



Agri Talk



www.gorstrural.com.au

December 2023

At a Glance...

- Cam’s Update.
- Choosing and storing seed for next season.
- Stubble Management.
- Grazing Forage Brassica.
- Christmas Trading Hours
- Community Christmas Events.
- Fly and Summer Drench Promo.



Merry Christmas—Wishing you a safe & prosperous harvest.

A big shout out to everyone as you head into harvest, please stay safe. Long hours, stressful conditions and pressures of markets & weather make life difficult, slow down, take 5, and make sure every day is a safe one. A big thank you to everyone for your support for this year, we value our business relationships and wish you all the best for the festive season. Our friendly staff will catch up with you before Christmas, checking in, distributing our calendars and maybe even a Christmas treat or two. Read on for some great articles on market intel, stock management and some harvest tips.

Feedback

Our team is constantly aiming to improve our service offering, over the next few weeks they will be endeavouring to catch up with you and ask what we can do to serve you better. We want to live up to our trademark “Best In Field” and need your input as to what that looks like for you.

Market Updates

Phosphates

I think we are becoming accustomed to volatility in our markets being the new normal, and the phosphate markets are no different. Global stocks, supply and demand are evenly balanced with the majority of world supply likely coming from Morocco, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Industry sources suggest Panamax and bulk cargoes are being loaded at the moment with shipments due in Australian ports from late January. It would seem the Chinese government decision to restrict exports is a foregone conclusion and this supply (& price consideration) is already factored in.

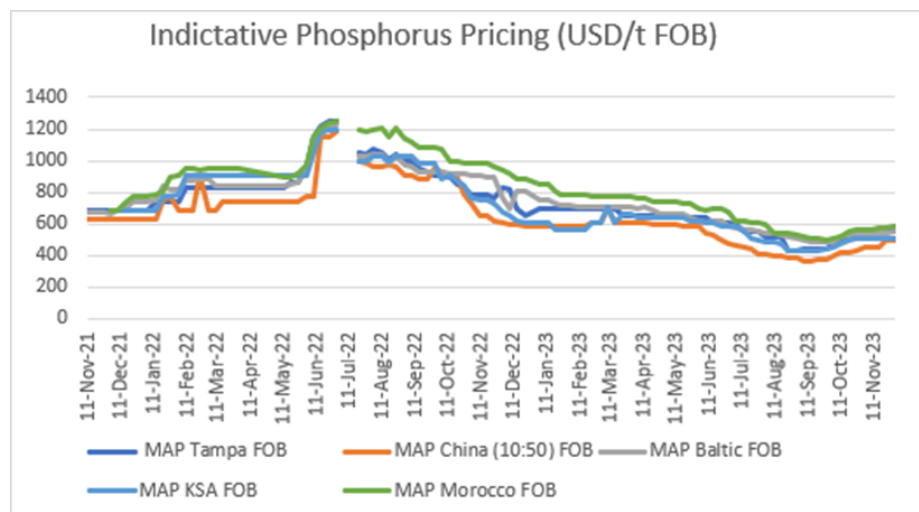
Whilst the crystal ball is broken, I would suggest growers start contracting their sowing fert or at least a portion to ensure some kick off. Pricing may level off in the New Year but suggest being proactive. For those looking for Zinc, Sulphur and other

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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

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Alex Prince
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0477 063 938
Robbie Neale
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Urea

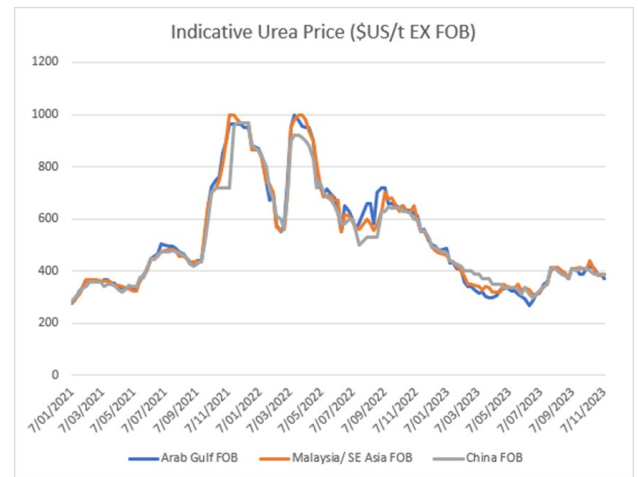
The global (& domestic) market is pretty flat with not much going on. Consensus seems to be wait & see, monitoring markets into the New Year. In other developments, it would seem the Urea plant at Moomba gas fields in SA is slowly progressing, while the Perdiman project off Karratha in WA is somewhat taking longer. Watch this space for Australian urea production.

Ag Chem

Most ag chem markets seem to be stable, or even in a downward trend. Subdued demand from customers, a full supply chain (& sheds) has seen limited uptake of product, and producers have been reducing pricing to encourage sales.

Some points to note:

- Glyphosate pricing continues to erode with supply pricing now 16% lower than October. Feedback from suppliers, is that Chinese manufacturers are claiming they are now at cost of production, and no room to go. If big rains in NSW & QLD start, usage and manufacturers kick up the price, we may have reached bottom.
- Paraquat however, seems to be on the rise with the 4 big manufacturers in China reducing output and doing maintenance shut downs in their plants. It maybe a suitable time to consider taking a position on Gramoxone.
- Pyroxasulfone (Sakura) is now coming off patent, and a number of generics are coming on line. We are likely to see pricing below \$30 per ha but still growers need to consider product quality, mixing, compatibility and crop performance in your purchasing as Sakura is important in our rotations. We will be stocking Sakura, as well as alternatives, talk to your agronomist as to which is the best option for you.
- Atrazine, Diuron and Terbyne are all available, and at a cheaper prices than last year.
- Triflur and Avadex all seem at similar pricing to last year, if not a bit cheaper.
- Reflex, Callisto, Mateno, Overwatch, Ultro, Tenet and Luximax are all great pre-em options and available for the 2024 season.



Choosing and storing seed for next season.

Seed is one of the most valuable operational inputs, and poor seed quality can lead to massive opportunity costs. For this reason, seed quality is essential, poor germination or contaminated seed can cause many problems in the paddock.

As harvest approaches, now is the time to think about where next seasons crop is going to come from. There are many factors that affect the grain quality, such as harvest rain, poor conditions at harvest, desiccated crops and paddocks that contain high levels of undesirable weeds.

When choosing seed it is important to choose seed from crops that:

- have good size seed, that is free from disease
- maintain good vigour and germination percentage (must complete test for this)

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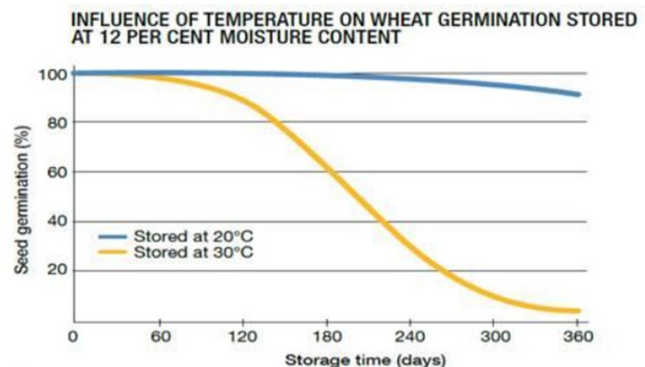
- are free from weed seeds
- **Have not** been crop topped with Glyphosate

Seed testing is essential for farm retained or on farm carry over seed. This test ensures that the seed is viable, will germinate when planted and has the vigour to achieve optimal plant population numbers. Seed should be tested at harvest and as close to sowing as possible and the sample should provide a representation of the entire seed lot. Moisture at harvest and seed storage conditions will also impact seed quality. Seed needs to be stored cool, dry and pest free. The figure below shows the influence of temperature on wheat germination at 12% moisture.

Take home messages for choosing and storing grain:

- Retain grain from crops harvested in best conditions, eg before rain, not weather damaged, ideal moisture, weed and pest free.
- Harvest and store grain at low moisture and cool temperatures. Storage temperature and moisture must be monitored and controlled throughout the season.
- Get a germ and vigour test on any farm retained seed prior to sowing. Ensuring the sample is representative of the whole seed lot.
- Do not retain seed from hybrid canola, you cannot grow second generation hybrid seed and expect the same performance as the first generation.
- Treat stored seed with premium grain storage products to assure no pests are present.

For further advice contact your local Gorst rural agronomist.



Source: CSIRO

TABLE 1 Storage conditions required to maintain seed quality of key grain crops

	Maximum temperature (°C)	Maximum moisture content (%)
Cereals	20	12
Canola	20	7
Pulses	20	12.5

SOURCE: GRDC Stored Grain Extension Project

WINNER—SLUG BAIT DEAL 2023

Thank you to all those who participated in the slug bait deal during October and November.

Congratulations—the winner of the Weber Q1000 is DW & EA Laidlaw.



Stubble Management

As the crops are being harvested and more stubbles become available to graze, burn, cut for straw etc.

How do we manage these stubbles to maintain establishment and weed control the following year?

Due, to the adoption of minimum/ no tillage resulting in full stubble retention and diverse crop rotations here are several benefits to managing your stubble management:

Preserving Soil Health: Stubble can serve as a natural shield for our fertile soil. Through strategic stubble management, we safeguard against erosion, retain moisture, and enhance water infiltration.

Weed Suppression and Biodiversity Boost: The remnants of our crops not only protect against unwanted weed growth but also foster a diverse ecosystem. Effective stubble management minimizes the reliance of summer knockdowns, promoting a healthier balance between crops and the flora and fauna.

Livestock Integration for Dual Benefits: Allowing our animals to graze on post-harvest stubble not only reduces the need for supplemental feed but also contributes to a more balanced and nutrient-rich diet for our livestock. Specific Stubble Management:

Cereal Crops: The stubble from cereal crops, such as wheat, barley, and oats, is not only rich in carbohydrates but

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also provides excellent ground cover. We should strategically manage these residues to balance soil protection with providing a valuable energy source for grazing livestock.

Legume Crops: Legume stubbles, from crops like peas and fababeans, offer a nutrient-rich mix for both the soil and grazing animals. The residues contribute protein and energy to livestock diets while enriching the soil with nitrogen, promoting overall soil fertility.

Canola: Stubble from canola, brings a palatable and diverse nutritional profile for our livestock.

Strategies for Successful Grazing and Diverse Stubble Management:

Rotational Grazing Systems: Implementing controlled or rotational grazing systems ensures that our livestock have access to stubble while preventing overgrazing. This thoughtful approach maximizes the benefits for both our fields and our animals.

Crop-Specific Stubble Management: Tailoring our stubble management strategies to the type of crop residue offers a customized approach to farming. Whether it's the carbohydrate-rich stubble of cereals, nutrient-dense legume residues, or the palatable remains of brassica crops, we're optimizing our practices for the best results.

For more information on stubble management post harvest please talk to your Gorst Rural Agronomist.



Grazing Forage Brassica.

Having summer forage crops to continue finishing livestock to weight can be extremely beneficial once normal pasture quality has started to decline.

Forage brassica is a source of high protein, high energy feed with a low NDF (highly digestible) – on the surface this seems great, however there are some management strategies to find the keys to success.

Weight gains can be varied – this can be due to type and growth stage of brassicas but there are other factors that determine how well our stock do when grazing these.

Young stock (lambs and weaner cattle) have a crude protein requirement of 16% to achieve weight gain. They can build muscle with CP at 16% of total diet. However, Brassica can exceed this CP level by quite a lot which can then start to have adverse effects on production.

Excess protein (nitrogen) needs to be converted by the animal via the liver into urea and excreted (Urea recycling). This process uses lots of energy which in turn is lost on production (weight gain).

Example: 40kg lamb eating 1.6kg DM Brassica converting at 5:1 putting on 320gm/day if ME levels are being met. If Brassica CP is 30% (14% above required 16%) then industry calculations on lost energy is: 0.16MJ per % of CP over 16 x intake (1.6kg)

$0.16 \times 16 \times 1.6 =$
4.09MJ per head
per day used to
convert excess
protein. This
burned energy
will drop weight
gain per day
significantly.



DLF Seeds—Forage Brassica.

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Ways to eliminate this loss of production:

1. Grazing Management to encourage livestock to consume leaf & stem of the plant – this needs to be done by pressure grazing (strip grazing method). The stem of the plant has much lower protein levels than the leaf – therefore by grazing both this will lower the overall protein intake closer to the required 16%CP.
2. Ad lib quality hay so animals shall be encouraged to eat it. Provides fibre mat – slowing down the rate of passage thus allowing animals more time to digest the brassica.
3. Provide a mineral loose lick (high in salt to encourage them onto it plus drink water) which includes bentonite – again to slow down the rate of passage down and provide essential minerals & vitamins. Impacts ruminal conversion of energy by maximising metabolizable protein uptake.
4. Provide starch in form of grain (barley) to provide carbohydrates and increased ME. Provide with grain buffer & mineral supplement.

For Livestock Production Support contact: Robbie Neale @ Gorst Rural

CHRISTMAS IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Come along to Wickliffe Carols 2023
on Friday 15th Dec @ Wicky Rec.

Children's games 5:30pm, Carols 6:30pm, Santa 7pm.

Just like last year bring along picnic rug/chairs and
your own food and drinks to share amongst
yourself/family. There will be no Community
combined meal.

Parents of children may place gifts from Santa under
the tree in the night.

Raffle donations greatly appreciated for hamper.

Enquires to Kirsten 0417 127 550.

Always such a great night, all welcome.



"CHRISTMAS IN DERRI"

Wednesday 13th at the REC reserve—5pm.

Free sausage sizzle and the all important

Santa arriving on the fire truck.

WILLAURA LIONS CLUB SANTA IN THE PARK & BBQ



Friday
15th Dec
Time : 5:30pm
Place : Willaura
Lions Park



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY



Santa is coming to Lake Bolac
21st December 5:30pm
Lake Bolac Information Centre Park
Sausage Sizzle Provided by

Gorst Rural

Santa will be escorted by the Lake Bolac Fire Brigade
@ 6pm to bring some lollies and Joy to the community



Drawn Thursday 1st of March 2024

Entries available from the 1st of November 2023 — 28th of February 2024

FLY AND SUMMER DRENCH PROMO

1st Prize:

5 Place Prizes

(1 to be won per store)

38LT ENGEL

45LT YETI ESKY

PURCHASE ANY OF THE BELOW PRODUCTS BETWEEN 01-11-2023 AND 28-02-2024 AND GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN A 38LT ENGEL OR 1 OF 5 45LT YETI ESKIES (1 TO BE DRAWN PER STORE) - ALL NOVEMBER PURCHASES RECEIVE DOUBLE TICKETS IN THE DRAW

AVENGE + FLY

DI-FLY

ZOLVIX PLUS

PYRIMIDE

CLIK EXTRA

DI-FLY EXTRA

Q-DRENCH

TRIFECTA

CLIKZIN

VETRAZIN

TRIDECTIN

TRIGUARD

