

At a Glance...

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- Stubble Management & Assessment.
- Best Practice Quarantine.
- Gorst Rural Summer Promo.
- Christmas Trading



Seasons Greetings

Merry Christmas from all the team at Gorst Rural, we thank you for your support throughout the year. It has been a challenging year with COVID, supply issues and a wet winter, but hopefully a mild spring has filled out crops and topped up pastures. Early reports of canola harvest seem positive (3t/ha + and 45% plus oil), lambs seem to be selling well over \$ 8/kg and out look is positive. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a prosperous harvest period.

Safe Harvest – for everyone—As the pressures of harvest come upon us, we urge everyone to stop, take 5 minutes and consider your safe harvest plan. There will be lots of machinery in paddocks and on roads, pressure to get crops off before weather events and the usual stresses and emotions of getting your years work in the bin. Please slow down—take care—and lets all be there (undamaged) for a harvest cut out. For more info go to: [Farm safety – harvest health | National Centre for Farmer Health](#).



Skipton Warehouse—For those of you frequenting our Skipton branch, you would have seen some rapid changes in the yard. Nick, Marcus & Claudia have started on the new warehouse project that will give us a purpose built Ag Retail warehouse enabling us to store more products for seasonal requirements. We are hoping this will be fully functional early in the New Year. Pop in and say G'Day next time you are through town.

Christmas Hours—Please be aware that due to harvest and staff leave for Christmas, we will be operating reduced hours. Our store hours will be:

24th Dec- 9am-3pm

25th -28th Dec- Closed

29th Dec- 9am-12pm

30th Dec- 9am-12pm

31st Dec- 9am -12pm

1st Jan- Closed

3rd Jan- Closed



*Our online store will be open across the whole period.
www.gorstrural.com.au/shop/*

Online Ordering—We now have online ordering up & running, order your requirements 24/7 from your mobile device or computer whenever you like. You will need an account sign on, just call your store manager for logon details and away you go.

Inputs Update—Another month, and it feels like another broken record. Supply channels still seem extremely tight out of China and highlights our reliance on them as the major international manufacturing hub. There is strong central control over energy use, manufacturing operations, product supply quotas, and upcoming pressure of the new year and winter Olympics, all leading to major bottlenecks.

GORST RURAL

Lake Bolac
P 5350 2440 F 5350 2301
Derrinallum
P 5597 6668 F 5597 6713
Skipton
P 5340 2262 F 5340 2321
Tatyoon
P 5354 0585 F 5354 0571
Willaura
P 5354 1251 F 5354 1149

FIELD SERVICES TEAM

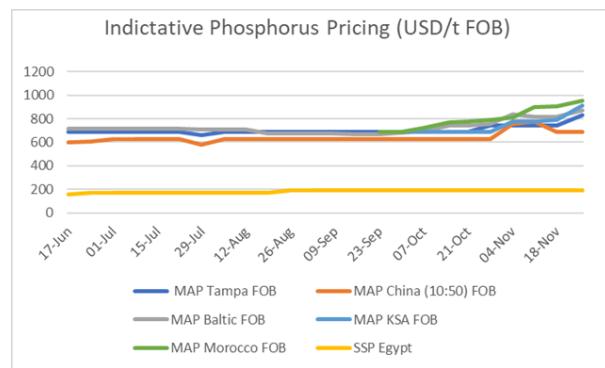
Cam Conboy	0418 655 137
Kelly Moore	0429 636 178
Ash Maconachie	0427 063 769
Rhys Cottam Starkey	0429 837 725
Marcus Smith	0447 035 970
Sonia Marquardt	0436 440 141
Alex Prince	0436 331 535
Abbi Power	0428 059 951

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That being said, we have good stocks of most products, and the remaining pre-em products are coming through on schedule. Glyphosate, Paraquat, Ester and Amine are in good supply at the moment in case of any summer weeds. We are expecting slight price rises in most products (not to the extent of fertiliser) as supply channels are tough, but we hope to be ahead of the curve. Please call any of our friendly staff with your queries.

Fertiliser— Has had its share of challenges, with product supply being assured, but trying to work out where, when & how much is a major challenge. There is some product coming out of China, and other suppliers chasing tonnes from Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Russia.

Unfortunately, these are all at a premium over Chinese supply and hence a worldwide scramble for product. It has been difficult with some shipments cancelled, some offers pulled, and even now some discussion over late contracts being filled. We believe, to the best of our ability that we have supply in place for MAP, DAP and Compound products ready for sowing. Urea is at very high levels at the moment, so unless required I would be monitoring the market. MOP & SSP are only available in limited amounts but expecting some offers to come out soon. At current pricing we will need to be smart how we use our nutrients most effectively, talk to your agronomists, soil testing and crop nutrient planning will be paramount.



Canola Seed Update—At time of writing, massive rainfall events have occurred throughout the NSW cropping belt. This will affect some seed crops that are destined for our sowing next year. Pioneer, Pac Seeds and Nufarm have all warned us that there maybe reduced allocations, whether it be through reduced harvest or below specifications after testing. We do have substantial forward orders in but if seed quality and lines are affected, that will also effect our ability to supply. We are hoping that a spread of growing locations and even contra season production overseas for some varieties will cover this risk. At this stage, we wont be able to put final numbers until harvest & test results are sent through by the seed companies and as soon as we know, we will let you know. The best suggestion is to get your seed orders in, we will do our best to source or in worst case find alternatives.

Field Bins & Silos—We still have some FB425 (37t) Grain Field Bin & FBS350 (32t Grain & Fert) available for this harvest, ring for details and deliveries. For those of you looking for silos, manufacture date is now out to August 2022.

Detection of Armyworm in Barley and Oats

In late Spring and early Summer large armyworm caterpillars and their larvae can become abundant in barley and oat crops, causing significant damage and yield loss. The armyworm larvae climb up plants and chew through the stems of barley plants causing heads to drop on the ground, known as "head lopping". In oats, the armyworm larvae will bite off pieces of the panicle, ultimately causing the individual grains to drop off. The damage from the armyworm can be seen: on the leaves of the plant, where they will be partly consumed; and also as partly eaten grains on the heads of the crop. Extensive damage can occur in a very short period, even within days. One large larva can sever up to seven heads of barley in one day. From an economical point of view, one larva per square meter can cause a loss of approximately 70 kg/ha of grain per day. A larva will take 8 to 10 days to develop through the final, most damaging instars, so the crop is most susceptible to excessive damage during this period. Armyworm tend to remain undetected during daylight as they shelter under the leaf litter and feed during the night.

Best practice to detect armyworm is to take 10-12 swipes with a sweep as you walk through the crop and count the number of larvae that have been caught in the net.



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Do this in multiple areas within the crop to gain a clear indication of how severe your infestation may be. If infestations begin to exceed 2 or more caterpillars per square meter, insecticides may be needed to be considered to avoid "head lopping". The use of Alpha-Cypermethrin (label name "Ken-Tac 100") is commonly used prior to harvest to control army worm infestations. It is crucial to spray in the late afternoon in the cool of the day when the larvae are most active. Be sure to use high water rates (minimum 100L/ha) to get good spray penetration into the crop canopy. Also be sure to adhere to the harvest withholding period of 7 days.

For more information please contact your Gorst Rural Agronomist.

Grain Protectants

With a large harvest looming and weather fronts intermittent, on farm grain storage is incredibly valuable this year. If your grain is going to be stored for any extended periods, then treatment against insect pests is paramount. Please consider the following:

- **Storage starts with good hygiene.** Ensure areas are clean & tidy, old grain removed. Suggest treating storage structures with Dryacide or similar.
- Consider applying protectants where gas tight fumigation is not possible.
- All grain protectant products have strict MRLS. Ensure these are followed, check labels and check with grain buyers on individual products (Eg. Malt Barley)
- Calibrate application equipment to ensure correct rates and even coverage.
- Only apply product mixed within 48 hours. For better results apply to grain less than 12% moisture, 27oC and kept out of sunlight
- Conserve Plus & KOBiol offer better insect control and should be alternated each year to avoid resistance.

We have in stock:

- **Conserve Plus** - Advanced grain protectant with up to 9 mths protection (needs knockdown), Nil WHP ~ \$4/t
- **KOBiol** - Also advance grain protection (excluding malting barley), need to be accredited user, 9mths protection, nil WHP ~ \$2.15/t
- **Reldan** - Chlorpyrifos based grain protectant (excl. Malt Barley) 3- 6months protection ~ \$ 1.15/t
- **IGR/Fenitriphon** - older based chemistry, 6-12 months, 1-90 day WHP ~ 50c-90c/t (pending on rate).

For more information please contact you Gorst Rural Agronomist.



Summer Nutrition

Summer feed is an important aspect of livestock production. From late spring through summer there is a constant need for feed so your livestock can maintain a good condition score.

Summer nutrition influences:

- The growth of current offspring
- Pregnancy of winter/early spring lambing ewes
- Pregnancy of winter/spring calving cattle
- Condition building and maintaining of autumn calving cattle

Nutrition is constructed with nutrient components including water, energy, protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals.

Energy is required for maintenance, and production such as weight gains, pregnancy and lactation. Not all the energy that is consumed by the livestock will be able to be absorbed for production.

Amino acids are the building blocks of **protein** molecules. These are creating the metabolic functions, such as muscle, enzymes, hormones, wool and milk production. Protein digested by livestock is measured in dietary crude protein, from this the rumen (stomach) then either creates proteins, degrades the proteins, or leaves some undigestible.

Fibre is essential for rumination / cud chewing, saliva production, the speed of the how it moves through the intestinal tract and the utilization of feed. Having excessive intake of fibre will limit the ability of an animal to eat enough feed to meet energy requirements, too little fibre and nutrients in the feed will be poorly digested.

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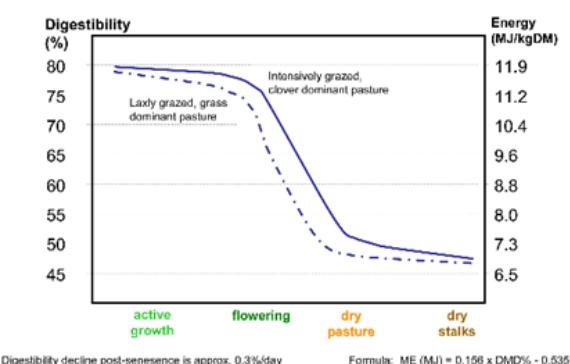
Vitamins and minerals are all required for metabolic processes, growth, and development. The main elements required are Phosphorus, Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium, Potassium and Sulphur. All elements including the major and minor elements are required in different amounts.

Nutrition requirements can vary due to:

- Maintenance - Daily tasks such as eating and walking.
- Growth – extra energy to grow (wool, meat, milk)
- Reproduction – More energy required, Sheep energy requirements will double, and cattle energy requirements will increase by 1/3.

The graph to the side indicates that as the pasture starts to dry off and turn into stubbles, the level of digestibility and energy present decreases rapidly. At this point supplementary feeding and addition of nutrients in the form of grain and lick blocks can help an animal maintain condition.

Protein and mineral supplements are best distributed before stock start to visually lose condition. Your local Gorst Rural stores stock a large range of blocks and loose licks for all livestock requirements. **For more information on the best block to put out over summer please contact your local Gorst rural store.**



Stubble management & assessment

Utilising stubbles is a beneficial livestock management tool on mixed farming operations. Grain left behind from the header at harvest is a good feed source for stock over summer when other pastures may be unavailable (potentially due to being locked up for worm management or regrowth purposes etc). The quantity of grain thrown from the back of the header determines the suitability of the stubble for livestock grazing.



Ewes in mixed farming operations spend 20% of their time on stubbles each year.

Why should producers graze stubbles? Benefits:

- Grazing helps to reduce the stubble load for better establishment for the following year crop
- Large feed base component
- High quality feed

Not all stubbles are of equal nutritional value and stubble bulk does not necessarily equal animal performance.

Stubble starts as high-quality feed, but quality depletes rapidly. Cereal straw has low digestibility and poor nutritional value, therefore making it very difficult for sheep eat enough to maintain their weight let alone grow. It is the combination of feed quantity and quality that influence intake and subsequent animal performance.

The feed on offer consists of four components:

1. **Residual grain** – quality component.
2. **Green material** – weeds, plant regrowth etc.
3. Loose trash – provides source of roughage, more consumable than standing straw.
4. Standing straw – provides source of roughage, not highly consumed.

Stock requirements are the main factor with determining stubble utilization! For example:

- Ewes and finishing lambs require high quality feed to allow them to maintain and gain weight
- Pregnant and lactating ewes have higher energy and protein requirements
 - ⇒ 40-60kg pregnant ewe: energy ME/Day = 10 - 14.5 megajoules/kg, protein requirement = 8-10 %
 - ⇒ 40-60kg dry wether: energy ME/Day = 7.3 megajoules/kg, protein requirement = 6-8%

How to assess grazing quality of your stubbles:

The quantity of **grain** per hectare is determined by counting the number of grains in an area.

A 0.1 m² square is used (approximately 32 cm x 32 cm and can be made easily) to count feed content within the area. Intact cereal heads contain approximately 16 grains although this will vary depending on the cereal.

The following tables indicates the quantity of grain for a given number of grains counted in a 0.1 m² square (table 1) and the approximate weight of different varieties of grain (table 2).

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Grains counted (number / 0.1 m ²)	Equivalent quantity of grain (kg/ha)
6	20
13	40
16	50
20	60
26	80

Grain	Weight/grain
Wheat	0.036
Oats	0.04
Barley	0.044
Lupins (narrowleaf-broadleaf)	0.16 – 0.3
Chickpea - desi	0.18
Peas	0.2
Chickpea (kabuli), Broadbeans	0.4
Faba Beans	0.5 – 0.7

Then, count the number of green shoots in the 0.1 m² area and compare to the following table.

- If a green shoot has been grazed, only count it as 0.5 (50% less than an un-grazed shoot).
- Both shot cereal grain and green weeds are included.

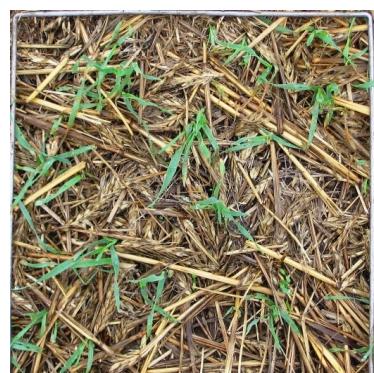
Compare with the pictures and match to the most representative example:



40 kg/ha green (some)



60 kg/ha



140 kg/ha

Best practice quarantine

It is vital for any livestock business to manage the introduction of new livestock carefully. By doing this you avoid carrying disease onto the property, therefore potentially infecting the rest of your stock. Animals can carry diseases and pests without showing any signs. Arrival protocol for new stock:

- Inspect stock to ensure they arrive as described (good health, good condition etc)
- Provide shelter, hay and water in a holding paddock close to the yards
- Allow the animals 2-3 days to recover from stress of transport before any yard work
- This also allows weed seeds to be excreted before contamination of good pastures



Animal Health protocol:

- After 2-3 days, provide vaccination with either 6in1 or 7in1 (pending previous treatments as seen on health statement)
- Drench stock with highly effective drench – use 3 or 4 active ingredient drenches, including 1 NEW active ingredient,
 - ⇒ This needs to be in two drench applicators – do not mix drenches
 - ⇒ Follow up WEC conducted 14 days after initial drench to check efficacy of drench
- Whilst in yards, check for:
 - ⇒ Lice (this will show high level of infestation, however sometimes low levels are not identifiable);
 - ⇒ Footrot/Scald (run stock through zinc sulphate + SLS footbath as precaution)
- Ensure stock are full bellied before turning out onto lush pasture
 - ⇒ This avoids overeating, bloat, sudden death etc



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Always remember to isolate new stock from your original flock for at least 21 days to prevent disease contamination!

Extra considerations:

- Quarantine for suspected **FOOT ROT** until the end of spring, plus intensive treatment with zinc sulphate bathing & possibly antibiotics
- Quarantine for suspected **LICE** infestation for up to 6 months or until next shearing, plus treat with an effective lice product
- Always request a national vendor declaration and animal health statements & keep records of purchase history.



Gorst Rural Summer Promo monthly draw!

The winner of each month will receive a
\$200 gift voucher.



Congratulations to our November winner David Hucker from Murrewa!!

Xmas at Gorst Rural in December—Elf on the Shelf is Back!

Each of our stores will be running our Elf on the Shelf competition for the month of December.

The first customers to find our Gorst Elves on the Shelves each day at our stores will go into the draw to win one of five Gorst Hampers (one for each store!). See in store for details. Keep your eyes open for all the peculiar places they could be hiding and getting up to mischief!



24th December

9am to 3:00pm

25th 26th 27th 28th

December Closed

29th December

9am to 12:00pm

30th December

9am to 12:00pm

31st December

9am to 12:00pm

1st January

Closed

3rd January

Closed