



AgriTalk

June 2025



Cam's Update

The Challenge Continues

2025 continues to challenge us, with minimal rainfall and now lower temperatures. With only 70-80mm of annual rainfall in the bank, and soil temps hovering around 13°C- crop & pasture growth has stalled. However, we are seeing changes in the weather pattern and hope to see some good falls soon. Read on for great info on grazing phalaris, Animal Health Issues Associated with Grazing Cereal Crops, How Frosts Affect Herbicides, Decontamination of Spray Equipment, Healthy Lamb Plan and specials.

Input Finance

We continue to offer DLL as an option to finance your cropping inputs, as an alternative to traditional finance. You can acquire up to a \$350,000 facility with a simple application form. This does provide some cash-flow options and is set up on an individual basis to ensure you can purchase inputs to grow your crop with payment after harvest.

Once approved, DLL will advise us of the approved facility limit. Each month we submit an invoice on your behalf to DLL allocating only the crop inputs from your statement. Once the invoice is approved by you, DLL will draw down your loan and pay your Gorst Rural crop inputs directly.

Your loan amount is not due until your crop is harvested and money is in the bank. You nominate your repayment date.

DLL are backed by Rabobank and provide a professional and practical option for financing crop inputs. If you are considering additional finance and interested in this product, please talk to Daniel Benson from DLL - M 0400 451 487, E Daniel.benson@dllgroup.com

Rural Financial Counselling Service

We understand that times are tough, and although there is support, it is difficult to know where to start. The RFCS offer 24-hour access through Ph: 1800 735 578 and have local counsellors on the ground. They can help with everything; from just having a chat, helping with grant applications to cash flow budgeting, income assistance, and finance conversations.

EOFY Tax Time – Earn 5% reward on prepayments

If you are looking at any Prepaid Expenditure for the 2025 financial year, come and talk to us about your requirements.

We offer a tailored Prepayment Program under tax ruling PR2024/19.

All you need to do is specify how much you wish to prepay, and we can provide and invoice that amount for payment prior to 30th of June.

Please note that under the tax ruling PR2024/19 there is a simple prepayment application form along with terms and conditions that are applicable to this program. Our prepaid reward rate for this program is currently 5%.

Input Update

Crop Protection

The AgChem market is pretty steady, with a state of overproduction, oversupply, lack of demand and strengthening AUD- all keeping a lid on pricing. Products such as glyphosate, paraquat and trifluralin are close to historical lows, possibly worth taking an end of June purchase - if it works for you. Otherwise, the supply seems pretty good, and most products are readily available.

Clethodim and Butroxydim may be slightly tighter, it appears there are some supply issues and slightly rising market. Talk to us about your requirements. We also have good supplies of Tenet and Mateno, for those looking for early grass control in canola

and cereals respectively. We do have good supplies of Intercept and equivalents and we don't expect any issues with early post emergent sprays.

Fertiliser

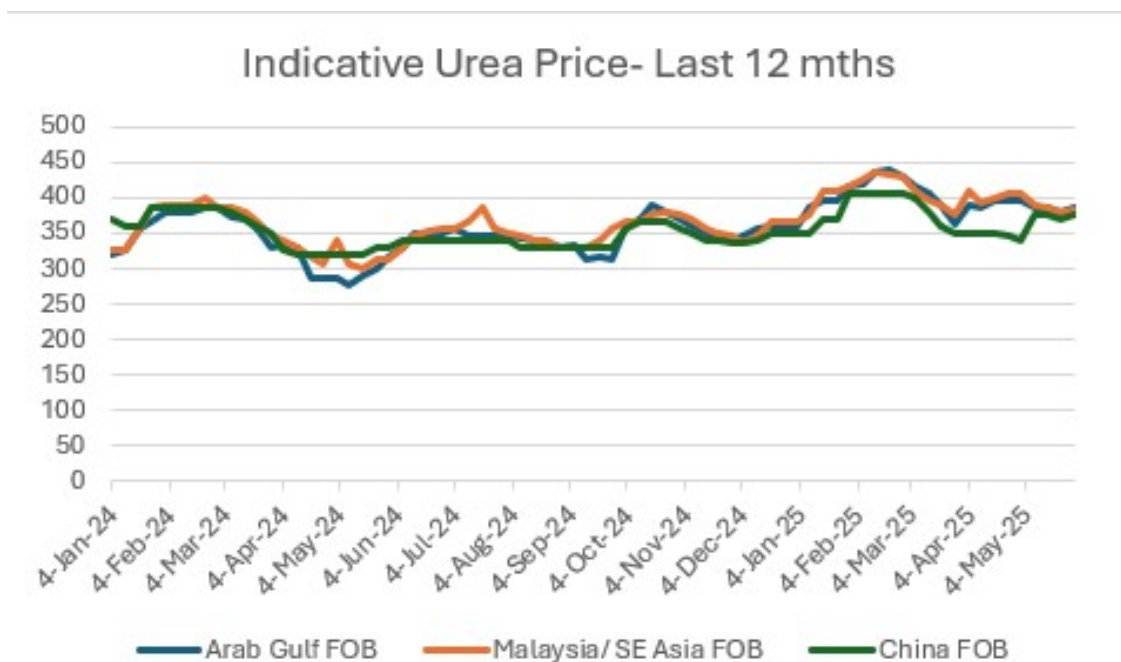
Urea

World markets look like they are on the increase- or at best stable. We have India looking for another resupply, possibly 1.5 million tonnes for end of month and China not committing to export trade; although previously slashing an estimated 4 million tonnes to 2 million for export quotas. Some issues with Egyptian gas and manufacturing and tariffs being placed on Russian urea. The net result is a balanced S&D.

Domestically, suppliers have been drip feeding urea into sheds, trying to manage a bearish market- both price & demand wise. The interesting point will be, if there are decent east coast rains in early June- then demand will pick up, supply may even tighten into late June-early July and prices will rise to meet world parity. If it doesn't rain much there will be plenty of product- and maybe a case of virtually name your price (if you want any).

Currently we have good supplies across both port zones, and across a spread of suppliers. We have Urea and SOA available with blending options on offer- and the opportunity to treat urea with Lockdown, to minimise volatilisation losses. They guys have got some great trial results and examples of the use of these products, from last year and how they could fit into your operation.

Talk to our agro team for more information.



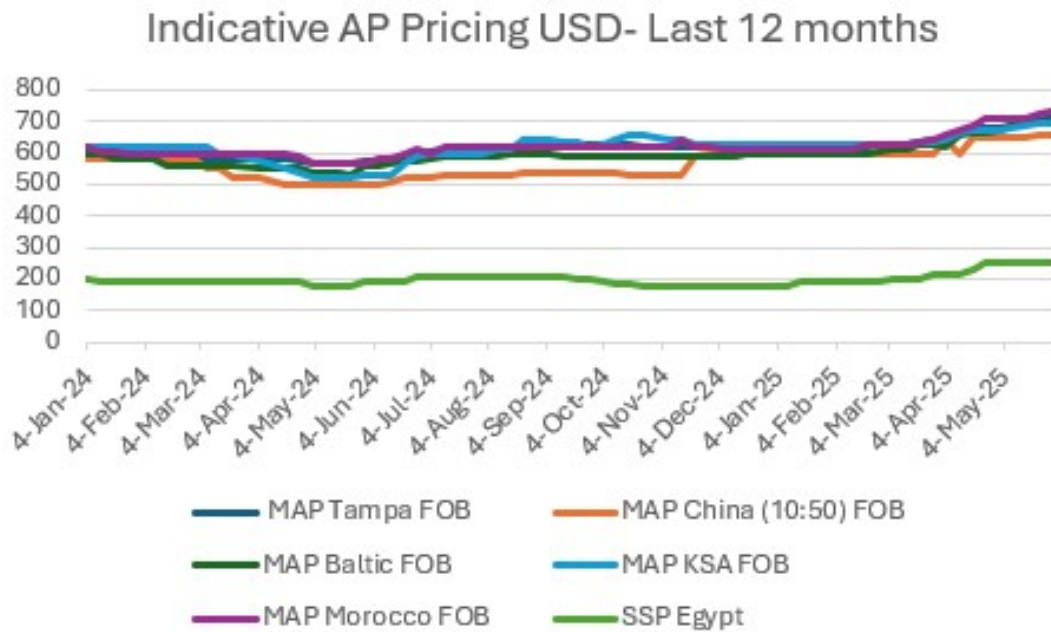
Phosphate

Despite affordability issues, the global price increasing as supply tightens. China puts tighter export controls on MAP/DAP exports and tightly restricts NPS products

whilst the US Court of International Trade has declared Trump tariffs implemented under emergency law as unlawful- and put a stop on until appealed. This has already affected US P supply- with fall product likely to be 35-40% back from where it is required

Domestic supply starting to tighten up, as suppliers assess much higher resupply numbers and reluctant to tie up capital & resources- with late sowing requirements maybe tight.

We still have good supplies of MAP, GAINZ and SSP



Grazing Phalaris



Phalaris pastures need to be grazed appropriately to avoid livestock health issues and productivity losses. Cases of phalaris toxicity have been seen around the region with sheep, cattle, horses and even kangaroos susceptible! The dry conditions and frosts currently are contributing to plant stress, increasing the risk of phalaris toxicity. The risk is often at its highest following the autumn break when plants are rapidly growing.

Phalaris contains toxic alkaloids that act as a defence mechanism against insects and herbivores during early growth. These alkaloids disrupt the nervous system of livestock and can lead to two forms of phalaris toxicity: sudden death syndrome and staggers. Phalaris sudden death syndrome usually occurs within 48 hours of stock ingesting plants and is associated with decreased nitrogen metabolism. Preventative measures are limited to grazing management involving holding stock off phalaris pastures until the risk has eased, removing stock from paddocks immediately when signs are noticed or releasing a small number of sheep initially to observe.

Phalaris staggers is an incoordination syndrome usually observed 1 to 2 months after sheep are introduced to an affected paddock. In some cases, it can be observed after a minimum of 10 days or have a delayed onset of clinical signs that develop several months later. Sheep can show signs of head nodding, bunny hopping with a wide gait, inability to stand, death and may sometimes walk on their knees. In cattle the disease is less severe, however it affects the nerves that control the tongue and swallowing mechanism leading to unusual eating habits and productivity losses. Mildly affected animals may recover or have ongoing symptoms for life. The risk of phalaris staggers is related to soil cobalt levels, ingestion of soil cobalt and the amount and stage of growth of phalaris in the pasture. The provision of cobalt stimulates the

microorganisms in the rumen to destroy the toxic alkaloid that causes the staggers syndrome.

The two most efficient and effective methods of cobalt supplementation for the prevention of phalaris staggers are foliar cobalt sprays and cobalt bullets. Foliar sprays should be applied to one third of the paddock using cobalt sulphate, mixed with water at 100-150g per hectare. Where appropriate, the foliar spray can be mixed with other herbicide sprays over the whole paddock at 50g per hectare. The foliar spray is absorbed through green leaves when the plant is actively growing, so timing is usually a few weeks after break of the season. Spray timing is also important as rain within a few days of application will wash spray off before it can be absorbed by the leaves. It is safe for livestock to graze paddocks as soon as the spray is complete.

Cobalt bullets administered using a 'bulleting gun' are another form of effective cobalt supplementation when spraying paddocks is impractical or longer-term supplementation is required. Two bullets are recommended with re-treatment periods once every three years for sheep and once a year for cattle. There is no effective treatment for affected sheep so preventative measures should be taken, particularly in years of increased risk.

If you have any questions about Pre-lambing, please reach out to Robbie Neale or Sarah Kelly in Livestock Production.

Animal Health Issues Associated with Grazing Cereal Crops



Limited pasture biomass from the current conditions presents an opportunity for grazing cereal crops, however it is important to be aware of potential animal health implications. Cereal crops are naturally low in calcium and magnesium leading to issues of hypocalcaemia/milk fever and hypomagnesia/grass tetany where concentrations of these minerals in the blood fall below critical levels. High potassium levels found in cereals can also inhibit the uptake of these minerals. An appropriate calcium and magnesium supplement should be used to prevent productivity and stock losses from these metabolic issues.

A sudden change in diet will often result in scours as the rumen microbe population adjusts to the different type of feed. This sudden change can also cause a specific clostridial bacteria (*Clostridium perfringens* Type D) to multiply rapidly. These bacteria are naturally occurring and produce a toxin that when absorbed into the blood at high levels causes significant organ damage, known as pulpy kidney. For prevention, it is recommended that a clostridial vaccine is administered at least two weeks prior to introduction to the crop.

Under drought conditions, the risk of nitrate and nitrite poisoning increases and can occur in most common cereal crops. This is due to the lack of leaching, reduced uptake by plants and decomposition of organic matter on top of regular predisposing factors including fertilisers, herbicides, cloudy days and low temperatures. After the drought breaks, plant uptake can be high leading to inflammation of the gut (nitrates) and respiratory distress (nitrites). If concerned, it is recommended to control intake and test suspected forage crops. We also recommended to allow 21 days after urea application on pastures and crops before introducing stock.

The rumen requires fibre to function properly. Rapidly growing crops are rich in energy and protein but have low levels of fibre, particularly as stock will preferentially graze leaves over stems. Fibre slows the rate of passage through the rumen, allowing more nutrients to be absorbed and improves microbial fermentation, whilst buffering pH, leading to a healthier and more productive rumen. Providing sufficient fibre will maximise forage utilisation and generate more productive stock.

Whilst a cereal crop may appear to hit feeding requirements, rapidly growing plants often have a low dry matter percentage, so it is important that stock, especially lactating stock, are still receiving enough metabolisable energy. Growing crops may also be high in crude protein and will require extra metabolisable energy to breakdown the excess protein.

Before grazing cereal crops, it is important to check that plants are anchored, observe herbicide grazing with-holding periods and manage grazing pressure to avoid later impacts on crop potential. Supplementary feeding, the provision of fibre and not introducing stock to new feed when hungry (provide ad lib fibre 24 hours prior if

releasing from containment) are key to mitigating these issues, making your cereal crops safer to graze.

If you have any questions about Pre-lambing, please reach out to Robbie Neale or Sarah Kelly in Livestock Production.

How Frosts Affect Herbicides



Frosts impair the effectiveness of herbicides due to physiological changes within plants and the impact of cold temperatures on herbicide interactions. It's important to remember that spraying the day before or after a frost is never recommended.

Herbicides most affected by frosts are foliar applied, including:

- Group 1 (Dims and Fops)
- Group 2 (Imis)
- Group 4 (2,4-D and MCPA)
- Glyphosate

These all play a role in early grass or broadleaf control and are of most concern. Biologically, everything slows down in cold temperatures, making plants less active. When a frost hits, the plant's metabolic processes stop as a stress response to reduce potential damage. This puts the plant into a form of dormancy - similar to a standby mode on your TV or computer. While the TV is technically still on, you're only seeing a black screen, and nothing is actively happening.

This frost-induced dormancy also causes plants to close their stomata (tiny pores that take in CO₂). The stomata are a key point of chemical absorption when open. When they are closed, the contact and penetration of herbicides are significantly less effective.

More importantly, herbicides that require translocation within the plant to reach their target rely on fluid movement inside the plant. When a plant is frozen, internal transport becomes restricted or even halted altogether. This reduction or cessation of internal flow limits the herbicide's ability to reach its target site, decreasing its efficacy.

Glyphosate and Group 1 herbicides, for example, rely on movement within the plant to be effective.

If you have any questions, please reach out to one of our agronomists.

Decontamination of Spray Equipment



This means decontaminating of your spray equipment should not be overlooked when transitioning from pre-emergent sprays to post emergent sprays. The purpose of cleaning spray equipment is to prevent crop damage to your sensitive crops like canola by removing herbicide residues from your equipment.

The best practice to avoid crop damage is to triple rinse and incorporate a tank cleaner like All Clear DS. A decontaminator product doesn't just clean the tank but strips any chemical that will bind and stick within the tank and lines. Group 14 herbicides tend to hold within your boom spray if you have only used detergent and rinsed between tank loads.

It is important to highlight that damage can occur over consecutive spraying applications if no decontamination occurs over a long period of time.

Here are a few steps to properly decontaminating your spray equipment:

- 1: Select a suitable area to wash down all the spray equipment.
- 2: Remove external residues from the sprayer by washing off dust and chemical residues using pressure washer and a decontamination product such as All Clear DS.
- 3: Always start with an empty tank and vats. Rinse the tank, lines, and nozzles with fresh water for around 15-20 minutes to remove all unwanted residues that could be held within the boom spray. Add a softening agent such as cloudy ammonia if required during this process.
- 4: To then decontaminate the boom spray, half fill the tank with clean water and add All Clear DS or a similar decontamination product and agitate well before pushing it through the entire system with end valves open. You want the decontaminant to reach everywhere inside the boom spray to strip all residues from the tank, lines, etc. Depending on the product and what herbicides have been used in your tank, the product may suggest letting it soak in the tank and lines for a minimum of 24 hours.
- 5: Remove nozzles, nozzle filters, suction, pressure and in-line filters and soak them in concentrated solution for 24 hours e.g. All Clear DS solution rate of 25mL in 10L of water.
- 6: Drain and rinse all components of your spray with clean water.

Ask your local Gorst Agronomist for more tips and tricks or in-depth advice about cleaning your boom spray equipment.

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Community

Lake Bolac Bush Nursing Centre - Laughter is the best medicine.

Please save the date for a Community Gathering to be held on 31st July to bring the community together by supporting each other during these hard times. More information will be in the July Newsletter and on the Lake Bolac Buch Nursing Centre Facebook page as soon as details are confirmed.

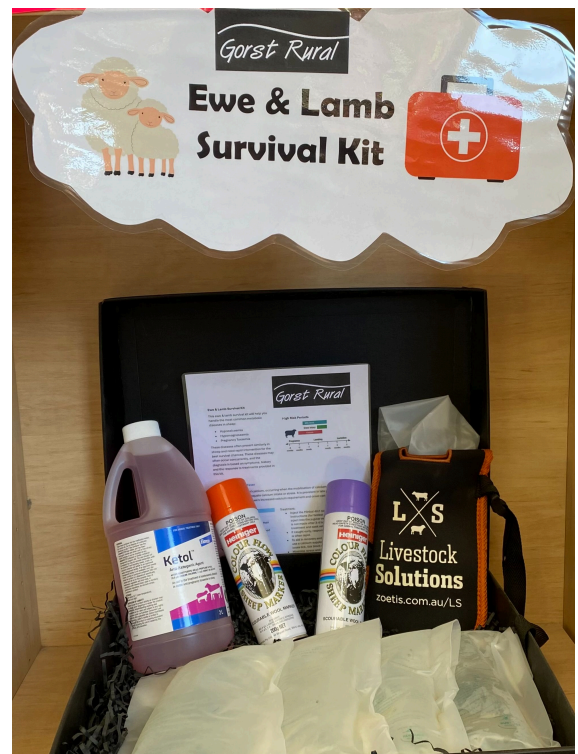
Specials

Polymaster Troughs



SPT5 250ltr \$420.00
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SPT12 600ltr \$850.00
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Ewe & Lamb Survival Kit



\$171.90

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