



# Agri Talk

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May 2022

## At a Glance...

- Cam's Update.
- Early Weed Control in Pasture.
- Slug Monitoring .
- Ryegrass Staggers in Sheep.
- Vaccination Best Practise.
- PRE-SEASON OFFER WINNERS!!!



The mad month of May is upon us, sowing is full swing and things are growing! There is plenty going on in the field; with knockdowns & pre-emergents, monitoring emerging crops for sucking insects, below-the-ground chewing insects, and plenty of slugs. **Keep a close eye on your crops** - if you need a hand let us know. On the pasture front feed is starting to grow, but we need to monitor fresh growth, from a nutritional point if view ewes close to lambing and even some staggers issues in the district. Read on for some great articles on, slug monitoring, controlling weeds in perennial pastures, managing ryegrass staggers in sheep, and best practise vaccine management.

### Community & Sponsorship

As the local footy & netball competitions get underway we wish all teams, clubs & volunteers the best of luck in their upcoming rounds. We are proud to sponsor the small town communities and the tireless work that goes on behind the scenes. If you have a project or organisation that deserves support, or even a story or community hero, let us know your stories at [admin@gorstrural.com.au](mailto:admin@gorstrural.com.au).

### Customer Service Person & HC Truck Driver

We are always on the lookout for good people, if you know of someone interested in working in our organisation please let us know. We are looking for a number of candidates with strong people skills, problems solving, and team focus to work at our various locations.

### Accounts & Terms

We appreciate that the invoices coming through at the moment are rather scary, most inputs have had prices rises since last year, especially the major items like fertiliser. We do ask that most of our invoices ask for payment on the 25th of the month following pickup, so we can pay our rather scary invoices too. For those outside of these terms, account fees may be charged to encourage everyone to pay on time. If you have any queries or difficulties paying your account, please let us know and we will work though a solution. NRI have a Crop Input finance facility through DLL for consideration if required, let us know if you would like more information.

### After Hours Service

We know sometimes weather & conditions throw a curve ball, and you need to grab products outside of normal hours. We will try hard to meet your needs, but please also understand our hardworking team needs some downtime also. Please plan ahead and workout wherever possible your requirements. Please understand if you need product on weekends or public holidays there may be an after hours charge.

### Input Summary

The triple whammy of Chinese export restrictions, COVID and the Ukraine conflict are really coming through now. Whilst we have most products on hand or ordered well in advance, there are still delays with some manufacturing, inevitable price

## 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  
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  
Robbie Neale  
0428 681 300  
Gorst Rural Fertiliser  
0497 850 489

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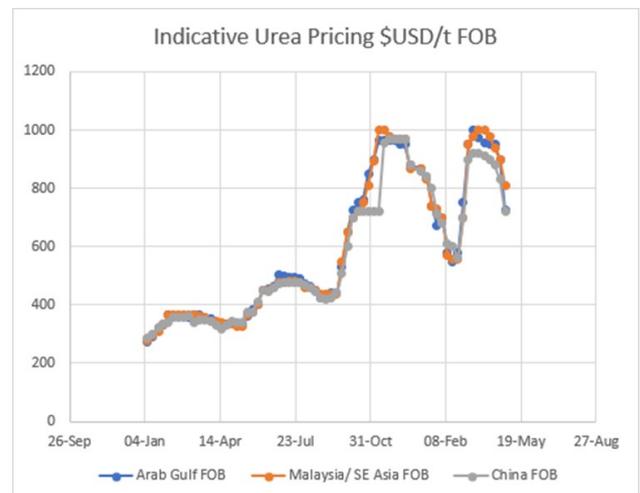
rises (with increased energy costs & supply constraints), and frequent delays to shipping, air & domestic freight. We are doing our best to keep ahead of the curve, but please forward plan your requirements as much as possible. Start thinking a week or two out from applications. Even domestic production, warehousing and logistics is taking its toll, with some Melbourne warehouses reporting over 30% absenteeism. We are noticing a normal freight move that used to be 24 hours is now a standard 5-7 days. We will do our best but please let us know what you have coming up so we can make sure we have stuff in the right spots.

### Other

- There has been some delays in Mateno manufacture, we are expecting a resupply around the 23rd May which hopefully is in time for the early post-em application in Wheat.
- There have been issues with Imidan supply, however it is now back on line.
- Reflex & Rustler should be back online, allowing time to sow your beans.
- Slug Bait has been going out at a rapid rate, we have sold out of Slug Out, but have good supplies of Metarex and are trying to keep up with the cheaper Meta style baits.
- Some fungicides will be tight, mainly Miravis Start and Aviator Xpro. For those of you planning a bean spray with these advanced fungicides, please start planning now.
- Most supplies of Pre Em and early Post Em herbicides are OK at this stage

### Urea

- International market is waiting on an Indian tender, still calling for 1.5m tonnes to be confirmed by 11th of May. The markets are very unsettled, general falls of \$ 70-100/t US in last 2 weeks.
- If Indian tender moves & accepts Russian tonnes, then market will continue to fall. If not then market will short and rise upwards.
- Australian buyers are delaying purchasing for June-July tonnes, some rumoured June tonnes at \$ 810 US FOB = \$ 1480-1550 AUD Ex Port ?
- Currently we do have tonnes for pickup (also SLAM, Potash), let us know if you have any queries.



## PRE-SEASON OFFER WINNERS!!!

**\*\*\* Congratulations \*\*\***

### Major Prizes (Uniden Guardian 4G Solar Kit):

Visatro

R Bibby & J Grant

### Store Prizes (Silicone Half Mask & Coveralls):

Derrinallum – May Partnership

Lake Bolac – AP Milliar

Skipton – PV & GM Liston

Tatooon – McKay Farming

Willaura – G & M Heard

### Online Ordering—Gorst Rural Styx Mill Vest:

Aberfoyle Farms / N&B Robertson / P & K Mulcahy

### Pioneer Jackets—Seed Orders:

P & N Phillips / JB Ware & Sons / Able Pastoral

### BASE Perennial Ryegrass—RMW Rugby:

Defegley Partnership / Dylan Bensch / Tarnawa Pastoral / Karadoc Pastoral / Gwyngana Partners / J Gubbins

Please call in store to collect your prizes.

Note that there are very limited sizes in the jackets, vests and Rugby's—first in first served.



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### Early Weed Control in Pasture

Control of unwanted weeds is crucial in the establishment and persistence of productive perennial pastures. Controlling weeds while they are young and small earlier in the season is best practice, allowing perennial grasses to reach their full potential and encourage more clover to come up in place of the weeds. Weed invasion in pastures often results from poor preparation; a lack of fertilizer or lime history, unsound grazing management, the success rate of previous herbicides used, and even how timely the hay cut may have been.

Eradicating unwanted grass weeds (eg: barley grass and brome grass) can be tricky. Spray topping in spring when the weeds are flowering using low rates of glyphosate or paraquat can be quite effective. Alternatively, for the more clover dominant pastures the use of grass selective herbicides (Group A's—like Shogun, Verdict and even Select) can be used to eradicate annual grasses, allowing the clover population to thrive. Consider carefully when choosing which approach has the best fit, as some of these options can be damaging to perennial grasses remaining in the sward. Some annual grasses are developing resistance to the Group A chemistry. Target small actively growing weeds in appropriate weather conditions, and make sure your rates are suitable will help maximise results.

Group C chemistry (eg: Simazine) can help manage silvergrass. This weed can quickly overrun productive pastures making them less palatable to livestock. Simazine needs to be used earlier in the season or no later than May/June depending on when then break came. For best results apply Simazine upon emergence of the silvergrass, to a well grazed pasture, onto moist soil, and when follow up rain is likely to occur within a week of application. Simazine is taken up by plant roots so you need to get it into the silvergrass rootzone in order for this approach to be effective.

Following the break your perennial pastures are potentially humming along nicely. You may have noticed some unwanted broadleaf weeds (eg: capeweed, erodium, scotch thistle and dock) germinating. "Spray grazing" is a common and successful tactic used by graziers to eradicate broadleaf weeds from pastures. This technique utilises phenoxy/hormone based chemistry (eg: MCPA or amine) to target broad leaf weeds. The weeds once sprayed will pull the sugars and carbohydrates out of their root systems up into their leaves and growing points to support new growth. This makes them more palatable and desirable to livestock so they will preferentially graze the weeds. If these leaves and growing points are then chewed off quickly enough the weeds are unable to regrow because they have nothing left in the tank to support new growth and thus successful control is achieved. However, if they are not grazed hard enough after spraying you could see some recovery as the carbohydrate concentration balances back out. Please be aware that clover may be suppressed when using higher rates of these products, wait until the clover has at least three true/trifoliolate leaves prior to spraying and aim to tackle smaller weeds where lower rates are required, ideally no larger than a dinner plate.

For recommendations and agronomy advice with your pastures please contact your *GoRst* Rural agronomist.



*(Above): Thriving clean pastures*



*(Above): Dirty pasture in the Spring*

### Slug Monitoring

The 2021 La Nina event has benefited the breeding and activity of slugs, with large numbers anticipated to carry over this year. As many of you have started sowing now is the time to be monitoring for slugs and apply slug bait as a precaution.

Slugs can potentially affect crops at all stages, the key monitoring periods are pre-sowing, in-crop, spring, and post-harvest.

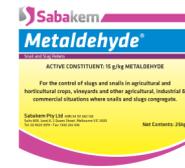


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Monitoring activity and controlling before mating and egg laying are integral to minimising numbers. The optimum time to monitor slugs is when they are most active, specifically when relative humidity levels are approximately 90%. Another good time to monitor is on dewy mornings and evenings or during showers.

We have a variety of slug baiting options available in store that offer long lasting protection.

Please contact your Gorst Rural agronomist for advice on baiting and slug control.



### Ryegrass Staggers in Sheep

We are seeing some incidence of ryegrass staggers in sheep around the area due to seasonal conditions.

Perennial Ryegrass Toxicosis can be a serious and widespread problem in livestock grazing perennial ryegrass dominant pastures during this autumn period.

Toxins consist of chemicals that affect the central nervous system causing muscle tremors, incoordination and possible deaths in livestock

Chemicals produced are insecticidal, thus ensuring better pasture persistence but can be harmful to livestock when eaten in sufficient quantities.

#### Management is key:

If grazing ryegrass dominant pastures provide supplementation (loose lick) that has a mycotoxin binder / eliminator prior to and upon entry to these pastures.

Allow animals to rotationally graze alternate paddocks that are more legume dominant to help dilute.

Should you notice signs of 'staggers' in your stock – they need to move quietly off these pastures and be provided with a suitable supplement / lick until recovered.



For more information please speak to Robbie Neale at Gorst Rural on 0428 681 300

### Vaccination Best Practise

There is a 3-step process to the best practice vaccination program in livestock.

1. 1st does (at marking, 6-8 weeks old)
2. 2nd dose (at weaning or 4-6 weeks later)
3. Annual Booster



#### Why do they need all 3?

- The initial shot to first expose the animal to an antibody, protection only lasts a few months.
- The second dose raises their immunity to maintain adequate levels of antibodies for 12 months protection.
- The Annual booster is administered at pre lambing or pre calving period to ensure that the animal has enough antibodies for the next 12 months. It also has the dual purpose of providing offspring the increased level of antibodies in the colostrum and milk to protect them for the first few months of their lives.

Not administering the second dose of vaccine will mean inadequate immunity through the first 12 months period. It will also not allow them enough protection with their annual booster to protect them the following year. Your rams should also be vaccinated every year, 4-6 weeks prior to joining. Any stock that you buy in that don't have a clear vaccination status should receive the initial dose as part of their quarantine treatment followed by the 2nd booster shot 4-6 weeks later.

Please also note that there are some vaccines that only require the first 2 jabs to be fully effective and do not need annual boosters. For more information on best practise vaccination administration, to ensure healthy and productive livestock please contact our Livestock Production team or your local Gorst Rural store.