights still to be cleaned up. The longer term outlook is also looking reasonably positive. Flowering has almost come to an end with petal fall taking place at the moment.

Growers attention has turned to **foliar nutrition applications** to ensure trees hold fruitlets and provide a sound platform for fruit set. These early applications should be followed up with timely supplements over the weeks ahead to continue steady fruit development. There are some relatively tight supply and shipping timelines on nutrient products, we ask that you please work closely with our team for all orders and farm deliveries especially as it appears that trees are 1-2 weeks ahead of "average".

Insect pest activity such as early juvenile Katydid populations have been spotted in our routine orchard inspections as well as some LBAM activity. Our agro's will continue to monitor these pests and advise growers if any action needs to be taken. Leaf miner and snails have been less active but leaf damage on the new flush is evident. Insecticides should be applied if threshold pest levels are present.

Insect and disease management remain front of mind for stone fruit orchards during October and November. Robust **fungicide programs should be in play** to manage Brown Rot, Freckle and Shot Hole in developing fruit. Earwigs are also a major issue in many orchards, especially in apricot blocks. Earwigs should be treated with an appropriate product to negate any early damage and to reduce populations before they build over the warmer months ahead.

Please give any of the FJs agro's a call for orchard nutritional advice or to arrange inspections for pests and disease in fruit blocks.

GET A FREE LED LENSER™ TORCH*

Be in the first 50 individual farming businesses to claim your free LED Lenser™ torch before entries close on 10th January, 2025

*Terms and conditions apply

ELIMINATE UNWANTED SUCKERS WITH SPOTLIGHT® PLUS HERBICIDE

Avoid the horrors of manual desuckering and eliminate unwanted suckers in a flash with fast, effective Spotlight® Plus Herbicide. Its precise action zeroes in to rapidly deal with suckers in grapevines, olives, fruit and nut trees, and rubus crops. What's more, Spotlight® Plus has been purpose-built to also minimise drift onto desirable fruit and foliage. So forgo the time and expense of manual snipping and ripping, simply target your spray to blow those suckers away with Spotlight® Plus Herbicide.

For more information on Spotlight® Plus Herbicide visit ag.fmc.com/au

Spotlight® Plus Herbicide | **FMC**

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS. FMC, the FMC logo and Spotlight are trademarks of FMC Corporation and/or an affiliate. © 2024 FMC Corporation All Rights Reserved.

Vinidex
by allaxis

StormPRO®

- ✓ Lightweight & durable
- ✓ Flexible ✓ SN8
- ✓ Used for stormwater & drainage

Find out more

Rural Plus®

- ✓ High quality
- ✓ Easy to install
- ✓ Used for rural, horticulture, landscaping

Find out more

AUSTRALIAN MADE & 100% RECYCLABLE

“with you in the GROWING business”

Broadacre

Stripe Rust infections are still evident in a small number of paddocks. These late season infections are consistent to what we would expect to see where adequate soil moisture is still present. We have also had a small number of reports from early areas with Stripe Rust infecting the head of maturing plants if conditions are favourable.

Native budworm (Heliothis) need to be monitored in all pulse crops. Heliothis can cause significant losses if they are left untreated allowing entry into the developing grain pods.

Canola crops will also need to be monitored for both Native budworm and Diamond Back moth. Our agronomy team are able to assist with crop monitoring to advise if any remedial action needs to be taken.

Frost events over recent weeks have had a significant impact on some broadacre crops. Frost damage can be difficult to identify in cereals so can catch croppers out at harvest time when just a dusting of chook feed is augered into the bin! Multiple paddock inspections may be required to actually determine if any damage has occurred and to accurately assess the extent and potential yield loss. Please give our agro's a call on this one.

Grain Storage facilities need to be decontaminated and cleaned prior to harvest. Any residual grain remaining from last harvest should be dealt with to enable new seasons grain be stored in clean environment this harvest. Have a chat to any of the FJs team for assistance with product selection best suited to your grain storage facilities.

Planning for the 2025 season could be challenging over the coming months. Seed quality and availability on the back of a tough season will likely see more off farm seed sourced in our region. We are fielding regular enquiries for seed now.

Please contact us as a priority to sort all seed supplies with particular consideration to handling chemical residues that will remain in the field at the conclusion of the season.

Pasture

Spring silage and hay production is on the go across most of the area. Although yields are well back on average demand for hay is strong. Unfortunately, frost affected cereal crops might make up a larger volume of the hay supply this year than would have been anticipated

There is a reasonable level of **interest in summer forage options and seed supply** given the obvious lack of feed across the region. Irrigated pivots or an opportunistic rainfall event might provide a sowing window as ground temperatures are likely to rise past 16°C later in October. Supplies of Greenland Forage Brassica, Shirohie Millet, and Flourish sorghum are available ex our store stocks. These species are suited to the local area and will perform well if suitable conditions present in the weeks ahead. Our FJs agro's have collated a summary of the various forage options that could be considered at this time of year, grab a copy of the FJ's Summer Fodder guide.

Axiom Flexi fungicide

ADAMA

Scan here for more information

Axiom Flexi is the flexible tank-mix partner for many commonly-used protectant fungicides to control Downy mildew in grapes.

FUNGICIDE ADAMA.COM

Registered trademark of an ADAMA Agricultural Solutions Company, ADA24484

WR WHITES RURAL **MURRAY**

GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN A YETI ROADIE® 15 HARD COOLER

Simply purchase \$250 of Whites Rural and/or Murray Fencing

CLOSING SOON!

PRIZE VALUED AT **\$300**

COME INSTORE FOR MORE INFORMATION

For full terms and conditions, see instore poster for details.



You can't beat the original

Philmac
The connection you can trust.



“with you in the *GROWING* business”

Animal Production & General Merchandise

Given the poor spring season we are experiencing this year, livestock producers will consider best management practices to preserve the condition of pastures. Graziers have learnt the value of **confinement feeding during dry spells** especially to relieve overgrazing pressure on pasture paddocks and minimise energy required to maintain condition score.

Some infrastructure setup is required to establish suitable spaces, we can assist with fencing and water supply and have a large range of feeders in stock (Advantage, Bromar and Sharman's) available for immediate dispatch. These units are suited to both grain and pellet feeding while the Advantage and Sharman units can be moved when they are full of product. In addition, all feature a lick kit enabling simple nutrient supplementation and are fully adjustable to manage livestock consumption.

Call any of the FJs team to determine the most suitable unit for your confinement feeding situation.

Nutrition will be a focus over the coming months as livestock producers navigate what looks likely to be an extended feeding season. Many livestock will be turned onto stubbles. Remember that stubbles alone will not provide sufficient energy and protein to meet most animal's nutritional requirement. Poor quality summer feed should be topped up with either a loose lick or via the availability of stock blocks. Products such as Performance Feeds FibrePro and TPM Flock Boost will slot into most programs, ensuring a balanced feed intake is maintained for all stock.

Flies have been on the go with reports coming from a range of regions in the last few weeks. Providing long term fly protection to the sheep flock negates the risk of stock losses but also reduces the workload in regularly monitoring stock to check for fly strike.

While most jetting fluids will do the job they will only offer short term protection and diminish in efficacy after heavy rain events. Their upside is also having a shorter WHP so ideal to sort a problem in stock destined for sale or slaughter. **Clik Extra** is quick and easy to apply as pour on product and will provide long term protection - up to 29 weeks).

Clik is an oil-based product that will not significantly reduce in efficacy with rain. It does have a long ESI of 9 weeks (63 days). This needs to be taken into consideration prior to treating sheep ensuring ESI and WHP's fit with any intended sale or slaughter timelines.

Speak with any of the FJ store staff to see which fly treatment options are best suited to both the budget and needs.

Farm water storages are likely to be 'under the pump' at the moment after a particularly miserable winter rainfall season.

Now is the time to add additional capacity to farm water storage to buffer domestic and household, firefighting and stock water supplies.

Polymaster tanks have a lead time of 1 to 3 weeks at the moment. Other brands including MaxiPlas, Bushman and Team Poly are also available to match existing installations on the farm.

Call any of our stores to sort orders.

There is always a fencing project in the pipeline on farms. They need to be attended to, ensuring fence integrity and livestock security is maintained. We stock a full range of fencing materials for all livestock species in both conventional and electric fence construction.

Give us a call to discuss and quote all your fencing jobs but most importantly, use a product such as the Cyclone brand, designed to cope with the harsh conditions our climate dishes up year after year. Cyclone has been one of Australia's most recognised fencing suppliers since inception way back in 1898 – all products in stock at FJs.



Farmer Johns

53 Railway Terrace
Nuriootpa SA 5355
08 8562 1311

General Manager

Greg Schubert - 0412 739 396
greg@farmerjohns.com.au

Chief Operating Officer

Gavin Keller - 0417 886 038
gavin@farmerjohns.com.au

All Account queries:

Phone 08 8562 1311
Dee Hunter
dee@farmerjohns.com.au

Blyth

22 Harley Street
08 8844 5141

Branch Manager

Adam Conradi - 0432 571 653
adam@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Blyth
salesblyth@farmerjohns.com.au

Murray Bridge

190 Thomas Street
08 8532 5264

Branch Manager

Ashley Clothier - 0488 128 169
ashley@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Murray Bridge
salesmb@farmerjohns.com.au

Nuriootpa

08 8562 1311

Branch Manager

Adrian Marks
adrian@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Nuriootpa
sales@farmerjohns.com.au

Ramco

422 Ramco Road
08 8541 4222

Branch Manager

Shaun Pick - 0408 068 190
shaunpick@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Ramco

“with you in the GROWING business”