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Lucerne Variety Trial Update

This season has seen a herbage cut taken on the seed plots as well as the herbage trial. The seed plots were cut on September 26th and another cut was taken from the herbage trial plots on 8th November. The seed plots were grazed before “lock up”. As usual, LA will conduct the annual field day in late February—date will be advised later. Data from the herbage cuts will be presented.



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**Did you know—Lucerne Australia supports a member each year by providing a bursary of one third of the cost of attending this great course?
Contact the Executive Officer for more details.**

Lucerne Australia's Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 15th October at Henry an Rose Café in Keith. About 35 attendees enjoyed the evening, taking time to socialise after the meeting.

Guest speakers were :

Dr Katya Hogendoorn - senior researcher with expertise in ecology and evolution of bee behaviour and diversity. Katja aims to use her understanding of bee behaviour to improve management decisions for the enhancement of bee health, biodiversity, and crop pollination services. Katya explained what the pollination project— Secure Pollination for More Productive Agriculture has achieved in understanding the levels of native pollinators and how to enhance their numbers.

Aaron Freeman- Each year, LA Gold sponsor – Rabobank conducts the Rabobank Farm Manager Course. Lucerne Australia has for the past few years provided a bursary to young LA members to attend the course.

Last year Aaron attended and he presented a summary of what the course meant to him and his business and he urged others to take up this opportunity.

Professor John Hamblin - Adjunct Professor Institute of Agriculture University of Western Australia.

Professor Hamblin asks if the decline in bees for pollination has been examined from the right perspective – how can we get the plants less reliant on insects and bees of pollination by selecting self-pollinating genotypes. John gave an outline of his work which has produced some lines of self - pollinating lucerne.

New Executives

Adam Zacker

“ I am from Tintinara and am the fourth generation on our family farm. I have been involved in agricultural industry since completing school in 2005 and have been involved in farming lucerne since 2007. I currently own and operate the farm with my wife Hannah and we run a mix of cropping, sheep (both self-replacing merinos and prime lamb production), a herd of Angus cows and we produce both dryland and irrigated lucerne seed and hay. I am very passionate about farming and as a company we strive to run a sustainable, profitable business that can support the generations to come. I believe that I am a good candidate for this role as I am very passionate about lucerne and I am very interested in the industry and the challenges and successes that it presents and making the production of lucerne as efficient and profitable in a sustainable manner and that we can and believe that Lucerne Australia is very important in making this happen. I like the idea of expanding my knowledge through learning with other people in the industry and sharing my knowledge of the industry with others.”



Richard Prusa

“Currently working Barenbrug Australia as a seed production agronomist I have been servicing seed growers in upper SESA, Mid North SA, EP and WA for 3 years. Prior to this I held numerous roles within Heritage Seeds and Seedmark, including Business Development Manager, Product Development Manager & Portfolio Manager (Lucerne). During this time I had the opportunity to visit and understand many of our key and developing Lucerne export markets, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan & Argentina, to name a few. Prior to joining Seedmark, I worked as an agronomist and territory manager for AWB Seeds, Pasture Genetics, Elders and Landmark. My current area of responsibilities is dominated with lucerne production ha, I manage the Carousel Lucerne Seed Yield Trial based at Wirrega, and have been heavily involved in the development and commercialisation of Heritage Seeds latest varieties Heritage 10 and Heritage Endurance. I also manage a significant area of Heritage Seeds 3rd party production with FGI. I’m passionate about understanding the yield gap between potential and realized seed yield, the real cost of lucerne seed production and the tightening quality parameters required to meet the needs of our growing markets. I live near Langhorne Creek with my wife and three children and currently grow olives, lucerne hay and fat horses.”



Lock-in your fodder requirements now

Securing long-term and reliable sources of hay this season could be difficult, despite a bumper season in some parts of southern Australia. Demand continues to outstrip supply in northern regions with southern hay moving into dry and drought affected regions. There's limited carry-over in the West Australian market and this coupled with poor cereal hay yields could mean supply struggles to meet demand. In southern Australia, frost damaged crops have been baled for hay and rain has damaged some hay crops which could result in a quality downgrade.

Australian Fodder Industry Association chief executive John McKew had a warning for those purchasing hay. There's a lot of hay being transported around the country of varying quality," he said. "We caution buyers and recommend feed-testing and viewing fodder before purchasing to be sure of the quality of the feed. There are many reputable feed test businesses which can provide you with piece-of-mind. AFIA can put anyone in touch with a feed test company if required."

Rain has also reportedly damaged some hay in Victoria's Goulburn and Murray Valley. Many contractors and farmers were successful in their race to finish baling before rain at the start of November, but not all were as lucky.

There has been one positive to the rain interrupted southern hay season, cooler weather has meant less opportunity for mould in hay. AFIA director and Mallee hay producer David Cossar said the cold weather had limited rain damage and yields had been positive. "We've got some hay where we baled half the paddock and the first lot went premium (grade)," he said. "The next lot was after a rain event, but it was only one grade below and it was a 10tonne/ha yield."

Hay harvest this season is a tale of heartbreak for some and bounty for others- depending on what mother nature has delivered. Victoria and South Australia continue to supply the central west NSW, northern NSW and NSW Bega Valley market. Cereal hay has already been committed for the coming season in parts of Queensland and throughout Victoria's Goulburn and Murray Valley.

There have been reports from southern areas such as south west Victoria, which is yet to start hay harvest due to wet conditions, of purchasing interest from northern areas.

Fodder is on the move and in demand and the fires in Queensland and NSW have added to the requirement for feed. "If you want hay for the coming season, securing it now is the best option," Mr McKew said.

"AFIA can point anyone in the direction of their local reputable hay trader. These fodder traders are best placed to understand the national supply and demand situation for the type of hay you require."

Prices in mid-November remained steady despite concerns about limited supply. Cereal hay was the exception as some regions recorded price rises of between \$10-\$25 a tonne. The most expensive cereal hay is in northern NSW and Queensland's Darling Downs. Prices in this region were reportedly up to \$480/tonne. Lucerne hay continues at a premium price. Values range from \$350-\$400 a tonne in Tasmania through to \$700/tonne in northern NSW and Queensland.



With summer fast approaching and temperatures heat up, all eyes are on southern Australia’s harvest prospects. As northern parts of the country experience yet another failed harvest, the southern crop will be paramount for any potential impact on current feed costs. While feed prices continue to keep farmers cost of production elevated this season, healthy demand for dairy is supporting a strong milk price. Supermarkets act as a major sales channel for Australian dairy products and remain vital for value creation throughout the supply chain. During a challenging year, it’s important to keep track of supermarket sales, as any change in consumer shopping behaviour tends to impact demand for dairy.

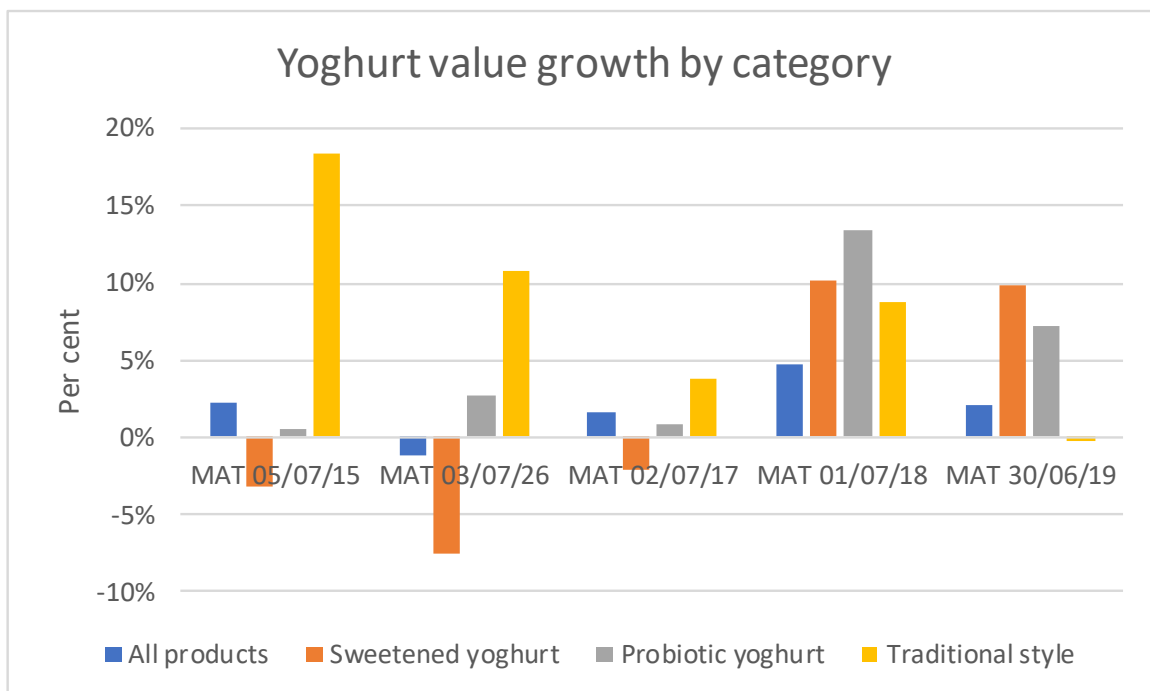
Over the year, sales of premium priced dairy products have driven value growth in the domestic market. Supermarket sales of yoghurt only grew 0.1% to 233,000 tonnes over the 12 months to June 2019, however, value increased 2.1%. This was mainly driven by sales of premium-priced yoghurt products, such as sweetened yoghurts (up 9.9% in value) and probiotic yoghurts (up 7.2% in value). The same can also be observed in sales of cheese, which grew 0.9% in volume to 160,000 tonnes but 3.4% in value to \$2.5 billion over the same period. The value growth was largely driven by deli-style cheeses, which are retailed at a significant premium compared to other varieties.

The perception of what is additional value differs significantly between consumers. Some are willing to pay extra for products perceived as healthy while others will pay extra if they think the product enables them to support a cause. The ‘drought milk’ launched by retailers is an example of this. By retailing specific milk products as a good way to support struggling dairy farmers,

retailers saw private label milk sales grow. Sales of private label milk grew 3.5% in the first month ‘drought milk’ was introduced on the market, even though it was retailing at a higher price-point than usual.

A trend influencing the market is consumer desire for individualisation and the willingness to purchase products that allow them to express specific views. This trend is currently being pursued by a nut beverage company as a tactic to attract more consumers. A company selling oat milk, in Australia and overseas, has launched a social media campaign called “post-milk generation”, which encourages consumers to switch to oat milk and share photos on social media of them consuming the product. This desire for consumers to be recognised as unique individuals has partly driven the 23.9% increase in oat milk sales in the six months to September, at the same time as dairy alternatives sales increased 6.7%. This represents an example of the kind of consumer campaigns the dairy industry will have to compete with in the future.

Ongoing drought, fires and high feed and water costs continue to create challenges for the industry and milk production is likely to remain subdued this year. Whilst conditions on farm and for processors remain challenging, opportunities in the domestic market are a welcome sign. While the industry continues to focus on the outcome of the harvest, the value growth in the yoghurt and cheese market highlights the opportunities available in the domestic market for products that capitalise on consumers preferences.



Domestic

New seed sales in the domestic market have remained flat over the last quarter. Drought conditions combined with minimal and expensive irrigation in the key NSW market has resulted in only patchy spring sales. Given these conditions growers remain cautious and have preferred to plant cheaper fast growing annuals such as ryegrass or forage cereals for quick feed options. Significant widespread rainfall is required for most growers to have the confidence to invest in permanent pastures, such as lucerne.

International

The international market has given mixed signals recently. The Saudi Arabian market year to date has consumed about 1000mt more than the full 2018 calendar year. Australian exports have been far greater than the US into Saudi this year which has gone a long way in clearing overstocked inventory in Australia. Whilst this is good news, there is still seed to clear. The overall consumption in the Saudi market remains significantly down on historical averages.

We have just returned from Argentina where we attended the BASC congress. Market signals continue to be flat due to high

inventory levels. This in combination with the recent change in government has resulted uncertainty for the agricultural sector and this is causing some concern for local buyers and consumers. The local economy continues to be a major issue as the USD / ARG peso continues to devalue.

Europe appears to be moving through its local inventory, however prices have only shown small increases.

In the USA hay prices remain strong and it is expected that the US seed harvest will be down. However as with Australia, the US continues to have high levels of stock to move through. The Mexican market remains stable and this will be crucial in moving inventory from the states in the coming months.

Overall there are signs of improvement with the Australian lucerne market. Whilst positive prices are expected to remain stable over the coming months, there seems to be improvement of market signals for late 2020 and beyond.

For any further queries please contact :

Tom Botterill 0439 384 375 or Richard Prusa 0408 851 411

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Good people to know.



Siriver was bred in the late 1970's by the CSIRO lucerne program under the direction of breeder Ross Downes.

The variety was developed from two parents, the Australian landrace Hunter River and American parent CUF101. Siriver is the most popular public variety. From 2013 – 2017, figures supplied by the Australian Seeds Authority (ASA) show that of the hectares planted to public varieties, Siriver made up 81.77%, and of the total area of all varieties – 10.38%.

In tonnage over the same five year period Siriver made up 77% of public and 17.13% of all varieties.

In 2016 Lucerne Australia was made aware that supply of basic seed of Siriver lucerne for certified seed production was very low with the real possibility that supply would run out in a couple of years.

The need to breed more basic seed was urgent – a lapse in continuity of supply was deemed detrimental to the lucerne seed industry as a whole and would affect many producers. Lucerne Australia was advised that CSIRO had 960 grams of breeders' seed and a proposal to extend this seed bank over a three year period was made by Dr Alan Humphries of SARDI.

Funding for this project was obtained from AgriFutures Pasture Seeds program.

LA Chairman Joshua Rasheed : "I do believe that without LA the cultivar 'Siriver' could have died. Grower members have always said they would like to have the ability to grow both public and proprietary cultivars of lucerne, so it was important that LA did what they could to make sure certified Siriver was going to continue to be an option, especially being it is still the largest single grown cultivar by area in Australia. If everything goes to plan, we expect Basic Siriver seed to be available to growers for the 2021 season."



Naracoorte Seeds- Market Report

by Joshua Rasheed, Public Lucerne Seed Trader Ph: 0427 790 655

I am writing this report on the back of travelling to Argentina for their annual seed conference. As discussed last quarter, have historically been our 2nd or 3rd strongest lucerne seed buyer, but current figures show they are well back this year with only 218MT up to start of October. It was expected this year that Argentina's sales would be down due to a carry-over of lucerne seed plus the financial instability currently experienced, but it's hopeful they will come back into the market stronger next year once they have had time to work through their carry-over.

Even though Argentina's consumption is well back, it is pleasing to see overall export figures are well up on 2018, with still 2 month of figures to come through. Again Saudi Arabia is our main buyer with over 2,855MT exported to end of October, which equates to 39% of all export sales for 2019. We may have considered 2019 to be a tough year to get lucerne sales over the line, but if you look at the figures for the first ten months, they are still very solid.

The last quarter, and in to early December, have been quite strong for public lucerne seed sales, with some reasonable tonnages sold. Carry-over levels of public lucerne seed are getting low now, especially certified Siriver levels, and with 4 months to go before our harvest is due, I would expect these levels to be even lower, if not sold out.

Due to the general demand levels, public lucerne seed prices dropped away over the past 6 months, but with carry-over expected to be low or sold out for some products and many growers deciding to either cut hay or graze their lucerne stands, I expect we could see prices rise into 2020, especially if seed yields are down.

Current lucerne seed prices are at levels where growers would be lucky to be breaking even, especially if yields are down on the record yield from last season. Like last year, pricing and demand globally for lucerne seed will see many growers chose to cut hay and/or graze lucerne stands with livestock while these commodities are at a high. With our area for lucerne seed looking like it will be well back again, it will only take an average or below average seed yield to see supply for 2020 tighten up.

If you would like to know more about any of the above please feel free to give me a call and as always Naracoorte Seeds are active purchasers of public lucerne seed. Please call to discuss on 0427 790 655.



Joshua Rasheed visiting a farm in La Pampa, Argentina

Epidemiology of Red Gut in lambs grazing lucerne

By Mintz C, Trengove C and Dal Grande E

School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, The University of Adelaide

Introduction:

Red gut is a disease reported to occur in lambs grazing lush legume dominated pastures, predominantly Lucerne. Death is typically sudden. On necropsy findings include intense reddening of the intestines extending from the duodenum to the terminal colon, commonly accompanied by a clockwise torsion of the intestinal mass. Typically, death occur if lambs graze legume-based pastures for a period of three weeks or more. It has been hypothesized that diets consisting of highly digestible feed allows rapid passage of digesta through the forestomach leading to a reduction in size of the ruminoreticulum. This coupled with fermentation of carbohydrates in the large intestine leads to gaseous distension and reduced gastrointestinal motility. These factors create an unstable gastrointestinal environment which predisposes to intestinal torsion and occlusion. Affected animals will briefly show signs of abdominal discomfort before death due to circulatory and endotoxic shock.

It was previously thought that red gut was a rare condition in the Australian landscape, however we now know that in the upper south east, red gut accounts for up to 10% of mortalities in flocks. Lucerne Australia have also reported red gut as being the primary animal health concern for lucerne growers in the upper south east.

There are a range of factors that are thought to contribute to red gut. The most cited cause is a lack of fibre in the diet, due to the structural biology of lucerne and strict winter weed management. Weeds and grasses are eliminated from the crop in order to prevent competition and weed seed contamination. It is common in lucerne production systems to conduct a 'winter cleaning' at the end of June/beginning of July, 7-10 days following a final grazing. Herbicides such as Sprayseed and Diuron are used to remove broad leaf weeds and grass species such as annual ryegrass and barley grass. A winter cleaning is recommended as it improves spring production, extends the life of the stand and increases the benefit for the following cereal crop.

Lack of fibre leading to red gut was demonstrated in trials conducted at Lincoln College in 1969-1971. The study found that red gut was a risk observed at all growth stages of the plant. Another study cited that it was most prevalent during the rapid growth period in spring, after two weeks of grazing. In the Lincoln trial it was found that there were significantly fewer deaths in lambs grazing weedy lucerne stands, compared to those on pure lucerne stands. This is likely because the extra fibre in the weed contaminated pasture was sufficient to slow the passage of digesta through the gastrointestinal tract thus mitigating against intestinal hypermotility and distension of the large intestine.

It has also been reported that a significant number of red gut cases are observed twenty days following a significant rainfall

event (>20mm). When lucerne receives 20-25mm of rain, under the right climatic conditions (spring/summer), it will begin a rapid growth phase. The rapid growth produces a lush pasture with low structural carbohydrates which has been cited as a major risk factor for the onset of red gut.

There are many causes of sudden death in ruminants. In order to definitively diagnose 'red gut' as the cause of death certain lesions need to be observed upon necropsy. With the animal placed on its back and viewing it ventrally, a displaced intestinal mass twisted from 180 degrees up to 360 degrees is common. The colour of the displaced mass is red. In freshly dead specimens the tissue is described as being dark red, however as autolysis progresses the tissue will become lighter. The intense reddening is a direct result of torsion of the intestinal mass which occludes the mesenteric veins and arteries causing congestion of the tissues. Another common finding is the intestines being gas filled and becoming increasingly dilated caudally.

Currently there is no treatment for red gut, however prevention strategies have proven to be effective. Prevention is achieved by avoiding conditions that promote changes in the abdomen which cause, reduced size of the forestomach's and amplified fermentation resulting in dilation of the large intestine. If this occurs the gastrointestinal environment becomes unstable and prone to torsion. A case study conducted in Cowra in 2017, identified that if a flock was affected by red gut, deaths could be prevented by feeding ad libitum hay. When hay was removed deaths would begin again. Weedy stands of lucerne, described as containing 25-30% weed material, have been recognized to significantly reduce losses. Gumbrell also highlighted the significance of supplying ad libitum roughage, such as meadow hay to help mitigate against losses. Anecdotal evidence suggests that alternate grazing of mobs 5 days on lucerne followed by 2 days on native pasture to be effective in preventing red gut. Agriculture Victoria also recommends slowly introducing lambs to lucerne so their rumen microbiology can adapt.

Despite being commonly reported in literature and having an established set of criteria that must be met to form a diagnosis of red gut, there is little information available for producers regarding the specific circumstances under which red gut occurs. This project aimed to identify contributing factors to the development of red gut in lambs by surveying lucerne growers in the upper south east.

Hypothesis

Red gut is a product of grazing pure legume stands and suboptimal grazing and management practices.

Continued next page.....

Design/Procedure:

Fifteen lucerne growers located in the south east of South Australia were recruited via Lucerne Australia for inclusion in a survey about their lucerne and livestock management strategies. Criteria for inclusion was that the producer had to grow and graze lucerne on a commercial scale. The survey was conducted either face to face or by phone and all producers were asked the same set of questions. The study was a pilot.

Results:

Data analysis using SPSS identified no significant findings, but trends were observed between soil type, approach to insect management and lucerne sowing dates and risk of developing red gut.

Discussion:

Analysis of the survey results identified a range of factors that may contribute to the onset of red gut in lambs grazing fresh lucerne. The results were not statistically significant, but several trends were identified. Sandy paddocks where the Timerite insect management tool was not used and lucerne stands sown after 2016 had higher frequencies of red gut. Other factors such as the use of trace element licks and foliar sprays did not show trends on analysis; however, many farmers had the opinion that these strategies had significantly reduced their losses.

A possible explanation for sandy paddocks having higher frequencies of red gut may be to do with their reduced nutrient holding capacity. Sandy soils have a low cation exchange capacity resulting in a low ability to hold positively charged ions such as calcium, magnesium, sodium and potassium. They are similarly prone to nutrient leaching and clay spreading or delving is used to mitigate against this. Leaching is exacerbated by rainfall or irrigation. Incorporating clay into a sandy soil introduces colloid particles with negatively charged sites on their surface which adsorb the fore mentioned cations by electrostatic force. This helps to retain these nutrients in the soil and mitigate against leaching. Sandy soils that have clay incorporated can double phosphorous retention and increase nitrogen holding by 83%. Leaching of calcium in sandy soils may reduce the available calcium to the plant over the growing season, and thus impact the development of structural carbohydrates such as cellulose, hemicellulose and pectin. The polysaccharides mentioned are important constituents of plant cell walls and require calcium for their development. Calcium is an essential element and impairs structural rigidity to the plant cell walls which provide mechanical rigidity to the plant. Application of calcium sprays to plants significantly increase the content of cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin. Lush lucerne with low structural carbohydrates has been cited as a major reason for the occurrence of red gut. Applications of calcium sprays during the rapid growth phase, especially on sandy soils may be a potential management factor that should be recommended. Further studies would need to be done to confirm this. Some producers commented that they were using calcium and magnesium based

foliar sprays on their lucerne and believed that it had significantly helped reduce lamb mortalities due to red gut.

Timerite spray management is a tool used for control of red legged earth mite provides a unique date for each farm for a single spring spray and on average reduces RLEM populations by 93-98% the following autumn. Spring is the ideal time to spray for RLEM as there are minimal eggs present. Eggs are laid in winter and at the end of spring hot dry weather and light stimulates production of over-summering eggs.

The lack of literature on the impact of red legged mite incidence on animal health may simply reflect a failure of association. Insects tend to attack plants that are immunocompromised due to mineral deficiency, disease or moisture stress and so it is plausible that animals grazing these plants may suffer similar depression of their immunity. Further study is required to see if there is a causal link between red legged earth mite infestations and the development of red gut.

It is also possible that producers who use Timerite are also more likely to adopt recommended mitigation strategies against red gut and hence experience lower mortality rates.

Analysis indicated that newly established stands were higher risk for red gut compared to older stands. Producers were typically not grazing lucerne in its first year of establishment. Newly established lucerne stands undergo intensive pre sowing, pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicide regimes. This is done as lucerne is a poor competitor against weeds. Herbicides such as Trifluralin are used as a pre sowing control for annual ryegrass and wireweed. Post emergent herbicides cannot be used until lucerne has developed the third trifoliolate leaf. This strict management of weeds means that recently established stands are cleaner. As lucerne stands age they become increasingly infested with weeds and grasses, providing additional roughage in the diet and slowing down the passage of ingesta, thus mitigating against hypermotility of the hindgut and subsequent intestinal torsion.

Survey participants suggested that the most problematic period of the year for red gut occurred in late June to early August, while authors suggests that problems usually occur in spring when the plant enters a rapid growth phase. Deaths due to red gut in July also coincided with weaning. It is possible that the stress of weaning exacerbates the already high risk associated with grazing lucerne. Lambs born and raised on lucerne are likely to have a lower susceptibility to red gut as their rumen microbiota will be better adjusted to the lucerne as it moves through different growth stages.

Continued next page.....

Lucerne hay making is well underway in the Upper South East. Most first cut irrigated lucerne hay has been a bit slow with modest yields on irrigation and dryland paddocks have struggled for bulk due to modest soil moisture and spring rainfall. Those paddocks that have been over sown have fared better in tonnage terms. Demand for quality lucerne hay appears to be firm and would only expect to increase by next autumn unless significant summer rainfall events occur.

Dryland seed production area has once again fallen significantly this is due to a number of factors which include low soil moisture availability, poor demand for uncertified seed, low pricing and high livestock prices. These factors have influenced growers to cut hay or graze livestock on paddocks that would usually be locked up for seed. I would suggest without a significant summer rainfall event to create excess livestock feed and improve potential for a viable seed crop the dryland seed area could be down by in excess of 80%.

Irrigated seed crop areas are suffering from the same influences as the dryland however, the decline in seed area is not as significant but will still be less in area than last year with many

producers opting to make hay or trade lambs on paddocks with less consistent seed yielding/gross margin varieties. Currently crops are just being locked up for seed production and pre-emergent herbicides such as Spinnaker are being applied. Pest pressure has been relatively low with only the usual spring aphids and native budworms being observed. With the future of some traditional seed markets being in limbo it is important that producers make sure the seed production is weed free and growers are urged to implement zero tolerance weed strategies particularly with *Seteria* (lovegrass) and weeds such as fat hen and wireweed.

Lucerne pasture production has been moderately slow in the Upper South East and has taken a long time to recover from last autumn. While they look OK at this point, they are still in need of a deep drenching rainfall event in summer to help them persist and build up crowns and carbohydrate reserves. Many growers have reported some thinning of stands after last summer and are hoping for a more favourable summer. Livestock producers are reminded to supplement with salt and fibre when grazing lush lucerne regrowth.

Red Gut report continued

Limitations and further recommendations:

This pilot study has provided useful insights into potential risk factors and effective management strategies for red gut, however further research is needed. Producers also need to be educated on how to diagnose red gut, as it is suspected that many mistake red gut for enterotoxaemia and nitrate poisoning. Producers consistently commented that they would find sheep dead with froth at the mouth, consistent with type D enterotoxaemia, or they would find animals deceased following a frost or a series of overcast days consistent with nitrate toxicity. A much larger cohort would need to be recruited to determine the significance of the trends observed.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank Lucerne Australia and the lucerne growers for their participation in the study.



Position Vacant: Executive Officer

Lucerne Australia is seeking an Executive Officer.

This position involves:

- Being the primary contact for the organisation for 15 - 20 hours per week
- Being accountable to the executive committee
- Implementing the Strategic Plan
- Secretarial, financial and administrative management
- Maintaining professional, open, timely communications
- Pursuing funding for industry development
- Initiating and fostering stakeholder relationships
- Being informed of current industry issues
- Implementing industry events

Submit applications, including resume with two referees and expression of interest letter to:

Lucerne Australia, PO Box 505, Keith SA 5267 or email info@lucerneaustralia.org.au

EOI close at **5pm on Friday 3rd January 2020.**

Visit the website for full details.

LUCERNE EXPORT STATISTICS from AUSTRALIA -January 2013 to October 2019

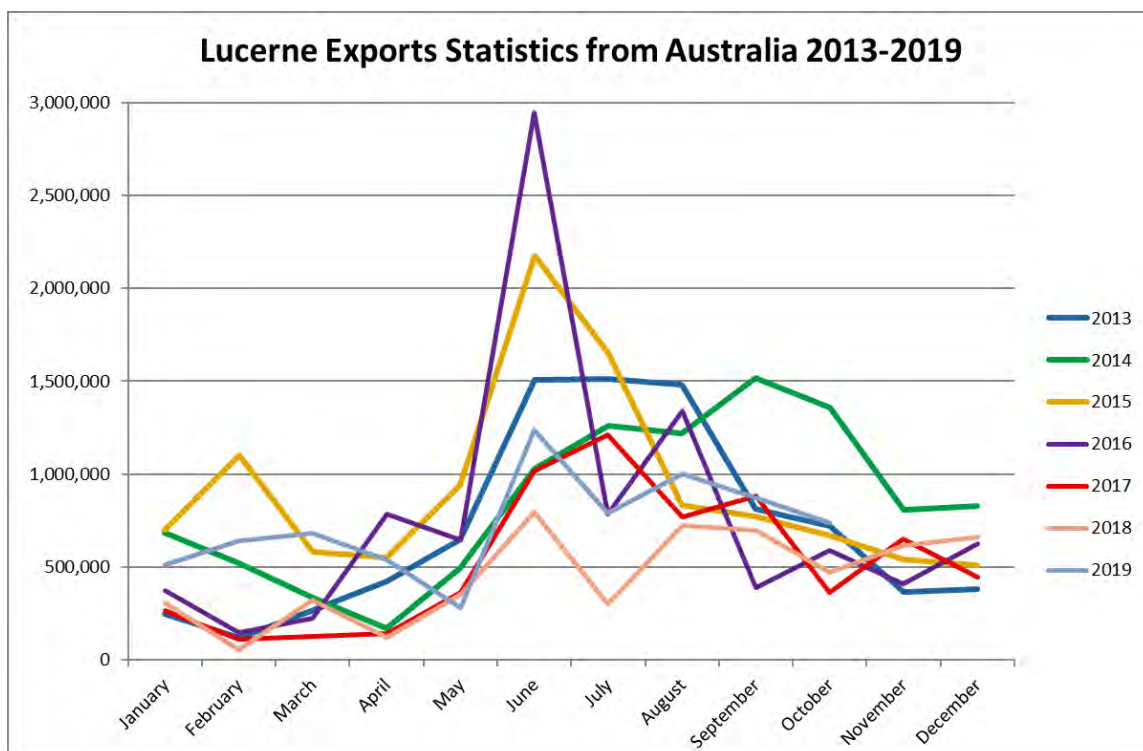
Courtesy of Teague Australia



Quantities below are in kg

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Year to date Difference 2018 & 2019
Jan	245,741	687,172	698,895	374,150	266,596	307,530	512,692	205,162
Feb	118,025	518,553	1,099,252	148,919	108,988	57,008	639,425	787,579
Mar	269,091	334,033	582,929	227,050	127,000	321,205	684,044	1,150,418
Apr	424,057	171,816	549,340	784,031	143,025	123,100	536,501	1,563,819
May	647,509	495,472	940,000	644,704	363,023	355,575	281,335	1,489,579
Jun	1,509,605	1,029,000	2,176,805	2,942,685	1,018,477	794,995	1,239,461	1,934,045
Jul	1,510,278	1,260,782	1,649,080	786,450	1,214,352	303,288	792,380	2,423,137
Aug	1,482,357	1,217,121	834,178	1,339,684	767,256	721,730	1,002,472	2,703,879
Sep	811,667	1,516,965	770,857	388,207	882,195	698,665	871,762	2,876,976
Oct	719,882	1,356,922	667,503	588,199	364,673	472,480	738,090	3,140,568
Nov	363,877	810,704	543,246	409,700	649,318	615,285		
Dec	379,122	829,293	511,127	623,560	443,729	664,134		
Total	8,481,211	10,227,833	11,023,212	9,257,339	6,348,911	5,434,995		

This summary was produced using data supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.



We thank Teague Australia, an associate member of Lucerne Australia, for supplying these figures.

Lucerne Australia Members

Welcome to New Members—BL & RE Farmer

Adlington, S & V	Forster SA & KA	Kester, R.J & J	Obst, MB & SC
Allen's Warrawee Park	Frith, NJ	Kinyerrie Partnership	Richardson, AJ & MJ & Son
Altus, TJ & JL 'Moonmera'	Fry, AL & JE & Son	Kuchel, DJ & CE	Rillamead Pty Ltd
Bergan Park	Glendoon Pastoral Co	Lake Ellen Pastoral	Rowett, NJ & LK
Berry, S & J Family Trust	Graetz S & H	Leach, PJ & Co	Ryan, GT & WB
Brecon Proprietors	Harvey, M & K Family Trust	Loller, B & L	Sanders, DE & FM
Brown, DC & DG	Hawkins, MM	Makin Nominees	Sanders, GE & LM
Cacia Downs Farming Co	Hunt, DB & JS	Mardango Props	Sanders, SN & DA
Circle H Farms	Hunt, IK & SA	Maroona Proprietors	Sanders, RJ & ED
Colara Farms	Hutchings, SC & CA	Martin, JP & SGP	Scottswell Partners
Connor Pastoral Co Pty Ltd	Hyfield Pastoral Pty Ltd	McMurray, BJ & CB	Shepherd, JE & Co
Corlinga Partners	Jaeschke Partners	McMurray, JA & KA	Simpson, GE & TM
Crawford, CJ Pty Ltd	Jarra Farm Trust	McWimay Ptd Ltd	Twynem Partners
Creston Partners	Jesse, Cameron	Nalang Pastoral Co	Vowles, B, K & M
Crouch, RJ & Co	Karatta Pastoral	Newfair Investments P/L	Wallis, PA & ML
Farmer, BL & RE	Keller Partners	Newton Pastoral Pty Ltd	Wilsdon, RE & TK
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			Zacker Pastoral P/L



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DO YOU KNOW THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Got a question for Lucerne Australia? Contact the Executive Officer or any our Executive Committee Members who will be happy to help.



Josh Rasheed, Chairman

In 2011 Josh moved from the family Real Estate business in Meningie to become the Contract Cropping Manager and Pasture Advisor for Naracoorte Seeds. He continued in this role until 2016 where he took over the National & International Lucerne Seed Trading while still continuing his roll of Pasture Advisory. Josh and his wife Emma bought into the business in 2016 with Jamie & Peta Tidy. Contact: 0427 790 655

Scott Hutchings, Deputy Chairman

Scott is a senior agronomist with Cox Rural Keith and has worked in the upper south east for 21 years covering pulses, oilseeds and cereals and lucerne for seed, hay and pasture. Scott holds a bachelor of Agricultural Science from Roseworthy Agricultural College. Scott and his wife Cath also run a small prime lamb production and opportunity dryland seed production enterprise. Contact: 0428 551 188



Bruce Connor, Grower Member

Bruce was born on the family dairy farm at Mt Compass. He relocated to a property at Tintinara in the late 1970's to grow out replacement heifers. He and his family now farms beef cattle, cropping, dryland and pivot irrigated lucerne for hay and seed. Contact: 0428 835 310.

Adam Zacker, Grower Member

Adam owns and operates the family farm at Tintinara with his wife Hannah. They run a mix of cropping, sheep (both self-replacing Merinos and prime lamb production), a herd of Angus cows and both dryland and irrigated lucerne seed and hay. Adam is passionate about the lucerne industry and its challenges.

Contact: 0417 853 799



Rodney Lush, Grower Member

Rodney farms with his wife Sally at Coombe, producing lucerne seed, lamb and wool since 1991. The farm production system is based around centre pivot and flood irrigated lucerne and rain fed perennial pastures. He also provides farm business advice and support to clients in the Mallee, South East and Western Victoria as a consultant with Proadvice. Contact 0419 862 510.

Scott Campbell, Grower Member

Scott and his wife Sophie Campbell own and manage 4100 hectares at Keith. They are highly focused on dryland and irrigated lucerne production and also run 3500 ewes for prime lamb production and a winter cropping program. His family have been involved in the lucerne seed industry for more than 40 years.

Contact: 0417 887 562



Richard Prusa, Associate Member

Richard works with Barenbrug Australia Pty Ltd as a seed production agronomist, servicing seed growers in upper SESA, Mid North SA, EP and WA for 3 years. Richard lives near Langhorne Creek with his wife and three children and currently grows olives, lucerne hay and fat horses. Contact: 0408 851 411

Simon Allen, Grower Member

Simon is involved for 10 years in a family farming operation based at Keith, which produces irrigated lucerne seed and hay, cereal grain and hay, pulses, oilseeds and a commercial merino flock. Simon attended college, studying rural business management and has previously sat on the executive committee of Lucerne Australia and its variety trials committee. Contact: 0408 893 786



Jenny Aitken, Executive Officer

Jenny was raised on a grain and contract harvesting enterprise and has a good understanding of rural issues. After spending most of her working life in radio, she also worked for a Senator in Queensland and has a passion for promoting agriculture to the wider community. Contact: 0439 538 332.