



Agri Talk

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April 2022

At a Glance...

- Cam's Update.
- Pre-Season slug control.
- Grazing transition to green feed.
- Community sponsorships.
- Skipton Warehouse Opening.
- Dry sowing pre-emergent herbicides.
- Ararat vet update.
- The McGrath Foundation fundraiser—Lismore.



The air has an autumnal feel about it, paddocks are getting prepared and our season has strong anticipation about it. We are gearing up for the start of sowing, lambing, calving - a whole new agriculture production year. Read on for some great articles on pre-season slug control, grazing transition to green feed and more...

At the time of writing the crystal ball is well & truly broken, the world seems in turmoil and supply chains uncertain. In the last 4 weeks we have seen Russia invade Ukraine and China enforcing COVID Zero. MAP and sowing fert has crept up, but Urea and Nitrogen products have increased close to 70%.

That being said, we do have supplies on hand for sowing and establishing the new crop. Please get your pre-em requirements in, our team will work hard to keep ahead of the curve and ensure you have what you need, when you need it. We have good supplies on hand of knockdowns, pre-emers and most fertilisers. Canola Seed, Slug Bait and inoculant continue to tighten as seasonal pressures come on. There will be some challenges particularly as freight & logistics are still not at full capacity.

As things start to get crazy please take time for a quick break, and refresh. In addition ensure all equipment is serviced and safe to operate and take time & care to get started. Here's to a safe sowing....

Discount Products

Damaged bags (hardly any product missing) 50% Off—pickup today! Unizeb X 4; Diuron adama X 3; Gesaprim X 5; Ammonium sulphate X 16; Farmozine X 10; Simagranz X 4; Simanex X 3; Simazine sabakem X 2; Diuron sabakem X 1; Penncozeb X 4; Nodulator granular legume inoculant X 1; Diurex X 1; Terbyne X 1



Input Update

AgChem Overview:

- Global oil prices are having direct effects on ag chem feedstock, more impact later in the season.
- Russian situation leading to panic buying, not so much domestically.
- COVID is still disrupting production & logistics in China. Zero tolerance approach has meant truck drivers in China do not want to drive to port and risk getting forced into isolation.
- Logistics in Australia is still being challenged by absenteeism due to COVID.
- Glyphosate, Paraquat, Trifluralin, Sakura, Overwatch all in good supply.
- Reflex, Rustler, Tenet and Ultro have been delayed in shipping (should be close) and the last two will be available on allocation only.
- Most fungicides are OK, although Miravis Star will be tight & on allocation.

GORST RURAL

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

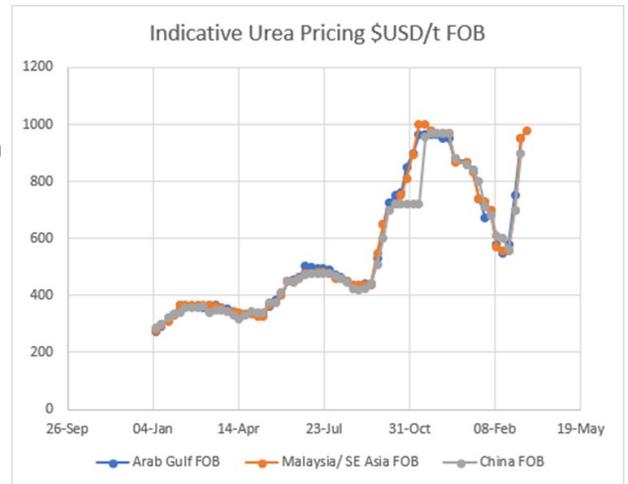
FIELD SERVICES TEAM

Cam Conboy
0418 655 137
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Marcus Smith
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Alex Prince
0436 331 535
Robbie Neale
0428 681 300
Gorst Rural Fertiliser
0497 850 489

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Fertiliser Overview—Urea:

Urea is a wild ride, unsure of where it is heading, it seems to be very bullish currently. After 4 weeks of conflict in the Ukraine world markets are still adjusting, pricing has gone up 68% in that period. Most international markets have gone quiet apart from rumoured trades from the Middle East to Australia. Suppliers may even avoid taking shipments late in season. We do have product available – please talk to us about your N requirements. We are conducting trials this year on enhancing N performance through reduced volatilisation, denitrification and other enhancements. Watch this space.



Fertiliser Overview—AP's:

International P markets fragmenting and buyers very tense. The only way pricing will ease now, is for the unicorn to ride in and change;

- ⇒ Peace in the Ukraine so the world can roll back sanctions, resume normal business ties with Russia,
- ⇒ A cut to energy and world freight and a surge in Chinese exports.

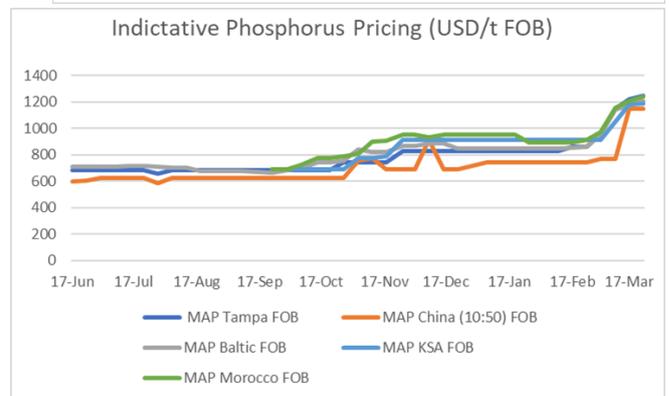
Simples!

We still have product available but when it is gone it is gone.

Single Super and Pasture King are also available.

We are starting to move your fertiliser products now.

Please check your fertiliser contracts and collection periods. Most products available for pick up now.



Fertiliser collections & Bookings are starting to get busy in our Depots & at Port please consider collecting your Fertiliser as soon as possible. To ensure that when you collect fertiliser from our depots it is as smooth and timely as possible, we ask that you use the correct contacts for the pickup points. Our pickup points include Lake Bolac, Lismore and Tatyoon, as well as Geelong and Portland. The contact details as below indicate the correct person and number to contact.

The Lake Bolac fertiliser yard hours are strictly 8:30am – 5:00 pm Monday to Friday.

We ask that 48 hours' notice for a booking as this will give you the best chance for a convenient time slot. We encourage you to get in early to ensure that your wait times are as short as possible.

Gorst Rural Fertiliser contacts		
Collection point	Contact person	Number
Port	Lexie	0497 850 489 or 5350 2440
Lake Bolac	Lexie	0497 850 489 or 5350 2440
Tatyoon	Brendan	0418 232 232 or 5354 0585
Lismore	Drew	0428 518 801
Spreading inquires	Mick	0429 953 150 or 5354 1251

Local Community Sponsorship

Community is a very important part of our vision at Gorst Rural. We have always sponsored local clubs and organisations from the beginning and that certainly won't change into the future. Each year we set aside an amount for sponsorship in our budget to help our local communities achieve their goals. We encourage applications for sponsorship to be submitted via the sponsorship request form (attached).

The key criteria for sponsorship requests are:

- ⇒ How will the sponsorship benefit the local community; and
- ⇒ In turn how can Gorst Rural partner with the organisation to promote our support to the local community.

This process is outlined on the form. The sponsorship request form will be required to be completed before any request for sponsorship is considered and granted.

Please encourage your community groups to consider their sponsorship requirements and talk to us about sponsorship and supporting our local communities.

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Pre-Season slug control

Cultural controls and baiting at sowing are critical components for managing slugs. The 2021 La Nina event benefited the breeding and activity of slugs, with large numbers anticipated to carry over into this season. The risk of slugs varies depending on what pre-season controls you have implemented. Refer to table 1 to see what risk category your enterprise falls in.

Factor	High Risk	Reduced Risk	Low Risk
Stubble Management	No-till, stubble retained	Burnt only	Burnt and Tilled
Tillage	Raised beds, press wheeled, cloddy seed bed.		Full disturbance, compacted seed bed
Grazing Livestock	No sheep	Sheep in stubbles	
Soil	High moisture, clay, and organic matter		Sandy and/or low organic matter
Weeds	Summer volunteers		No volunteers
Crop Type	TT varieties,	Hybrid canola varieties >2mm	

Table 1. Risk factors to a slug outbreak

Referring to table 1, the best pre-season slug controls are:

- Burning off stubble and tilling the soil. Tilling the soil destroys the holes and cracks that slugs live under, but also exposes slugs to predators.
- Rolling the soil after tillage to compact it.
- Spraying out volunteer weeds.
- If your sowing canola, opt for Hybrid canola varieties with <2mm seed.
- Pre-sowing bait may be required this year for high pressure slug areas.

After sowing apply bait as soon as possible to protect the seed and seedlings. We have a range of slug baits that are best suited for different situations and environments—for bait points, bait size, life and other actives. Please contact one of our agronomists to discuss the best slug control strategies for your farm.

Grazing Transition to Green Feed

With recent rains we are seeing a green pick emerge in stubbles and pasture paddocks.

Great to see however it pays to have a plan with your livestock as they transition onto greener pastures.

Green doesn't always mean GO for sheep & cattle – grazing fast growing green grass creates an imbalance in rumen function due to a number of factors:

- High levels of soluble protein
- Low NDF – faster rate of passage
- Low Magnesium availability
- No guts in the feed – low ME

Possible AH issues during the transitioning phase is:

- Scouring
- Pulpy Kidney
- If close to lambing or calving, metabolic issues.
- If lactating, grass tetany.
- Nitrate Poisoning
- Worms

Ways to avoid these issues:

- Up to date vaccinations.
- FEC livestock.
- Loose Licks - High magnesium, green feed loose licks. If close to lambing or calving specific pre-lambing/calving loose licks.
- Grain feeding - specifically starch based grain.
- Good quality hay.

Bugs in the rumen will be slow and numbers will be lacking due to slow fermentation rates and lack of starch/protein on dry feed. Loose licks (carb based) and grain supplementation will help increase bug population to better utilise fresh green pick and reduce nasty by-products like nitrates and ammonia that cause AH issues. For more information on green feed transition please talk to our Senior Livestock Advisor—Robbie Neale.



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Skipton Warehouse Opening

On the 29th of March, Gorst Rural Skipton opened their new purposely built warehouse. The building was undertaken by MKM Constructions in October last year, after a year of planning and preparation. The warehouse is a 24 by 18m structure, with a load/unload skillion, toilets and kitchenette. This will complement the existing store situated on the Glenelg Highway, providing more stock on hand for local growers. It was fantastic to see a large turnout of customers and industry reps to help celebrate the opening of the warehouse. We will have product on



hand to meet your requirements. If there is anything you require talk to the Gorst Rural Skipton team.

Dry Sowing and Pre-emergent Herbicides:

A good crop starts with good preparation. Weed control is critical, whether it be dry sowing or waiting for moisture. Dry sowing has its advantages to sow with warmth and daylight, but most herbicides work best with direct contact on surface.

Some factors to consider when dry sowing include:

- Know where and what weed seeds are in your soil.
- The size of the seed bank is important to consider, a high germination rate of weeds will put high pressure on your pre-em herbicide. A good knockdown strategy is still advisable.
- Leaving only select paddocks with a low weed seed bank to dry sow. Leave the paddocks with a high weed seed bank till you can implement a good knock down strategy.
- Knowing what weeds are in the seed bank is important. This is because you may have a large percentage of dormancy populations in your seed bank. These weeds may germinate during the winter period, when the plant vigour drops and knockdowns/pre-em herbicides will not be as effective (some weeds such as wild oats, brome grass and radish maybe dormant).
- Herbicide loss to the environment: Being aware of the herbicide you are using when dry sowing is important. Some herbicides are more likely to be broken down by UV light or lost to volatilisation. Therefore, soil incorporation soon after spraying is important to avoid losses. Make sure you know when to incorporate your pre-em after sowing and don't let the sprayer get to far in front of the seeder.

Seeder type and set-up:

- When using a knife point press wheel system considering row spacing, speed of traveling, and soil characteristics.
- To ensure pre-em herbicide treated soil is removed from the above trench and thrown into the interrow area, covering it but not throwing soil into the adjoining trench.
- Removing most of the herbicide out of the trench away from the seed improves crop safety.
- If using a disc seeder, it isn't recommended that you use one for dry sowing as it leaves a lot of herbicide exposed and may not provide adequate soil throw out of trenches.
- With both disc and Tyne seeders it is important to note when dry sowing it is more difficult to get the right seeding depth. Sowing shallower may expose the seed to more herbicide increase the risk of damage.



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Herbicide degradation after incorporation:

- All pre-emergent herbicides are degraded by soil microbes over time.
- Microbial activity is governed by moisture and temperature.
- If you, dry sow, the ground is generally warmer but there is no moisture so you will have minimal microbial degradation until the opening rainfall.
- Where some moisture is present which this year due to the odd rainfall event, not enough to initiate crop germination, there is risk of some microbial herbicide degradation occurring prior to the true break. If sowing in these conditions while the soil temperature is still warm, we will see a significant increase in herbicide degradation.

To discuss your options with regards to dry sowing and herbicide selection please talk to our Gorst Rural agronomy team.

Ararat Veterinary Clinic will be visiting Gorst Rural, Lake Bolac branch, once a month starting back up in May. First Tuesday of the month. More details to follow in the upcoming months. Please call Ararat Veterinary Clinic to make an appointment or if you have any questions.
ph. 53521021



GORST RURAL DERRINALLUM / LISMORE FERTILISER ADDS A TOUCH OF PINK TO SUPPORT THE MCGRATH FOUNDATION---

Gorst Rural have added a talking point with the maintenance of the JCB at their Lismore fertiliser shed. The bucket has been turned pink in the support of the McGrath Foundation's mission to raise money to fund McGrath Breast Care Nurses in communities right across Australia and increase breast health understanding and awareness.



The team at Gorst Rural are passionate about supporting our local communities and have a long history of supporting the local clubs and organisations. As a team we recognise that there are also some fantastic larger organisations that support our communities in the health space and the McGrath Foundation is one of these. The wider Gorst Rural community can also get involved by donating to either our online fundraising page or in person at our Lismore Fertiliser yard or Derrinallum store from April – September 2022.

McGrath Foundation Ambassador and Director, Tracy Bevan, says the McGrath Foundation continues to be blown away by the support from Australian communities, which directly helps the Foundation in its mission to ensure every family in Australia experiencing breast cancer has access to a breast care nurse no matter where they live – and always free.

"We are proud to have funded 177 McGrath Breast Care Nurses working nationally who, together, have supported more than 100,000 families going through breast cancer. Events like this are truly helping us to make a difference; we couldn't do it without you," Tracy said.

To donate to the Gorst Rural Pink Bucket we have donation tins at Lismore & Derrinallum stores or our online fundraising page, please visit

<https://fundraise.mcgrathfoundation.com.au/fundraiser/gorstrural/gorst-rural-pink-bucket>



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Gorst Rural Sponsorship Request Form

Name of contact person:	
Organisation:	
Type of Organisation:	
Contact Email:	
Contact Number:	
Demographic Reach & Number of Members / Employees or Volunteers:	
Are you a registered charity or not-for-profit organisation?	
Purpose of Sponsorship:	
Reason for Sponsorship Requested:	
Specific details of the sponsorship request:	
\$ Value of sponsorship requested (cash or product value):	
Due date funds requested by:	
Details of how Gorst Rural can partner with you to promote sponsorship: (Include details of advertising & marketing / ways in which your organisation can promote Gorst Rural etc.)	

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date Received: _____

Approved By: _____