



# Agri Talk

[www.gorstrural.com.au](http://www.gorstrural.com.au)

January 2025

## At a Glance...

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- Post Harvest Management of Stubbles.
- 2024 Trial Wrap up.
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- Unibox Offer.
- Hay & Silage—Livestock Requirements.
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- Specials.
- Word Search.



### Welcome 2025

Happy New Year to all. 2025 is the year of the Snake according to the Chinese, the meaning is a year of transformation, renewal and growth. I think after the dry and tough season of 2024, and then the Grampians fires at the end many of us are looking forward to a prosperous and fruitful 2025.

Whilst the fires are something we all could do without, it has been amazing to see the community pull together and pitch in wherever needed, and although damage has been done it could have been far worse. It has been amazing to see the efforts of so many all doing their bit and no doubt helping with for the recovery efforts.

Our calendars are out & about, put together by our wonderful team with plenty of local pictures, thanks to all our participants. Read on for some great articles on seed selection, livestock management and other offers. We have got some great trial data coming in that our team have worked hard on including nitrogen use, herbicide performance and varieties.

### Inputs Update.

As usual, the world trade scene is an interesting space with a change of government in the US, talk of wide tariff implementation, a drop in the AUD and continual pressure on supply routes and sea freight. Mostly however, demand for inputs seems subdued with growers dealing with affordability and lower grain prices.

Commentary from suppliers seems around higher production and stock levels and squeezed margins with manufacturers keen to see product move, but maintain pricing. Overproduction in China followed by an uptake in North American markets trying to beat any tariff implementation has seen steady to flat pricing.

### Key Points.

Glyphosate pricing is still around historical lows, despite efforts by the Chinese manufacturers to increase. Good stocks and probably as best time as any to put some in the shed.

Paraquat supply exceeds demand with manufacturers claiming costs of production well above current pricing. Price steady and AVPMA review pushed back into second half of 2025 with huge number of submissions. Current stocks of 20L to be phased out in this sowing season.

Chlorpyrifos & Pynrex Super current supplies to be phased out and no longer registered for use post Sep 25.

Triflur/ Triallate good supplies similar pricing to last year.

Slug Baits in good supply across most products.

Talk to us about your requirements.

### 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

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**Gorst Rural Fertiliser**  
0497 850 489

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## Fertiliser

### Phosphates

Internationally price movements are steady even slightly falling.  
 Supply still subdued with weak affordability (crop price vs fert price).  
 China still on export halt, their domestic price is well below export prices.  
 Weak AUD playing major havoc with purchasing.

### Opinion

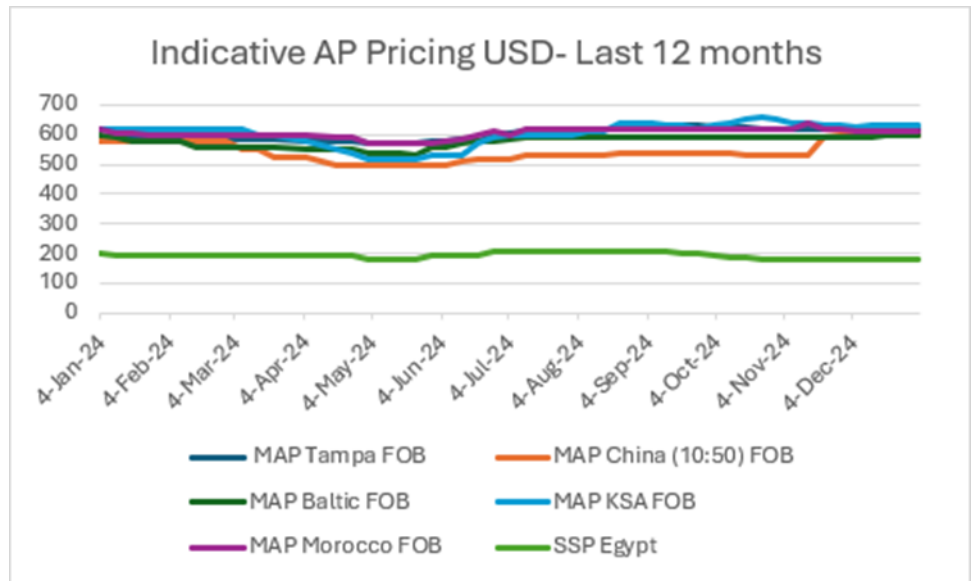
Supply of MAP & GAINZ/ Compounds is good with product available for pickup now.  
 Pricing is similar to last season, only changes will be due to currency or China's re-entry to market.  
 Talk to us about your requirements for the upcoming season.

### Urea

There has been price rises in Urea with India tender only partially filled, firming gas prices in Europe and limited supply & demand situation. Lower stocks & shipments into Australia will ramp up into February & March. There has been limited ability to take forward positions. Weak AUD not helping with price increases.

### Opinion

Keep monitoring Urea market, in last 2 years, the price has decreased internationally in May-July period. Keep eye out for when & where your urea requirements are, it could be a question of timing.



## Post Harvest Management of Stubbles:

We are getting questions regarding handling stubbles post-harvest especially in frost affected areas where stubble seems greener, tougher, sappier and even trying to regrow. Generally, the stubble loads are not massive, however there are some points to consider:

### 1. Frosted areas harvested for grain may have higher nutrient levels.

Great work by Laycock & Menhennet (Incitec Pivot Fertilisers, after the 2013 frost in Shepparton) shows there maybe differences in nutrient levels (See Table 3 & 4). **In fact, frosted stubble contains 3 x Nitrogen, 50% more Phosphorus, 2 x Potassium, 4 x Sulphur, 2 x Copper and 4 x Zinc of unaffected stubble.**

This presents 2 scenarios:

Higher feed value for livestock grazing, and the more that stubble can be utilised by stock- water points, paddock size, grazing mgt & supplements- the more valuable it could be.

Higher nutrients for next year's crop. If this paddock is burnt, a significant portion of N & S will be lost, if a fair portion is mulched or incorporated, it may cycle for next year. In fact, a lower carbon: nitrogen ratio in frosted crops should lead to increase stubble breakdown over summer.

**Table 3: Comparing the nutrient content in stubble from harvested wheat**

	N kg/t D/W	P kg/t D/W	K kg/t D/W	S kg/t D/W	Ca kg/t D/W	Mg kg/t D/W	Cu g/t D/W	Zn g/t D/W	B g/t D/W
Not frost affected	2	0.3	12	0.4	1	0.8	10	15	39
Frosted	7.5	0.5	21	1.9	1.7	.9	19	92	39

Source: Nutrient Advantage Laboratory Services, 2013

**Table 4: Nutrients in 8 t/ha of residual stubble after harvest, Shepparton district, 2013**

Paddock name	kg N/ha	kg P/ha	kg K/ha	kg S/ha	grams Cu/ha	grams Zn/ha
Paddock 1 Good	16	2.4	96	3.2	80	120
Paddock 1 Frosted	60	4	168	15.2	152	736
Paddock 2 Good	25.6	2.4	88	4.8	88	152
Paddock 2 Frosted	62.4	3.2	160	12.8	144	552

Source: Stubble samples analysed at Nutrient Advantage Laboratory Services, 2013

Reference: Laycock, J & Menhennet, L. Moving forward from the frosts of 2013, Incitec Pivot Fertilisers

**2. Managing the amount of crop residue for next year’s sowing:**

Whilst work by GRDC (2017) showed that by reducing or removing stubble in frost affected areas reduced the severity & duration of frost, the position in the landscape & topography had a greater influence on temperature variations, frost damage and yield. Researchers highlighted in many areas stubble retention contributes to crop yield, so that reducing or burning may only be effective in lower frost prone areas as a strategy. Consider techniques such as straw baling, mulching (topping) and incorporation to start working on residues before moving onto burning strategies. Ref; Smith, Minkey et al (Feb 2017) Stubble management recommendations and limitations for frost prone landscapes, GRDC & DAFWA.

**3. Control weeds & volunteers prior to grazing:**

With crops finishing off early many have a bank of weeds or regeneration underneath them. It is best to spray when young, fresh and before stock go in. It is also an advantage to get on top of green bridge weeds that may spread disease such as crown rot, rust & blackleg, plus stop any seed set of annuals, e.g. Wild Radish that may be trying to grow again.

Also monitor mice & slug levels where they have plenty of feed & habitat on offer as we may be creating another problem down the track.

**4. Be aware of potential livestock issues:**

Be careful of grazing stubbles & problem weeds e.g. Panic grass, Loosestrife, Heliotrope etc. Spray first and introduce stock slowly to new feeds.

For any further information please contact our Gorst Rural agronomists.

**2024 Trial Wrap Up:**

Trial harvest is officially done and dusted for another season, and what a year it has been. Our yield results are certainly reflecting the season we have had, with moisture stressed plants for much of the year and an untimely frost. However, we have some good data that can be used to provide some teachings in these drier years. All our results are currently getting statistically analysed so we can bring you reliable results in our 2024 trial results book, which will be out in early Feb.

We covered many different trials this season including variety trials, both cereal and canola pre-emergent, Nitrogen polymers, Volatilisation, Biological products and pastures. While we hope to not see another season like 2024 for a long time and the results from these trials do reflect the niche season, the results should bring us confidence in how these products are standing up in a tough year.

As we start to get some results back, key stand outs from our spring canola variety trial are:

Variety	Herbicide tolerance
Invigour LR5040P and Invigour LR4540P	Liberty ( Glufosinate-ammonium) and Roundup (Glyphosate)
Nuseed Eagle TF	Trueflex (Glyphosate)
PY421C	Clearfeild (IMI’s)



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Keep any eye out for our 2024 trials results book to see a full overview of results from all our trials this season. A big thank you to everyone that has supported us by hosting trial sites, coming to field days and being involved in our trial program.

We have some exciting things coming for our trial program in 2025!



### Seed Update:

With the New Year coming around again its that time of year to start thinking about Seed for 2025.

Canola Seed so far looks to be in good shape supply wise. We have plenty of Roundup Ready options available including PY525G Opti Gly, PY428R (New Y28 type, earlier maturity) Invigor R4520P. We also have our Liberty Round up options which have performed well in our trials again this year, the two options being Invigor LR4540P, and out this year is the Invigor LR5040P (later maturing variety compared to the 4540). In the Clearfield space we have our old faithful's in 45Y95 & 44Y94 and PY421C which have performed really well in the paddocks after its release last year.

We have some great deals in the TT space as we are trying to move some carryover stock varieties like Trophy, Trifecta and Baseline, they will be priced to move, and we will also have some Blazer & Defender.

On the Cereal side of things most products seem to be in good supply, however the new Triple 2 wheat (Beaufort replacement) is at this stage sold out. Also one to note is with new Neo Barley orders for 2025 will have the full rate of Rancona Dimension applied.



pretty good shape from what I'm hearing, we have collaborated our trial data and putting into our Gorst mixes for 2025. There have been some tough conditions in Rowleaf and Balansa but we will be in good shape on supply of those key products. available and can also source some Benetas Vetch if that is more suited to your

come through over the last few days. If you have any interest in finding out more please reach out to our agronomists.

now, and have already had orders coming through which is great to see.

Contact Ryan on 0408 209 031 or speak to your agronomist.

### **The Need To Test Crop-Topped Seed & Sowing Seed in General**

Seed testing plays an integral role in the production and marketing of high quality seed by minimising the risk of sowing seed which does not have the ability to produce a worthwhile crop. Even though we have had a great season, it is still important to test that seed is viable and also to get a representation of seed weight so as that you know exactly how much seed is required to reach targeted plant populations.

### **Why test seed?**

An adequate plant population is essential for efficient production and sowing poor quality seed will usually result in poor crop establishment and reduced yields. As the cost of seed usually represents a relatively small proportion of the overall cost of crop production, the use of high quality seed is a wise investment.

With new registrations and an ever-increasing desire to prevent weeds from setting seeds in our paddocks, we are using products that can affect both germination and vigour of the crop seed that is in these paddocks. This only ever becomes an issue for us in the following season when we look to use the seed from these treated paddocks to grow our new season crop. We are now able to crop-top most crops including wheat, barley, canola and all of the pulses. The main products holding a registration are glyphosate, Sharpen, diquat and paraquat and each have a fit in a certain situation.

Glyphosate treated crops should NEVER be retained for seed as the risk of reduced germination and vigour is far too great due to the timing of application and the severe impact it can have.

Paraquat is mostly safe on pulses and shouldn't cause any issues however cannot be used on cereals.

Diquat is similar to paraquat although it may affect pulses if application is too early.

Finally, Sharpen is a newly registered product into the crop-topping market for cereals and pulses. It is a broadleaf herbicide but still holds a registration into pulses for control of weeds such as wild radish and milk thistle. It is extremely fast to brown out broadleaf weeds and therefore needs to be used carefully to avoid issues with seed quality. If used before seed is properly formed it can affect germination and more importantly vigour which can lead to deformed or retarded plant growth.

Seed testing is required to initially determine whether the seed is good enough to sow or whether it should be sold or fed to stock instead. Then if the seed is of sufficient quality, what sowing rate is required to meet your target plant population.

To enable these calculations we must test for Germination, Vigour and 1000 Seed Weight.

*Germination testing* measures the expected percentage of seeds that will germinate under ideal sowing conditions i.e. those seedlings which show the ability to establish and produce useful plants under favourable conditions. The test will also report the proportion of abnormal seedlings, fresh and/or hard seeds and dead seeds.

*Vigour testing* is the expected percentage of seeds that will germinate under adverse sowing conditions. These adverse conditions include chemical, weather, sowing and soil impacts etc. This is important to make sure there is not a large variation between the seeds ability to establish in optimal conditions and when things are challenging.

*Thousand seed weight* is the weight of 1000 seeds and aids in optimising sowing rates.

From these figures we can then calculate our required sowing rate in proportion to our targeted plant population using the following formula for cereals:

**Sowing rate (kg/ha) = (1000 grain weight (g) x desired plants /m<sup>2</sup>) ÷ ((germination percentage x vigour percentage) x 100)**

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For example: The sowing rate for Trojan wheat with a 1000 seed weight of 44g, desired population of 180 plants per m<sup>2</sup>, germination percentage of 85% and vigour of 85% is:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Sowing Rate (kg/ha)} &= (44 \times 180) / ((0.85 \times 0.85) \times 100) \\ &= 7,920 / 72.3 \\ &= 109.5 \text{ kg/ha}\end{aligned}$$

For Canola the calculation is:

$$\text{Sowing rate (kg/ha)} = (\text{target plant density m}^2 \times 1,000,000) \div (\text{seeds kg} \times ((\text{germination percentage} \times \text{vigour percentage}) \times 100))$$

So for canola with a target plant density of 50 m<sup>2</sup>, 270,000 seeds per kg, a germination of 85% and vigour of 85%, the required sowing rate is:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Sowing Rate (kg/ha)} &= (50 \times 1,000,000) / ((270,000 \times ((0.85 \times 0.85) \times 100)) \\ &= 50,000,000 / 19,521,000 \\ &= 2.56 \text{ kg/ha}\end{aligned}$$

Seed testing can also be used to test seed purity and seed borne diseases which can be particularly important for pulse seed crops.

To get your seed tested you simply need to take a 1 kg representative sample of the seed you wish to sow, and bring it into one of the Gorst stores to have it sent away for testing. The turnaround time is approximately one month from the lab receiving the sample so now is the perfect time to get them away before seed cleaning time.

It is simple to send away a sample to assure that your new season crop seed is up to standard and to prevent any issues post sowing.

For further information please talk to your Gorst Rural agronomist...

### Early Seed Orders Unibox Deal:

If you place an early order for any seed at your Gorst Rural Store, you have the opportunity to receive a discounted Unibox price offer. We have been using these Uniboxes in store now for a few years and they really have been well worth the leap of faith. Vermon proof, Easy to stack and store, More sturdy and safe compared to Bulka Bags, the other bonus is the sustainability side of things.



XL Unibox \$2,475.00 incl  
(delivered if needed)

Holds easily 1,000kg Canola  
and around 900kg of  
Ryegrass

Medium Unibox

\$2,024.00 incl

Holds Roughly 400-500kg  
Canola





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### Hay & Silage – Livestock Requirements:

#### FIBRE

Reported as NDF as a percentage of DM – measure of total fibre and indicates how bulky the feed is.

Minimum level of fibre required in the diet is 30%, ideally 35%

High NDF% feeds result in low intakes, impacting on energy intake.

Too little fibre can result in acidosis when feeding low fibre feeds (Eg grain, pellets)

Feeds with too little fibre are rapidly fermented in the gut and the by-product of this can crash the pH resulting in sick / dead animals.

Dry Matter Intake = Liveweight x (1.2 / NDF)

#### ENERGY

ME value of feed is important to firstly maintain weight then production level is highly dependent on meeting specific energy requirements.

#### PROTEIN

Required for almost all bodily functions

Lack of protein in the diet adversely affects the microbial protein production in the rumen, which in turn reduces the utilization of feed.

Too much protein can also cause an inefficient use of energy by the animal.

For every 1% CP in excess of requirements: **0.18MJME/kgDM** is used to excrete excess protein.

#### FEED TESTING

Key parameters:

Dry matter – for hay, if DM is less than 82% hay can rot/spoil and heating can be an issue. Silage should be 35-45% DM, if less than 35% silage will not have fermented properly therefore low quality.

Energy – good quality hay 9 MJME/kgDM, quality silage 10.5 MJME/kgDM.

Protein – meet requirements for class of stock.

NDF – low quality hay >65%, low quality silage >50%.

Fat – not above 5% as can impair rumen function.

Ash – total mineral content, residue remaining after burning sample. Above 10% indicates soil contamination.



Water Soluble Carbohydrates (WSC – Sugar) – measure of sugars, below 15% of DM indicates not much sugar available for energy production.

VFA's – for silage, lactic acid preferred, acetic acid ok in smaller amounts, butyric acid no good.

#### BUYING HAY / SILAGE / GRAIN

Calculate the cost of feed on an energy basis.

Work our cents per kgDM then calculate the cost per MJ of Energy.

Eg Hay \$320/t with 8MJME and 85% DM

$\$320/850\text{kg} = 37.65\text{c/kgDM}$  then  $37.65/8 = \$4.71\text{c/MJME}$

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### Biosecurity

Think about weeds that maybe in hay brought in – consider sacrifice paddocks to feed this hay. Silage not a real issue with weeds as if ensiled properly weeds seeds would have died during the fermentation process.

Commodity Vendor Declaration – ask seller for one for traceability



GORST RURAL OFFER FEED TESTING – We collect & send samples to Forage Lab Bendigo. We can assist in interpretation and subsequent feed ration calculations.

For further information please talk to your local Gorst Rural store or contact

Robbie Neale 0428 681 300

### Grazing Stubbles & Dry Pasture:

#### Cereal Stubbles

Adult sheep are preferred for grazing cereal stubbles as young sheep are unlikely to achieve weight gains of more than 80g/hd/day (even less this year). Depending on the amount of grain on the ground (be mindful of acidosis initially), the nutritional value shall fall away sharply once the actual grain has been cleared up. Regularly assess the amount of residual grain and ground cover.

The nutritional value of straw is generally very poor, mainly because of its low digestibility and low nitrogen content – particularly in wet areas where rain may have reduced the digestibility further by leaching out the soluble (digestible) components of the straw.

#### Canola Stubbles

If canola stubbles contain green leaf (regrowth) and stem material, they may provide enough quality feed that is beneficial to young stock and ewes to be flushed for joining.

Best to graze before the green material wilts and dies. Green canola stubbles are highly palatable therefore can be grazed out quickly, growth rates will then start declining.

#### Legume Stubbles

Are a better feed source for young stock and ewes before and during mating.

#### Dry Pasture

The amount of feed that can be consumed by sheep daily is related to the digestibility of the feed. Lower the digestibility the lower the feed intake. With recent wet weather the quality of dry feed shall deteriorate rapidly during a hot summer. Once digestibility drops below 55% it will provide (at best) a maintenance source only – possibly weight loss if not substituted.

#### Feed v Fill scenario.

Dry pasture will have very high fiber content and very low protein. It is therefore more fill than nutritional feed. Also, dry pasture and cereal stubbles have inadequate mineral and vitamin availability so consider supplementing.

The nitrogen to carbon ratio is required for rumen microbial activity to lead to better feed utilization. Remember dry pastures and cereal stubbles are low in nitrogen – so supplementation shall greatly assist.

For further information please talk to your local Gorst Rural store or contact Robbie Neale 0428 681 300





RX Super 15w-40 205ltr  
\$1295.00incl  
(While stocks last)

Supervite Gold Label Adult Beef  
2 for \$120.00incl (while stock)



EVO Shearing Plant with Solid  
Downtube \$2,450.00incl



Lucky Layer  
2 for \$40.00incl



Air Compressor P17E  
Electric Peerless  
\$1,995.00incl



5000 gallon Tanks  
(Smooth in Merino or Mist  
Green in stock - other colours  
can be ordered)  
\$3,100.00 incl

Whiskas Slab  
2 for \$122.00incl



## Gorst Word Search Puzzle

G R A I N A Y O C C T A E H W R N I T O  
R H A R T A R L A T P T D S R O P E K G  
S S G O R S T C N P N O O Y T A T M C C  
U E R P G O E L E S H P T P S L S R D H  
P E S A S P C E A M B S I T S O N U C E  
P I T R E S H H F L I K U I E W W A Y M  
O P E I E S P E I M S R I I I A I U C I  
R H S G D O N S O S E Y E L R A B A M C  
T H T T M C M N E S A P L S O I L T R A  
W U I Y I O O R C M G A T N G O T H S L  
T I N N R R I R T I U L R H B R H I L A  
N M G E G T A N A R C S G E C M A O T I  
L S C A S N R O A H N R K D G A Y A Y I  
T I T H S T G I O U G A N I T Y N S I P  
G A E D R T R C A E L O R C N I Y O S N  
L D E R R I N A L L U M O I A I O O L T  
E E I N T E U H C T L L I G O C I I P A  
A M I N T A A T I T C N I N T L A E E O  
A R A T E L R H A A O M E U F T P S T C  
T Y T I N U M M O C S R E F N M N R S C

GORST	TRACTOR	WILLAURA	DERRINALLUM
SKIPTON	TATYOON	CANOLA	WHEAT
BARLEY	TAG	SHEEP	CATTLE
SPRAY	FUNGICIDE	CHEMICAL	SHED
LAKEBOLAC	LISMORE	SEED	AGRONOMIST
FENCING	GRAIN	COMMUNITY	TRIAL
TESTING	SOIL	SUPPORT	PASTURE