



Agri Talk

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February 2025

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Welcome to fabulous February! The hot, crispy days continue and the countryside is parched. Many growers are flat out with meals on wheels feeding stock, and carting / pumping water. A promised pipeline for stock & domestic water, would be a game changer right now! To those who are getting water—talk to us about your requirements—for those who are not there yet—hopefully common sense will prevail. Scratcher and his team have been busy talking rations, feed requirements, containment setups, water quality and supplements to make the most of stock in dry times. The Agro team have been busy soil testing, farm planning and finalizing trial results – to present high quality, local data. Give us a call to find out more – or stay tuned for one of our upcoming pre-season updates.

GORST RURAL

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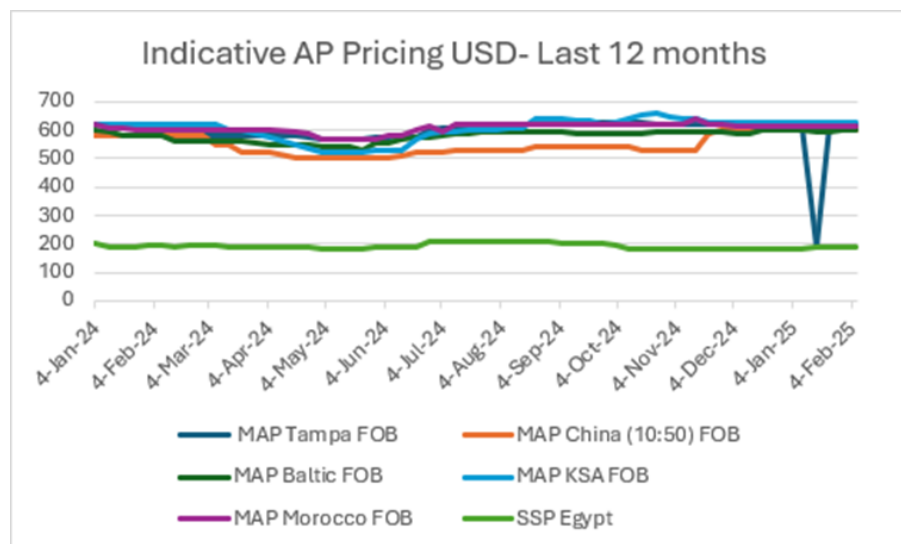
Inputs update

Phosphate:

Internationally, phosphate fertiliser has not varied much across the last 12 months. There is some issues with prompt supply and tariff talks causing jitters. US MAP price rose \$ 30/t in the last week. Most Australian shipments are underway with most product ex Morocco or Saudi Arabia. OCP hits record volumes for 2024 (12.37 million tonnes) and expected to be more in 2025.

Opinion

- *MAP pricing steady, main concerns around AUD fluctuations*
- *AUD back up to 0.62 - 0.63*
- *Sheds at port appear to be filling - with concerns for over demand*
- *Could be a good time to start picking up fert mid-month and beat rush*
- *Talk to us about your custom requirements for Impact, Uniform, Zinc, Copper and Moly.*
- *Have a discussion around some of our P enhancement products also.*



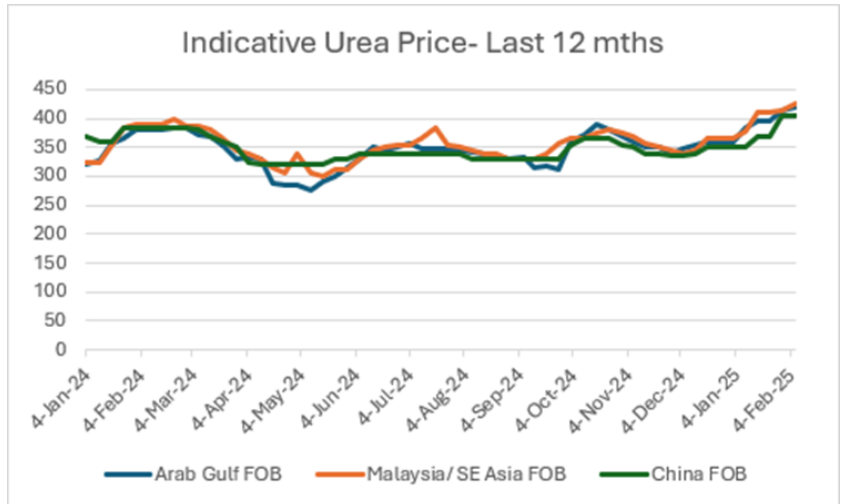
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Urea

- Feb shipments are largely committed
- Urea values now edging above multi-year highs
- Increased competition into March especially from India has suppliers buoyant
- Pricing now at a 2 year high, buyers still concerned with affordability
- India will be looking for more tonnes
- Shipments underway for Australia from UAE, Qatar and Bahrain but no new spot cargoes ordered.

Opinion

- *Urea is currently on a run internationally - domestic market following, albeit slowly.*
- *Still commentary around Urea coming off Q2 - but will this be another 2023?*
- *AUD still fluctuating – up to .63USD yesterday.*
- *Talk to us about your nitrogen requirements for upcoming season*
- *Check out our trial results on some the alternatives and enhancers.*



Ag Chem

Most products are at historical lows and sea freight reduced, this may rise from here due to AUD and Trumps tariffs. There is good supplies of most products in options including Glyphosate, Paraquat, Glufosinate, Trifluralin, Triallate, Pyroxasulfone and many more. We will have our pre-em offer out soon and enable early delivery of product to get ahead. We also have Seasonal finance facilities for those looking for crop input finance.

Cricket Bait

We have had reports of cricket activity down south and it won't be long and crickets will be again be causing grief on heavy ground and cracking flats. We do have Fyafon treated wheat available to bait crickets and can also mix in with bait, clover or pasture fert to spread at the same time. Talk to your agronomist about your requirements and situation.

Summer Grazing

Reminder about grazing stock on stubbles and fallows. Keep an eye out for weeds such as loosestrife, sorrel, heliotrope and hairy panic. These weeds can cause livestock issues and production problems. Talk to your agronomist about any concerns. In addition watch out for flushes of growth of ryegrass and Phalaris during this period, a quick spurt of growth could cause issues with endophyte and alkaloids - leading to staggers or worse.

Sponsorship

We are in the throes of finalising our sponsorship budgets this month. If you are involved in a local community or sporting organisations please contact us for a sponsorship request form and return by the end of Feb. We do tend to focus on our small towns and local events that help the community, rather than the large organizations or individual contributions—but please submit an interest if you have something on the go!

Crop Input Finance made easy

Should you be looking for an option to finance crop inputs throughout the season, Gorst Rural has partnered up with NRI and DLL to provide growers with a crop input facility. This facility is available on Seed, Ag Chem and Fertiliser inputs - with a short term loan (6-13 months) for scheduled repayment after harvest. There is a simple application process, as long as you meet criteria, are a property owner and have been farming for over 5 years. Generally loan facilities of up to \$350 000 can be approved within 24 hours. For more info contact Davina at Lake Bolac or DLL - Daniel Benson on 0400 451 487. *Finance is provided by De Lage Landen Pty Ltd (ABN 20 101 692 940) (DLL) Goods to be used for business purposes only. Subject to DLL's standard credit criteria, fees, terms and conditions apply. This is for general information only - you should seek independent legal, financial and tax advice that take into account your individual circumstance.*

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New Faces at Gorst Rural

We welcome some new members to the Gorst Rural team this month. Please call in and say Hello when you are next in town.

We welcome back Sarah Kelly in the position of Graduate Livestock Production. Sarah completed a university placement role back in 22/23 with us. Sarah hails from NSW and attended the University of New England, completing a Bachelor in Rural Science. Sarah will be mentored by Robbie Neale learning all things Livestock Production and Pastures becoming an integral part of the Field Services team.



Chloe Dyer has commenced in a Customer Service role based out of Lake Bolac helping Liam and the team. Chloe has recently moved to the district with her partner. Chloe has experience in agriculture and animal studies, working with cattle and sheep. Chloe also has a passion for dance and is a qualified dance teacher, she will be teaching classes in Ararat throughout 2025.

Tamzin Hovenden has commenced in a Customer Service role based out of our Skipton branch. Tamzin has recently moved to Skipton with her partner. Tamzin brings with her experience in both cattle and sheep, and also customer service and hospitality. Tamzin is hoping to get involved this season with local netball.



Using Gly in the Dry

Glyphosate is an important summer knockdown tool. For best results in hot & dry conditions, please consider:

1. Reduced Efficacy:

High temperatures can significantly impact the efficacy of Glyphosate, especially when applied during extreme heat, > 30 DegC. Trials indicate that Glyphosate's efficacy may diminish in hot conditions, leading to incomplete weed control which can overtime lead to resistance.

2. Soil and Plant Stress:

Warm temperatures induce stress in target plants – weeds & post-harvest volunteers. Glyphosate, being a systemic herbicide, relies on the active growth of plants for optimal absorption. In stressed conditions, such as high temperatures, when plants are not actively growing may not absorb and metabolize the herbicide efficiently. Adequate soil moisture is also required for plants to actively grow and absorb herbicides applied.

3. Evolving Resistance:

Warm temperatures can accelerate the evolution of resistance, as the selective pressure on weed populations increases. Rotating herbicides and adopting integrated weed management (IWM) strategies are essential to mitigate the risk of resistance development during the summer months. Best practice for IWM is to tank mix multiple modes of action when targeting weed species. Consider mix partners in spray program.

4. Application Timing:

Choosing the right time for Glyphosate application is critical during warmer periods. Applying Glyphosate during the early morning or late afternoon when temperatures are milder can enhance its efficacy. Sometime applying after an overnight dew improves uptake. Glyphosate requires some photosynthesis so applying in the dark is not ideal. Dusty conditions can cause problems with wheel tracking and uptake.

5. Use of Wetter / Adjuvants:

The use of different wetters, oils and penetrants affect glyphosate performance. Consider weeds and mix partners when selecting wetters.

Please talk to your local Gorst Agronomist for further information regarding Summer Knockdown herbicide mixes.

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2025 Cereal and Canola Seed Treatments

Seed treatments have quickly become a valuable tool for cropping systems, allowing farmers to protect their crop through the highly vulnerable early stages of growth, right from the get-go. Seed treatments protection against fungal pathogens, pests and insects, aiding seed germination, nutrient uptake, crop yield and protecting against stunted seedling growth, providing the seedling with a favourable environment for establishment.

Due to high prevalence of smut in barley varieties especially Neo and Maximus it is strongly encouraged to use full rates of Rancona, Evergol or Vibrance. Below are the available seed treatment options at Gorst Rural and how they are registered to protect your crop.

Canola Seed Treatment							
Treatment	Description	Black Leg	Rhizoctonia	Pythium	Red legged earth mite	Blue Oat mite	Black field earwig
EQUENTO	MOA for the control of Red-legged earth mite (RLEM)				✓	✓	
SALTRO DUO	Early protection using multiple MOA to protect early disease onset in canola seedlings	✓	✓	✓			
ILEVO	Alternate MOA for use against early BL up to the first true leaves	✓					
MAXIM XL	Fungicide for early protection, as well as seedling BL suppression	✓	✓	✓			
COSMOS	Protect and control pests to canola seedlings				✓		✓

Cereal Seed Treatment										
Treatment	Loose Smut	Covered Smut	Flag Smut	Common Bunt	Rhizoctonia	Pythium	White Grain Disorder	Fusarium Head Blight	Crown Rot	Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus Spread
Rancona	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Systiva	✓	•	•	✓	✓					
Evergol Energy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Vibrance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hombre Ultra	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓
Gaicho	•	•	•							✓
Cruiser 350										✓

If you require any assistance the Gorst Rural Agronomy team are here to help.

Campylobacter in Ewes

- *Campylobacter* is a bacterial infection affecting ewes in late pregnancy and can result in significant loss of lambs between scanning and marking.
- *Campylobacter* can cause abortions, still births and the birth of weak non-viable lambs.

Reports from the MLA and other sources show lamb losses from Campylobacter average 9%

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Campylobacteriosis (Vibriosis) in sheep is characterised clinically by abortion in late pregnant ewes and the birth of stillborn or small, weak, non-viable lambs. Lambs born alive often fail to thrive and die in the perinatal period. Campylobacteriosis can have devastating effects on the production of a sheep flock with up to 50% of ewes aborting in unvaccinated flocks that have never been exposed to the bacterial infection, experiencing an abortion storm. Two Campylobacter organisms have been isolated from submitted aborted foetuses. These are Campylobacter fetus fetus and Campylobacter jejuni. C. fetus fetus tends to reside in the uterus of the ewe whereas C. jejuni can reside in the gut and in the uterus. Coopers Ovilis CampyVax Campylobacter Vaccine for Sheep is an inactivated bivalent vaccine containing antigens of both Campylobacter fetus fetus and Campylobacter jejuni. These antigens were derived from strains isolated from Australian sheep. Use of the vaccine in Australian sheep flocks will help reduce reproductive losses (including abortions) due to Campylobacter infections in sheep.

Practices that can lead to high risk of infection:

- Joining maiden or ewe lambs
- Trail feeding pregnant ewes
- Cell grazing pregnant ewes
- Containment feeding pregnant ewes
- Buying/transporting new ewes onto the farm

Bacteria passed through in faeces so where there is high contamination the risk of bacteria spread increases Eg trail feeding grain poses higher risk than using self-feeders.

Treatment / Prevention

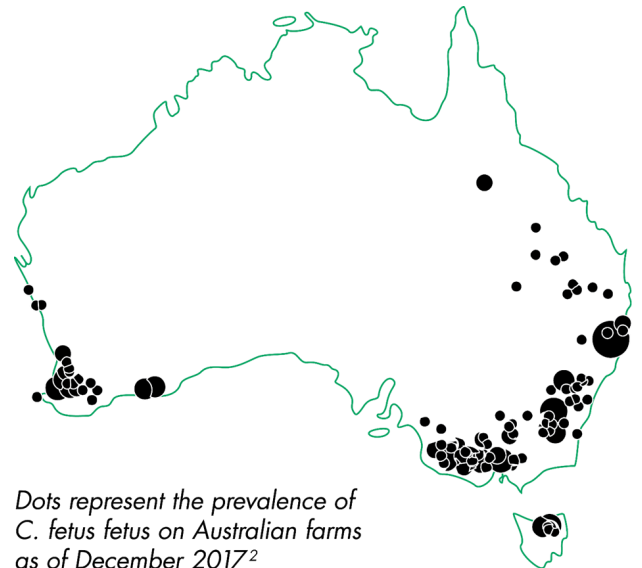
Unvaccinated breeding ewes should receive a sensitiser vaccination prior to joining and a booster dose a minimum of 3 weeks later. 2ml dose subcutaneous high on neck. It is essential that ewe lambs, maiden ewes, and newly purchased breeding ewes receive two vaccinations before introduction to the breeding flock.

Note: Use product within 12 hours of opening, avoid direct exposure to heat & light during use.

Meat & ESI Withhold is NIL

Annual boosters are recommended however once sheep are exposed to the bacteria they are less likely to become reinfected. The commercial benefit lies within treating maiden ewes not so much older ewes.

For more information please talk to our Gorst Rural team.



What are pneumonia and pleurisy?

Pneumonia is inflammation of the lungs while pleurisy refers to inflammation of the membranes that surround the lungs. These respiratory conditions can occur in all sheep; however, outbreaks are most common in weaners during summer.

What causes pneumonia?

Outbreaks of pneumonia are contributed to by environmental, animal and pathogen factors:

- Environmental factors include dusty conditions, hot weather and excessive crowding.
- Animal factors include inadequate nutrition, concurrent disease (e.g. internal parasites) and stress. These all impact the animal's immune system making them more susceptible to pneumonia.
- Pathogen factors refer to the bacteria and viruses that cause the disease. There are numerous pathogens that can be involved and can be either primary or secondary. Primary pathogens like Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae initiates a mild pneumonia with no or mild signs. This then makes the sheep more susceptible to a secondary bacterial infection which leads to severe disease. In some cases, parasitic infection from lung worm can also play a role.

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In addition, poor drenching technique can lead to aspiration pneumonia.

What are the signs?

The severity of signs can vary greatly. Some sheep affected will not show any respiratory signs, only a reduction in weight gain. Others can develop nasal discharge, coughing, increased respiratory effort, lethargy and inappetence before progressing to death.

What is the cost?

National Sheep Health Monitoring Project (NSHMP) inspected sheep at the abattoir from over 1200 properties in Victoria in 2019–20. They found that greater than 70 per cent of properties inspected in Victoria had at least one sheep with evidence of pleurisy at the abattoir. Overall, they reported 2.7 per cent of sheep carcasses inspected in Victoria were affected by pleurisy over the same period (NSHMP, 2020, page 30). However, there have been reports of single lines of lambs from farms having more than 15 per cent of carcasses affected. This can have a significant economic impact, as pleurisy can lead to adhesions to the chest wall which means trimming of high-value cuts. Carcasses with pleurisy can have 0.7–1.9 kg trimmed depending on if and how many ribs are affected (Lloyd, 2016). As a result, carcass trimming could lead to a significant discount to Producers.

The economic cost on farm in Australia is not fully understood and likely variable between farms. Clinical cases of pneumonia lead to increases in mortality, increased treatment cost and reduced animal welfare. However, reductions in weight gain from mild cases are also likely to be important. New Zealand research has found that chronic non-progressive pneumonia results in significant reductions in weight gain. When 20 per cent or more of the lung surface area is affected a 72 g/day (or 53 per cent) reduction in weight gain was reported (Goodwin-Ray, 2006). Another New Zealand study showed that lambs with pleurisy on average took 22.8 days longer to reach slaughter weight (Hickford, 2014). As a result, the feed costs for lambs to reach market weight will be increased.

Prevention

Prevention should be focused on managing environmental and animal risk factors. Key points to consider include:

Handling/Transport

- Practise low-stress handling.
- Avoid handling/transporting sheep in hot dry conditions.
- Consider the impact of mixing purchased groups of lambs from different sources (stressful but also potentially exposes lambs to new pathogens).

Nutrition/Health

- Ensure nutrition and access to water is optimised.
- Ensure other major animal health issues such as intestinal worms are managed.
- Ensure suitable shade is available.

Dust management

- Hosing down dusty yards and laneways before moving stock.
- Consider impact of stocking rate on dust levels when containment feeding.
- Avoid dusty feeds.

Drenching technique

- Do not lift head above horizontal and do not drench in cradle.

Biosecurity

- New sheep introduced could be carriers of respiratory pathogens that are new to your flock.

Clinical cases of pneumonia can be treated with consultation from a private veterinarian. In Australia there are currently no registered vaccines for pneumonia in sheep available.

For more information please talk to our Gorst Rural Animal Production team.

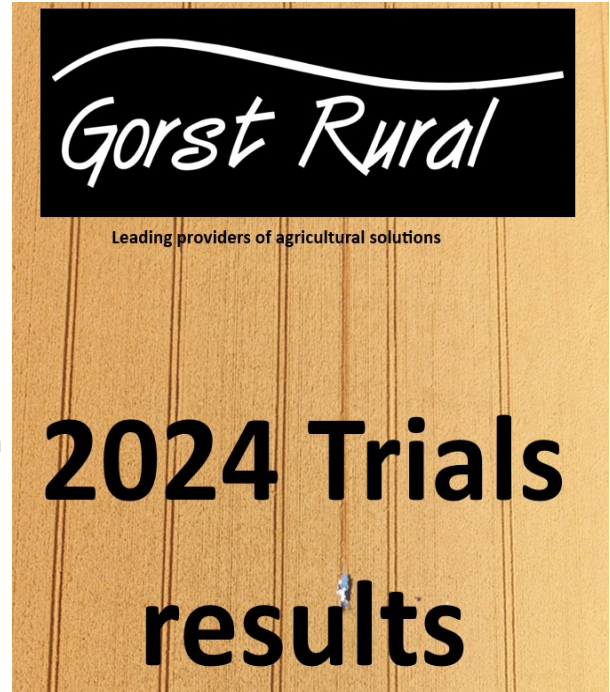
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Gorst Rural Trials Results—2024

Our eagerly awaited 2024 trial results are out and published. This year's trial booklet brings together a range of trials carried out by the Gorst Rural team during the 2024 season. The 2024 season was a tough one, with generally dry conditions and frosts felt across the district. With only 247mm of growing season rainfall measured at our main trial site, the results reflect the challenging season. In saying that we have still had some great data and information which we are excited to share with you.

In 2024 we conducted around 20 field trials on a range of different topics: variety comparisons, pre-emergent herbicides, nitrogen polymers, pastures and many more. As a business these trials are vitally important for us to help improve our knowledge and understanding of new products emerging to the market and to help us understand how we can place these products in our local farming systems.

If you are interested in discussing our trials and research results please talk to our Gorst Rural agronomy team.



Stock Available Now:

- ⇒ Lamb Finisher Pellets
- ⇒ Troughs
- ⇒ Hay & Grain Feeders
- ⇒ Water Tanks & Fittings



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Seed orders that have already been placed are automatically entered!

RACE INTO YOUR SEED

Place a seed order of 100 plus KG of any Canola variety or 250KG of any pasture variety mix and go into the draw to win a trip to the Moonee Valley Races on Friday the 7th of March. The lucky winner will get to experience exclusive access to the twilight races while being trackside in the Garden suit, complete with complimentary transportation and a valuable food and drink package.



Entries close 28th of February

- Winner drawn 1st of March -

Our 2025 Seed Guide and Seed Order Form is now available via clicking the link in the Agritalk email or collect a copy from your local Gorst Rural Store today.

The Gorst Rural team dedicate significant time and effort into our variety trials, identifying the 'best bets' that make up our Gorst Rural mixes, which are specifically formulated to meet the needs of farming businesses in our region. Talk to our team today about your best bets and order your seed for the 2025 season!