



# Agri Talk

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August 2022

## At a Glance...

- Cam's Update.
- Fertiliser team update.
- Summer forage options.
- Lamb Marking – Weaning – Best Practice.
- Caring for your home-grown Apple trees for optimum crop production.
- Saturday trading to cease from 3rd September 2022.



The days are lengthening, even though we have cold nights and windy days- there are glimpses we are coming out of winter. Most crops are up & about getting ready for what spring presents, and lamb marking in full swing for many growers. Read on for some great articles on nutrition, use of PGRs, Spring forages and sheep management.

### Good Luck to our local teams

As the final rounds of the home & away season draw close, we wish all teams in our local competition the best of luck for finals. Small towns rely on their sporting clubs to draw people together, have a common purpose and understand the importance of teamwork, commitment and communication. A big thankyou to not only those who play each weekend, but to those who put together rosters, maintain grounds, man the canteen, cook meals and the myriad of other jobs to keep a club going. These jobs aren't getting any easier year on year but a big hats' off to all those involved.

### Vale David Watson

Our condolences to Raelene, Brad, Kelly & families on the passing of David Watson. David, was much more than our resident electrician and keen Hawthorn supporter, but an epitome of what community service was about. A passionate supporter of the Wickliffe – Lake Bolac Football & Netball club, a past president and life member of the Mininera & District Football League. David would always help out, have a chat and do his best to see you sorted out. Passionate about country footy, and especially junior development, he was a great man for our small communities.

### 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  
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Sonia Marquardt  
0436 440 141  
Alex Prince  
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Robbie Neale  
0428 681 300  
Gorst Rural Fertiliser  
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### Climate Outlook

Last week's edition of Dale Grey's 'Fast Break' outlook, paints for a rosy spring. Whilst the Pacific Ocean is confused and numbers aren't quite hitting La Nina Thresholds, cloud, air pressure and wind are showing La Nina patterns. The Indian Ocean Dipole is measuring up as a classic negative and now just needs to couple with the atmosphere to bring spring rains. From a summary of 12 models we are looking at a wetter than average spring with neutral temperatures over the next 3 months. For more info: [The Fast Break – Victoria](#) | [The Break newsletters](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Support and resources](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)

### Inputs Update

In the brave new world, supply & logistics chains are long & extended so planning ahead is the name of the game. As you are going over the crops with your agronomist, please start thinking about your fungicide plan (if you haven't already done so). Consider products such as ( & rotate groups);

- Gp 3 (DMI) Opus 125 & Epoch 125, Soprano 500, Prosaro, Proviso
- Gp 7- (SDHI) Elatus Ace, Aviator Xpro, Miravis Star
- Gp 3/11 (QoI)Radial, Amistar Extra, Maxentis, Veritas

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### Crop Topping

In terms of Paraquat, Diquat and Glyphosate there seems to be a levelling out of a market that has been creeping back since highs of last November. There are concerns in manufacturing about increasing energy prices, a pending recession and outlook for grain prices but careful monitoring of input materials, SOH and future sales mean the market is finely balanced. Glyphosate pricing has been steady with manufacturers reducing production rather than reducing price. Paraquat is somewhat tighter with a shortage of pyridene material and 2 main factories in China stopping any new orders. It would be wise to start thinking about crop topping requirements over the next few months:

- Hi load Glyphosates- Crucial 600 & Weedmaster Argo are now registered and available for crop topping.
- Gramoxone 360 will be available for end of season topping (where registered).
- Reglone – Diquat 200 will also be available.

### Broadleaf Spraying & using Phenoxy sprays

We have good supplies of Paradigm, Priority, Polo and Amicide 625 for cleaning up broadleaf weeds in cereal crops. In many cases these will be applied with fungicides and trace elements which is handy but every year we do get drift issues which are not handy. Main Points:

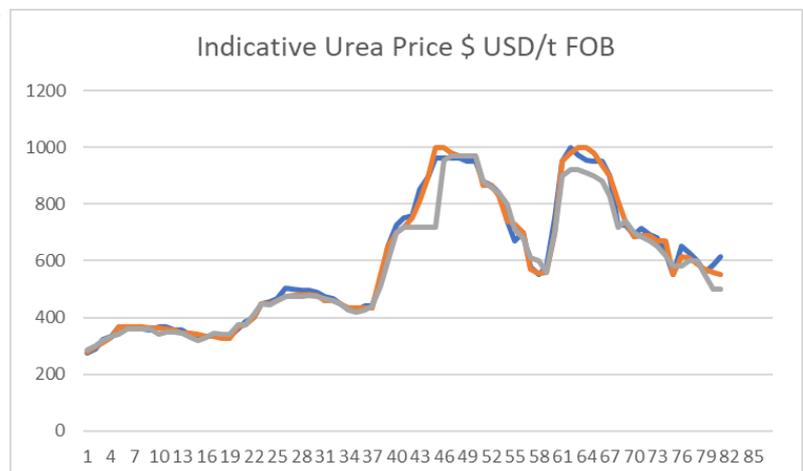
- Work out susceptible crops in area, there is more canola & beans than ever that are very susceptible. If necessary avoid using spray altogether or enlarge the buffer zones.
- Monitor the weather and avoid wind below 3km/h and above 15km/h, temperature between 5 -20oc. Spray when Delta T is between 3-8. If you don't know measure it, and if in doubt don't put it out!
- Avoid inversion conditions or weather events eg. midday turbulence, end of day stillness.
- Keep the boom height down to no more than 50cm above target. Doubling boom height magnifies drift by 10 fold.
- Use large droplets, C-vc droplets will still give coverage, and most herbicides & fungicides are systemic enough to work. If you are not sure of your nozzles ask.
- Use adjuvants to maintain droplet size and remove fines E.g. VC700
- Consider use of products:
  - ⇒ Polo will be much quicker to work on weeds, and compatible with most fungicides and trace elements, but a higher drift risk.
  - ⇒ Amine 625 activity will be much slower, incompatible with some products (mainly trace elements), but far less drift risk.

For any questions about your herbicide & fungicide program talk to the team at Gorst Rural.

### Urea Outlook

The urea rollercoaster doesn't want to stop. We have seen pricing rise well above \$ 1600 AUD ex Port, back to Mid \$ 1100's and now who knows ?

- Current supply situation in the western hemisphere is not good the European gas pricing is at all-time highs, and Russia is turning up that dial.
- China is maintaining tight export controls on any urea so price relief from here is unlikely.
- A factory fire at the Kaltim factory, Bontag Indonesia is curbing there production (\$2500t/day). Malaysia and Indonesia are our major suppliers at the moment
- Last months/this weeks shipping shorts are a factor of holding out for a cheaper price, coupled with shipping delays (including one with an engine malfunction off Kwinana) and weather delays for unloading.
- The market is very volatile and whilst general supply should be okay, forward planning and signalling your late requirements will assist us having product when you need it. There will be shipments due late August but any delays will tighten up the market again.



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### Fertiliser team update

Just an update on ship movements / time slots and tonnes available etc...

We have tonnes available but time slots down at port have been a challenge (although it is improving now)!

Because of falling prices the whole industry has held out purchasing & suppling for cheaper product, which has created the perfect storm.

We are currently booking port loads 7 days in advance so please we ask for as much notice as possible.

We appreciate your patience and understanding, please be assured we are doing everything we can to keep product flowing.

As an example as to how tight/crazy things are at the moment...

One of our major suppliers just finished unloading a 20,000T boat which will potentially only last them about 10 days. Another supplier has also unloaded a 35000T boat and this is their last ship for the year. There are more ships in behind these but please expect stockouts for a few days between shipments from time to time.

We are grateful to have customers who are very understanding of the current situation and we are proud to have a wonderful dedicated Fertiliser team in Rick, Cam, Lexie, Scott, Drew, Sam, Brendan and Katie on board.

Please talk to us about your fertiliser requirement for the remainder of the season and book in as early as possible.

### Summer forage options

Any summer forage varieties with a vernalisation requirement are an option for spring sown summer and autumn fodder. These include winter canola, some varieties of forage brassica, and also winter wheats. Warm season grasses such as millet and forage sorghum can also provide good summer feed. As expected, production of feed from all of these crops is dependent on summer rainfall to assist biomass accumulation and grazing recovery.

With the days getting longer and a need to finish stock, now is the time to assess winter pastures for growth, weed burden and predicted spring growth. If you think your paddock needs renovation then a spring/summer forage option might be right for you!

There are multiple options available, but we consider these as best bets:

- Mainstar Forage Rape - hybrid rape with exceptional growth and palatability, ready to graze 10-12 weeks.
- SARDI 7 Series 2 Lucerne - winter active lucerne (7) with good grazing tolerance and dryland persistence.
- SSS Sorghum - Sudan X Sweet Sudan cross, fine leafed for good grazing, lower prussic acid than other sorghums.
- Winter Canola - good early option for grazing over summer then winter crop. Hyola 970 and Phoenix available.

### Grazing Management

It is important to note that the rumen of sheep and cattle do not respond well to big changes in diet. For best animal performance, providing a diverse mix of grazing options (at least two species) can reduce fluctuations in weight gain. It may also require transition periods when introducing stock, and may require some adlib straw/hay or additives. Also consider summer stock water requirements as this may have a bearing on livestock performance. Talk to our livestock production team— Robbie Neale to discuss your needs.

Possible spring sown summer fodder options to include in a mix are:

- Forage brassica or winter canola.
- Winter wheat (which will remain vegetative compared with spring wheat that will run up to head).
- Millet and sorghum — do not sow earlier than the end of September as they have a soil temperature requirement.

Speak to one of our agronomists for more information on sowing summer forages.



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### Lamb Marking – Weaning – Best Practice

As we approach lamb marking and weaning there are some key areas to focus on.

To avoid issues with bacteria, choose a clean site for marking, ensure lambs can land on their feet once ejected from the cradle. Erysipelas Arthritis, Tetanus and Malignant Oedema are all caused by forms of bacteria that can enter the body via wounds coming into contact with contaminated soils.

Hence vaccination against these is recommended.

Marking and weaning are high risk times for weeks following.

Vaccinated ewes provide the lamb with maternal antibodies via colostrum for a period of 6-10 weeks to protect them against disease. Lambs immune system then becomes active.

The first vaccination at marking, primes the lambs immune system, but only provides a short term protection.

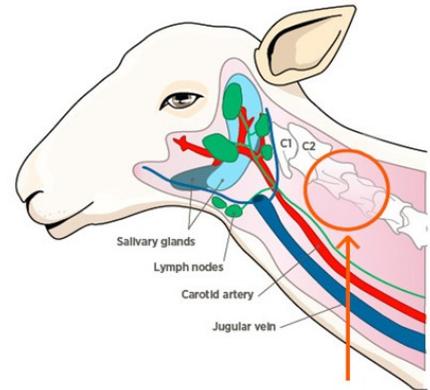
The second vaccination at weaning is critical in boosting the immune system in giving long term effective protection against disease, in most cases lasting 12 months. Wean early enough to provide both lamb and ewe the best opportunity to thrive.

If we set up the rumen of the lamb early enough this improves growth rates and achieves target weights earlier.

The ewe needs recovery time before joining again, allowing her body condition score to be at optimum.

Remember vaccination site on lambs is critical – under the skin high on the neck. Use 18g 1/4 inch needles only. Vaccinate at 45 degree angle on lambs.

Drenching – Worm Egg Counts assist in your decision making, drench lambs at weaning (not marking) with an effective drench (eg Triple Active, Startect, Zolvix).



*The Orange circle is the correct vaccination site. Under the skin on side of the neck avoiding critical structures near the base of the ear and C1/C2 spine area.*

### Caring for your home-grown Apple trees for optimum crop production.

Last month Gorst Rural hosted a morning session at Balancing Rock Farm with Andrew Skinner (Skins) our Adama rep. Skins grew up in the Shepparton region of Victoria, he is an agronomist and has always had a passion for apples. We had around 30 keen gardeners come along to get some tips for pruning, fertilising, and controlling pests and diseases in the orchard. Some of the key take aways from our session were:

1. Know the difference between a "wood bud" and a "fruit bud". Prune so that the wood buds are setting up your tree growth for next year and the fruit buds are your fruit production for the coming season.
2. Prune so that each branch has no more than 4 fruit buds and they should be at least one hand span width apart.
3. A normal apple tree should have no more than four main limbs growing from the trunk, if your tree is espaliered it can have a few more (6-7 limbs).
4. Fertilise your trees with a complete fertiliser (Yara Mila Complex was recommended):
  - ◇ Bud Burst @ 1 kg/tree
  - ◇ Fruit Set @ 750 kg/tree
  - ◇ Post-Harvest @ 250 g/tree.
  - ◇ "a little more often is better than a lot at once"
5. Do not use mulch around the base of trees as it will encourage diseases.
6. Ensure you dispose of your cuttings when finished pruning and keep the base of the tree clear from weeds to reduce disease pressure.



*Figure 1. "Wood bud" on the left & "Fruit bud" on the right.*

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7. To minimise disease like Apple Scab/Black Spot. Spray your trees with a copper spray when the bud shows its first sign of green. You can use copper base spray like Kocide (copper hydroxide)
8. Do not spray copper during flowering or once fruit has set as this will cause russet.
9. Follow up with Mancozeb (Dithane)
10. The use of pheromone tags or traps in your trees to help reduce codling moth infestations during fruiting. Hang Pheromone tags & Traps early Oct before Codling Moth flights.
11. Once fruiting begins monitor your trees and remove excess fruit from clustering, the excess fruit causes stress to the tree and reduces the next year's production potential.

The main message for the day was to not be afraid of pruning your trees, you can't really go too wrong (you may just not get fruit for that season), in fact not pruning them at all will do more harm than good for the health of the tree.

We are sourcing some of the products that were mentioned during the session and should have them available in store soon.



## Saturday morning trading to cease from the 3rd of September 2022:

With the constant pressures from COVID recovery and feedback from our own team we have made the decision to cease our Saturday morning trading from the 3rd of September 2022 at our Derrinallum, Lake Bolac and Tatyoon stores.

Our strong belief is to retain a good team of people and promote staff wellbeing it was in our best interests not continue with Saturday mornings. We will continue to be open 8am-5.30pm Monday to Friday, we have our online ordering available at [www.gorstrural.com.au](http://www.gorstrural.com.au) and our on farm delivery service.

At this stage we will still aim to offer a Saturday morning services during the peak of sowing (April & May). We do appreciate your understanding and if you have any concerns please talk to us.



# IF IT'S BLUE

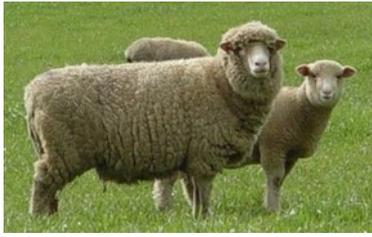


# IT'S NOT FOR YOU!



Please return your CHEP pallets  
to obtain your credits.





**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		
Cydectin 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.

