



# Agri Talk

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July 2022

## At a Glance...

- Cam's Update.
- Clethodim Spraying.
- Fungicide Options.
- Winter Cleaning Pastures.
- Lamb Survival tips.
- PRE-LAMBING / LAMB MARKING / WEANING - Get your orders in now.
- Fruit tree pruning demo morning @ Balancing Rock Farm—Thursday 14th of July—10am.



The wind blows cold and winter is here, although most paddocks are trafficable and crops are looking good. Some are enjoying school holidays, some getting shed jobs done, others into fencing or pasture cleaning, with lamb marking about to begin. Latest climate outlooks are positive with a majority of models predicting a wetter than average 3 month period. ([The Fast Break – Victoria](#) | [The Break newsletters](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Support and resources](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#))

Plenty going on at Gorst Rural this month: read on for great articles on pasture spraying, lambing nutrition, market updates, and even an Apple Pruning Demo - with coffee & treats!

**Calendar Photos**—Don't forget our calendar comp, take a stunning farm photo and win a \$100 (as GR voucher). Send your photos in and get your name in lights. Also, our new range of hats & beanies are out, put one on your mug and you have the chance of winning a slab, if you get your photo in the paper or on TV.

**Trials Snippets**—Bennett is the standout in the early sown cereals so far with twice the amount of biomass as Cesario and Big red.

The Skipton pasture site sown late march is looking good. Supercharge long mix is nearly ready for its first cut.

At the Tatyoon pasture site the second cut on Ryegrass and Phalaris was done last Tuesday with "4front" being the standout.



### 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

**Robbie Neale**  
0428 681 300

**Gorst Rural Fertiliser**  
0497 850 489

### Inputs Update

#### AgChem

Most products are now in stock for the remainder of the cropping season. Most fungicides will be OK although premium fungicides such as Aviator Xpro and Miravis Star continue to be tight. Thanks to all who have got their forecast in for Miravis Star, we hope to get your product delivered in next few weeks.

We are trying to keep price averaging as low as possible but this is difficult in the current supply environment. Increases in energy, input, logistics and a falling dollar are making it challenging. Pressure on gas production (67% increase in European Gas prices since May) and flow on effects if the Ukraine war is not sorted by winter are not good. We have tried as much as possible over the last 18 months to secure old priced stock but there comes a time, and unfortunately the full brunt of COVID is now coming through.

Positive news in that Glyphosate & Paraquat pricing has fallen or steadied from Autumn pricing, so whilst it will still be expensive it is not as bad as it could have been. We have also seen adjustments in Weedmaster Argo & Crucial, talk to us about your requirements.

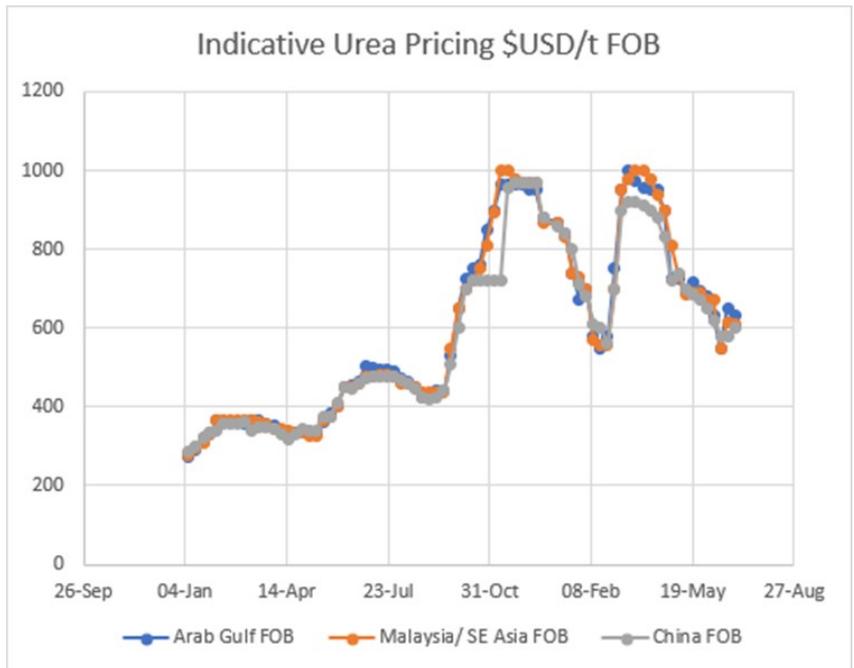
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### Urea

A big input item, especially when trading at 50-75% over normal levels, and everyone wants to get it for 'the right price'. For once the international market is calm with prices dropping from a top of \$AUD 1620 to well below that, and now demand steady after rises of \$50-100 last week.

Suppliers reluctant to offer parcels lower because of trades already completed, rising gas prices, some plant closures. There is a possibility of China further reducing limited export quotas as well.

The Urea price seems to be firming, despite grain prices softening. USDA crop reports came out this week better than expected, but still well below last years acres for corn & soybean. What does this mean for us? Well July tonnes will still be tight, until the new shipments arrive. Suppliers have been delaying purchasing to make the most of falling prices, but at a point we will need product for the crops. This has meant there is a 2 price mechanism, tonnes for now and then tonnes for later, but this line is blurring as ships (& pricing formula) get closer. The last 10 days has seen another international rise, this has not played out domestically (yet). Keep talking to Rick or myself, consider a strategy of picking up load by load however there will be a point, when just getting tonnes home will be paramount.



We do have some shuttles of **Status 240** that we would dearly love to move... talk to us about a deal...

**CLEARANCE SALE**

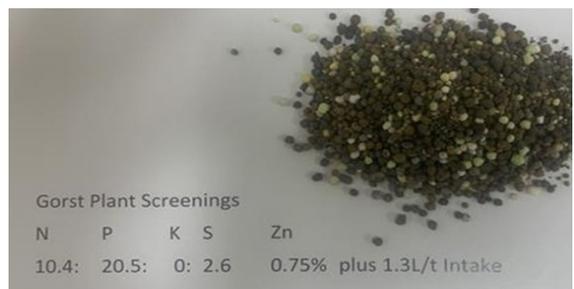
**Damaged Bags:** there are some damaged bags of Atrazine, Diuron & Simazine that are heavily discounted (whilst stocks last)

**Clearance items:** post our June stocktake there

are some red hot specials on old stock items in our stores: Including Hitachi & Jimmy tools, boots, Drizabones, nozzles, and plenty of other bits and bobs. Come in store and grab a bargain.

**Screenings**—Following on from our sowing season, Scott has an amount of fert-screenings. The product is dry and spreadable, but varies in dust & granule integrity, and is really only suited to bulk delivery, bulk sheds or a dump & spread straight away. The analysis is a 'best estimate' of products involved (MAP, GAINS, GAINZS, SSP & Urea) and has an estimated nutrient value of 10.4:20.5:0:2.6 + 0.75% Zn. Some of it has also been treated with flutriafol (roughly working out to a 1.3L/t rate), which won't have any detrimental effects on crops, but does mean a 4 week WHP for any grazing. Talk to Scott and make an offer...

**Bendoc Beans:** We have 9.2T on hand that would be ideal to use for sheep feed if anyone is interested. Price is \$450 a tonne (inc gst). We have it stored in 1t Bulka bags.



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### Clethodim Spraying:

With the season ticking along nicely the time has come for some post-emergent grass sprays. This will generally mean the use of clethodim, in your canola and pulses. Clethodim is a very useful chemical and works very well for grass control, but given its consistent use, resistance is starting to be seen around the area. Clethodim does have an Achilles heel, and that is frost and colder weather. The timing of the clethodim sprays around frost drastically impacts the performance of the chemical and therefore the control of the ryegrass.

Several studies have been conducted on clethodim and

optimum spraying times around frost events. This study in the diagram above was completed in 2013 and 2014 and it compares the effects between resistant (population 2) and susceptible (population 1) ryegrass plants.

The study found that frost reduced clethodim control of resistant ryegrass at rates as high as 4L/ha.

Temperature can drastically affect the performance of the clethodim and could be the reason for the lack of control in some populations, alluding to resistance, but it just being application timing. This study also found that ryegrass plant size drastically effected the amount of control of the clethodim spray.

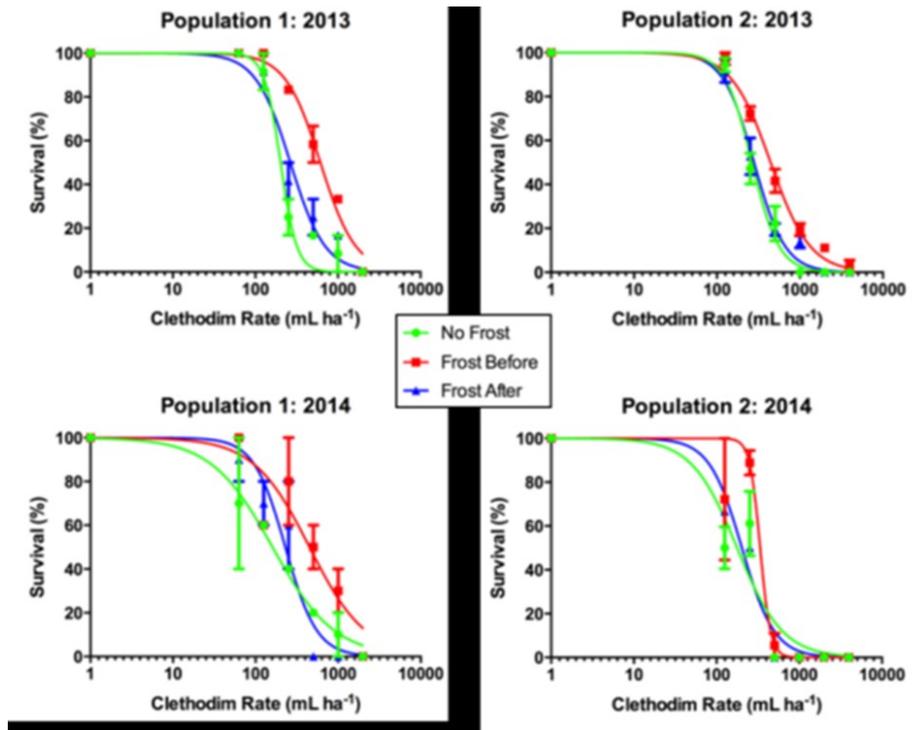
#### What can you do?

The take home messages from this study can give us an idea of best practice. The following are steps you can take to get the best out of your clethodim spray.

- Spray earlier while the grass is smaller in size and actively growing.
- An early spray while the weather is warmer, giving the clethodim every chance of working.
- Avoid spraying near a frost, and if there is a frost allow at least two days after the frost to spray.
- Use an effective mix partner E.g. Factor to assist with grass control.

There are a lot of options for easing the pressure on the clethodim as the ryegrass control method. These methods include the use of good pre-emergent chemicals, implementing harvest weed seed controls or mixing components with the clethodim to boost its effectiveness.

If you have any questions feel free to ask your Gorst Rural Agronomist.



### Fungicide Options

Now most crops are out of the ground and by now have received their first application on N. With ideal conditions to the start of the year crops will be putting on biomass quickly. However, with these milder weather conditions it is also ideal for crop diseases. So being prepared early for these diseases will be important to avoid any yield penalties later.

**Canola:** With some earlier sown canola Blackleg is starting to appear in the canopy as seed treatments and flutriafol use on fertiliser starts to run out. From previous seasons, upper canopy infection (UCI) of black leg is becoming more prevalent, and less stem canker (due to earlier sowing windows). All varieties will eventually get UCI so watch all canola crops closely and be prepared to apply either a foliar fungicide at 4-6 Leaf &/or at 20% flowering to keep blackleg at bay but to also help manage sclerotinia especially at 20% flowering.

**Beans:** Ascochyta blight & Cercospora, mainly occur earlier in the season. These diseases may be a problem but can be managed well with the inclusion of fungicides such as Orius (tebuconazole) and Mancozeb in with grass control herbicides. Later applications of advanced fungicides such as Miravis Star or Aviator Xpro, offer next level

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control. Regular monitoring and preventative measures need to be taken to further reduce the incidence of these diseases appearing. This should also prevent the likelihood of chocolate spot and rust occurring as the weather warms up.

**Cereals:** Majority of these crops will be only in their vegetative/tillering phases, so it will still be too early to consider applying fungicide just yet. But bear in mind that once the crop reaches GS31 it will now be time to implement your fungicide strategy. Some of the main diseases to look out for in cereals are Septoria, yellow leaf spot, scald, both net form (NFNB) and spot form of net blotch (SFNB).

**Fungicides:** It is critically important to rotate / mix fungicide groups to reduce the rate of resistance within the pathogen population.

**Chemical groups:**

**Triazoles** (G3-moderate resistance risk) - Orius, Tilt and Opus/Soprano, Proviso, Prosaro

**Strobilurins** (G11-High resistance risk)- Amistar Extra (also has G3), Radial and Opera

**SDHI's** (G7-Moderate to high resistance risk)- Miravis, Aviator Xpro and Elatus Ace

**Phenylpyrrole** (G12)- Miravis Star

Although these products differ in the way they work and some will have better curative activity over others, the basic principles are still the same.

- Prevention is better than cure.
- Use the right rate at the right time.
- Subsequent applications may be necessary if conditions prevail and new (unprotected) leaves emerge.
- And finally, be sure to rotate your chemistry. Resistance can develop quite quickly to the strobys and the SDHI chemistry, so it is more important than ever that you rotate between all groups and use mixes where possible. This will help combat the development of fungicide resistance within our pathogen population.



*Septoria in wheat.*



*Blackleg-upper canopy infection.*



*Scald in barley.*

### Winter Cleaning Pastures

Winter cleaning is a highly regarded management strategy when controlling unwanted weeds in your pasture. Winter cleaning involves the use of grazing and herbicides to control a range of broadleaf and annual grass weeds e.g., capeweed, barley grass, brome grass, fumitory, radish, milk thistle, wild oats, prickly lettuce, mustards, and vulpia. Table 1 shows that winter cleaning is one of the most effective tools, that being 80-98% effective when targeting ryegrass.

### Weed Control

Tactic	Ryegrass control level (%) likely (range)
Mowing + Crash grazing	95 (90-98)
Hay, silage, green manure	90 (80-98)
Strategic grazing	75 (30-95)
Winter cleaning	90 (80-98)
Spray topping to reduce grasses	75 (50-90)
Spray fallowing - double knock	90 (80-98)

*Table 1. Expected levels of ryegrass control from different management strategies (Source: Roundup Ready® canola resistance management plan).*

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are in the mix, especially when barley grass and marshmallow are in the system.

- Tigerex at 750ml-1000ml/ha is effective in newly established pastures that have small weeds (capeweed smaller than a bread plate) and some harder to kill weeds such as chickweed.
- Diuron 150-200g/ha and MCPA 750 at 800-1200ml/ha is a good mix to control small capeweed and some thistles in established pastures. The addition of Lontrel can provide good control on shore thistles however should NOT be done if clover is present.
- Agtryne MA at 1-1.5L/ha is a good option once capeweed gets above the bread plate size and into a larger weed. This product however will not work if sprayed in frosty weather.
- Ecopar at 400-500ml/ha of and MCPA 750 at 500-1000ml/ha. This is one of the premium mixes that will do a good job on harder to kill weeds. However, is not the be all and end all of mixes.
- Triathlon at 1L/ha is a good option for hard to kill weeds like shore thistles. Be mindful that this product has an 8 WEEK GRAZING which in most cases makes it a very hard product to use in a grazing situation. This is still a great product to use on cereals for early broadleaf control.

These methods, used in conjunction with grazing can be a very effective way of removing undesired plant species. However, be aware when these chemicals are used, or even when a few frosts are seen, the nitrates and carbohydrates in the plant can quickly move to the tips of the leaves, causing them to become erect and very palatable which, if there is an abundance of feed in capeweed, can cause nitrate poisoning in your stock.

### Lamb Survival tips

Lambs are a vital part of any sheep production enterprise, generating the replacement flock and future income from meat or wool production. Every lamb on the ground, out the gate, or back into the mob increases productivity and profitability. There are a number of factors we can influence from the moment we select rams, right through to weaning that can improve lamb production and performance.

#### Ewe condition:

The condition score of the ewe is essential for increasing lamb survival. Maintaining a condition score of 3-3.5 is optimum. Ensure there is adequate feed on offer (FOO) in the paddock, and that the FOO is quality nutrition so that the ewe maintains sufficient levels of Calcium & Magnesium. Utilise supplementation if required. All these factors will contribute to the lamb's survival through pregnancy, birth and shortly after.

#### New born lambs:

There are a few key things to ensure the lamb survives the first 48 hours of life. In this time frame 90% of lamb mortality occurs. Having adequate shelter in the paddock is the first step to helping the lamb survive as well as ensuring there is adequate FOO for the ewe. Also consider the mob size and paddock size, smaller mob sizes in smaller paddocks can have an impact on lamb survival where the ewe does not have to venture far from a new born lamb to meet her needs.

#### Tips from birth to weaning:

From the period between birth to weaning there are some critical management practises. A few key points to help your lambs get to weaning, and thrive include:

- **Vaccination** – 2 doses for clostridial diseases and arthritis (7 in 1) and 1 dose of Ovine johnnie's Disease (Gudair).
- **Parasite checks** – conduct WEC prior to vaccination to ensure there are no worm challenges in your young stock.
- **Adequate hygiene** – have good hygiene practices around the marking cradle, and include pain relief.
- **Weaning practises** – when stock are weaned it is stressful situation for them. To minimise stress familiarise stock to their surrounds, feeding and supplements can play an important role in reducing stress.
- **Paddock choice** – choosing the best paddock for lambs is important, having pastures with different species and a good source of fibre (even if supplementary) is best after a transition and period of stress.
- **Monitoring** – is very important in managing your lambs.

For more information on lamb survival please talk to our Animal Production team.



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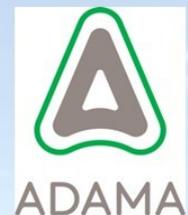


INVITES  
YOU

**Calling all gardeners out there ....**

**Winter is here and the leaves have fallen in the orchard!**

Please join us for a fruit pruning demonstration and discussion about producing the best home grown fruit by agronomist and friend Andrew Skinner from Adama.



Skins is passionate about all things apples—making sure they are pruned, fertilised and cared for correctly to maximise crop production.

**When: Thursday the 14th of July 2022 at 10am.**

**Where: Balancing Rock Farm—42 Green Ln  
Maroona (off the Mortlake Ararat Road)**

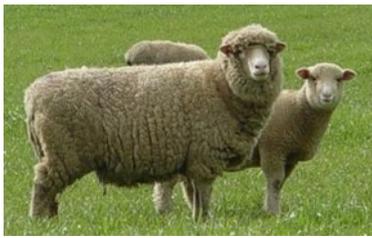
We have Maria from the Lake Gardens Café providing morning coffees and teas, and our Gorst team will provide some apple inspired treats.

Please kindly RSVP no later than Monday the 11th of July for catering purposes.

*Skins will be bringing a sharpener so please bring your secateurs to get them "pruning ready" for the season ahead.*



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**PRE-LAMBING / LAMB MARKING / WEANING**

**PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW**

With current seasonal conditions and ongoing supply concerns, the Gorst Rural team would like to offer you an opportunity to secure your Pre-Lambing / Lamb Marking / Weaning requirements.

**Main Points:**

*Take your main requirements now - please consider what you need as with a tight supply market we cannot accept returns.*

*Take the time to pre-organise your requirements - we'll do the rest!*

*We will collate, pack and deliver free on farm for when you need it.*

Trading Name:					
Date Required:					
Vaccine	Pre-Lambing Doses Booster - Ewes	Lamb Marking 1st Dose	Weaning 2nd Dose	Preffered Product	Quantity
Glanery 7 B12					
Glanvac 6					
Glanvac 6 B12					
Glanvac 6S B12					
Gudair					
Scabigard					
Other...					
Drenching	Ewes		Weaners		
Cydetctin LA					
Eweguard					
Weanerguard					
Triple Active					
Zolvix					
Startect					
Other...					
	Qty	Qty			
Tri-Solfen					
Marking Rings					
Vaccinators					
Needles					



Feel free to phone your local Gorst Rural Store for any queries.

