LUCERNE AUSTRALIA

THE LUCERNE LEADER

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June 2018

Funding confirmed for Lucerne Variety Trial

Lucerne Australia has been successful in obtaining funding from AgriFutures Australia for a variety trial - "Assess optimum plant stress levels for seed production". Funding, sourced from levies paid by seed producers, will be invested into the research trial and subsequent dissemination of outcomes through extension activities.

Lucerne Australia is responding to member surveys which, over the last few years have been consistent in the request for more variety trial data. The aim of the project is to determine which new and existing lucerne varieties will optimise seed and herbage yield under a border check irrigation system with a focus on assessing how water stress impacts on seed production.

There is much data provided by industry, but this trial is designed to be an independent assessment of lucerne varieties and their performance.
The three year, independent trial will commence in June 2018 at a lucerne property south of Keith, SA.

Chairman of Lucerne Australia, Bruce Connor, says that Australian producers are sometimes reluctant to adopt new varieties and the data from this trial will give them more information on seed yield under Australian conditions and different water stress levels.
LA thanks the following seed marketers for submitting varieties for trial:

Alforex Seeds, Heritage Seeds, Naracoorte Seeds, Pasture Genetics,

PGG Wrightson Seeds, Seed Force, S&W Seed Co, Upper Murray Seeds.

AgriFutures Pasture Seeds

Redlegged earth mite activity to ramp up

cesar and University of Melbourne

Redlegged earth mite (*Halotyudeus destructor*, RLEM) activity is highly tuned to environmental conditions. This pest survives between winter-cropping seasons as over-summering eggs, which will only hatch under specific conditions in autumn.

According to Dr Garry McDonald (**cesar** and University of Melbourne), the process of egg development in autumn requires at least 5 mm of rain accumulated over five consecutive days or less, followed by 10 days of average daily temperatures remaining below 16°C. Conveniently for the RLEM, this coincides with the establishment of their host crops

Insecticide resistance in the RLEM is now present in the southern cropping region, so chemical stewardship is of utmost importance. That means not using the same chemical groups across successive spray windows (on multiple generations of mites) and reserving co-formulations (or chemical mixtures) for situations where damaging levels of pests are present, and a single active ingredient is unlikely to provide adequate control.

To guide growers and their advisers in their efforts to control RLEM and reduce the risk of resistance occurring, a Resistance Management Strategy (RMS) has been developed. This strategy was developed by the National Insecticide Resistance Management (NIRM) working group and endorsed by CropLife Australia.
It is available for viewing at http://ipmguidelinesforgrains.com.au.

Growers are encouraged to use a RLEM insecticide resistance testing service, available at cost through a national GRDC-funded project led by the University of Melbourne, in collaboration with **cesar**, the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia and CSIRO. Growers and advisers suspecting chemical resistance in RLEM should contact Project Leader, Dr Paul Umina (**cesar**) on (03) 9349 4723 or via email at pumina@cesaraustralia.com"

For more information visit the links below:

http://www.cesaraustralia.com/latest-news/all/redlegged-earth-mite-insecticide-resistance-discovery

http://www.cesaraustralia.com/sustainable-agriculture/pestnotes/insect/Redlegged-earth-mite

https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/all-publications/factsheets/2016/08/redlegged-earth-mite-rms

Photo:

A. Weeks

cesar

Rabobank report

By Angus Gidley-Baird, Rabobank Senior Animal Proteins Analyst

Dry conditions through much of eastern Australia for most of 2018 have caused producers to offload extra cattle, in particular excess cows and lighter younger stock. Cattle slaughter for the year to date (April) was 10% higher than in 2017 with NSW up 12% and Vic up 26%. Part of the increase in Victoria can be attributed to the absence of processing in SA following the fire at the Thomas Foods International Murray Bridge abattoir – cattle slaughter in SA for the year to date is down 37%.

The proportion of females being slaughtered has increased to 49% of total numbers, the highest values since mid-2016, prior to the rebuilding period. These numbers reflect the culling of cows given the dry conditions.

Cattle prices have been on a downward path since beginning of the year but have started to level out through May. Without the demand from producers buying replacement stock and together with the additional numbers on the market prices have fallen to one more heavily influenced by global markets. Younger, lighter cattle prices have fallen 15-20% since the beginning of the year and cow prices have dropped 10-15%. Heavier cattle, reflecting the shorter numbers of stock available, have remained more stable dropping only between 0-5% for the year to date.

With the BOM forecast for drier conditions through winter, the demand for supplementary feed will remain strong as producers look to maintain cattle numbers through to spring. The July/ August period will be critical for producer stocking decisions given the state of the season, plus the added pressures that might occur due to a possible softening of the US market.

Lucerne Australia welcomes the support of new Silver Sponsor - BENPARTS

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Benparts vision is to provide modern, high quality, high technology goods and services to clients to enable them to operate in a sustainable, efficient and profitable manner.

At all times Benparts is seeking new ways to achieve its vision in the supply of pumps, pivots, diesel engines, electric motors, automatic control systems, remote monitoring and ancillary components. This is achieved with the design and installation of new systems, upgrade of existing systems and the repairs and maintenance of operational units.

Benparts provides services from the water source to the application of the water, being responsible for the design, installation and maintenance of the systems. Benparts aims to complete all processes in house without the use of sub contactors to enable a total systems approach. Benparts are licenced electrical contractors, have a welding shop, a repair shop, a crane, a telehandler and a wide range of tools and equipment.

Automation is a speciality of Benparts which enables the remote operation and monitoring of irrigation and stock water systems using the internet and Apps which are easily accessible on smart phones, tablets and computers. This is achieved by notifications being sent via Alerts, SMS or Email. Diesel and electric pumps and generators for irrigation and stock water systems can be started automatically without being on site. The operation of the system can then be remotely monitored with status and alarms being delivered automatically. Much of the equipment used to deliver these services has been developed in house with Benparts operating its own computer server and web-based software. As we complete all programming in house, many custom installations have been developed satisfying the individual needs of clients.

Benparts has recently developed an automated bore test pumping service where the pump is controlled automatically to satisfy the requirements of the test. The equipment used involves a variable speed pump, an electronic water level measuring sensor and an electronic water flow measurement sensor connected to the internet. All of this equipment is controlled, monitored and logged to enable the test to be conducted and recorded without being locally supervised. If required, the bore test can be under the control of a Hydrogeologist in order to gain a scientific analysis of the bores performance.

Benparts have been in the water business since 1986 and have had a wide range of experience in that time. Problem solving and finding solutions to enable efficient operation is our priority and we endeavour to ensure clients are receiving the best possible outcomes for their individual irrigation needs. Benparts has two branches located in Adelaide, SA and Bordertown, SA. Benparts happily services all areas of Australia.

Dairy Market Update

by John Droppert, Industry Analyst Dairy Australia

For many Australian farmers still under pressure from several challenging seasons, the steady-to-slightly-lower milk price outlook that characterised early 2018 was met with gloom and disappointment. However the current market is delivering more upwards pressure on prices than anybody expected a few months ago. The key question now is whether it will persist long enough to materially change next season's outlook at the farmgate. Confidence amongst dairy farmers has continued to fall this year, and a sustained improvement to actual prices received (as well as some progress on broader industry trust and confidence issues) will be required to turn that around.

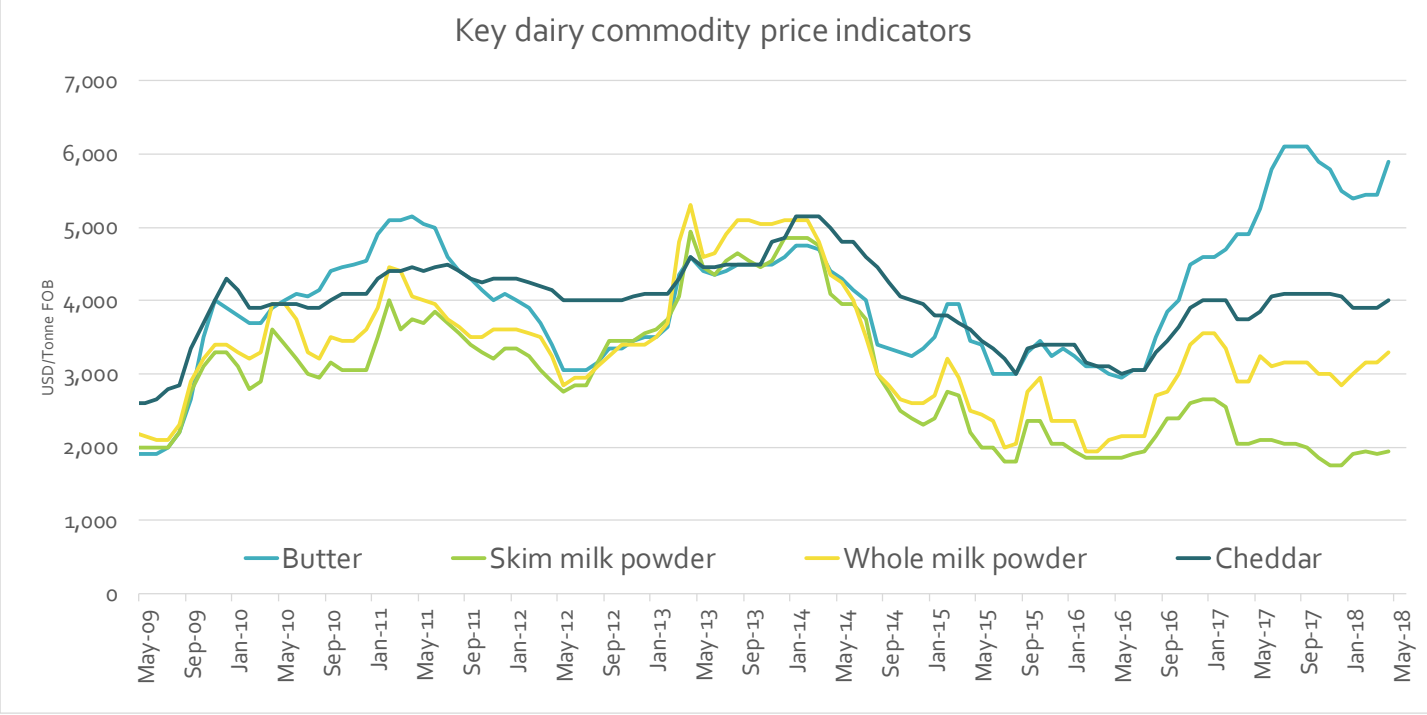
New Zealand's production for the season from June to March is tracking 0.3% below last year on a volume basis, and 1.3% below on a solids basis, due to lower feed quality. With more settled weather, the balance of the season could see some improvement; but with only three months left and a strong finish last year, the seasonal total will still most likely end up lower than last season.

In Europe, cold weather until recently delayed the onset of a 'proper' spring for many farmers, and production slowed markedly as a result. European markets – especially for butterfat products – are seeing some price gains now, as buyers who waited for further price drops have been caught short and forced back into the market. The recent progress in selling a further 60,000 tonnes of the European Commission's skim milk powder (SMP) stockpile has also contributed; reducing the burden this ageing inventory is placing on the milk protein market.

In the US, milk production is continuing to grow at 1-2% on a year-on-year basis, but slowing overall, within this range. Culling for the first quarter of 2018 was reportedly 5.5% above the same period in 2017, and in some parts of the Midwest, farmers describe a 'crisis' caused by low milk prices. Conversely, in the western states, warmer than average winter weather has produced strong milk production growth.

Australian milk production is ahead of expectations for the season to April, up 3.4% despite especially difficult conditions in northern states and southwest Victoria. The combination of overhanging issues, the recent fires in southwest Victoria, and concerns about profitability heading into 2018/19 are likely to slow this growth for the remaining months of the current season. Dairy Australia's expectation remains for growth in milk intakes to moderate closer to 3% for the full 2017/18 season.

In recent weeks, the demand side of the equation has increasingly contributed to market strength. Algeria is growing its powder purchases, while buyers in Southeast Asia and China are also active. Some have reportedly brought forward purchases and are looking to increase their coverage going forward, suggesting that they see limited further downside potential for pricing. There remain significant downside risks ahead on the supply side in particular, but for now, things are moving in the right direction for our farmers.



Heritage Seeds Report

By Craig Myall, International Business Manager, Ph: 0407 620 580

The recent 2018 harvest is almost all conditioned and it appears that overall yields are around 30% lower than the long-term average, significantly affected by both unfavorable climatic conditions and insect damage (including seed wasp). Estimates for the total certified crop in 2018 currently sit around 6,500mt with 75% of this being Proprietary varieties and 25% Public (mostly Siriver).

Looking at the US, their 2018 harvest in the Imperial Valley and Arizona is expected to begin in end of June/early July and at present their crop is on track. Strengthening hay prices are encouraging growers to take extra hay cuts in order to maximize returns, and thus Californian seed crop is expected to be 30% lower than the amount harvested in 2017.

Demand for lucerne seed continues to be low in most major markets. The Saudi Arabian market has been a very cautious buyer this season as their February planting was very low and thus carryover stocks are still in sheds for the next plant in August, whilst Argentina harvested a reasonable amount of seed from its local production. Domestically our sales have been quite good even though a lot of Australia has experienced lower than average rainfall to date.

Should you wish to discuss anything in relation to the current market, upcoming planting opportunities or crop management, please contact your Heritage Seeds representatives on the numbers listed below.

Daryl Turner	National Production & Procurement Manager	0418 191 060
Tom Botterill	Production Agronomist	0439 384 375
Richard Prusa	Production Agronomist	0408 851 411
Craig Myall	International Business Manager	0407 620 580

Naracoorte Seeds- Market Report

By Joshua Rasheed, Public Lucerne Seed Trader Ph : 0427

Lucerne seed harvest is well and truly finished, seed has been cleaned and most seed tests are now off. Now marketers will be busy packing export containers with lucerne to satisfy export contracts they entered into over the past six months.

It is interesting to look back earlier in the season when seed yields looked like they were going to be above average, but now that all seed has been harvested we have a much different picture with yields on average falling below average.

From a marketing and sales point of view for public lucerne cultivars, it has been an extremely quiet three months with little activity for both certified and uncertified seed. The main reason is we believed many of our overseas buyers are sitting on carryover from last year and are looking to move this stock before entering into further sales.

I cannot give you a lot of information on the current market as there has not been a lot of trade done, but what I have found to date is: yes, lucerne seed prices have dropped away from the lofty heights of the past few years, but the prices for public certified and uncertified cultivars have generally been stable over the last five months. Hopefully this will continue going forward as there isn't the amount of public seed around as what potentially looked like before harvest.

Next week Jamie and I will be attending the ISF World Seed Congress in Brisbane, which will bring together over 1,200 delegates from seed companies located all over the world. This congress will not only give us the opportunity to meet with all the main players on the international market, but also give us the opportunity to paint a more accurate picture of the lucerne seed market globally. In my next quarterly report I will try to give you some insight into what this experience was like.

As always Naracoorte Seeds are active purchasers of public lucerne seed, so please feel free to give me a call to discuss on 0427 790 655.

Honeybee biosecurity is good lucerne biosecurity

By Michael Stedman - Project Co-ordinator, Apiaries , Biosecurity SA

The European honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) plays a significant role in Australian agriculture, with sixty five percent of all plant-based industries valued at between $4-6 billion dependant to some extent on honeybee pollination. With lucerne responsiveness to insect pollination estimated at between 90-100%, the lucerne seed industry is one such plant-based industry dependant on honeybee pollination services.

This close correlation between honeybees and lucerne not only provides benefits but also potential risks, particularly given that high crop densities necessitate high hive densities. This has the capacity to induce both hive stress and disease spread.

Poorly managed hives and/or associated equipment could significantly impact not only other hives on the same property but the final seed set as well. This impact could also spread to neighbouring apiarists and growers.

To further protect the honeybee industry (and dependant industries such as the lucerne seed industry) from the potential impacts of poor management practices and notifiable diseases, additional regulations under the *Livestock Regulations 2013* aimed at strengthening honeybee biosecurity came into effect in April this year.

The amendments align with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice which has been endorsed both nationally and in South Australia. They aim in part to:

- increase productivity in the Australian honeybee industry by improving the general level of pest and disease control by Australian apiarists
- ensure apiarists conduct regular surveillance for the presence of notifiable exotic and endemic pests and diseases
- assist in the management of significant endemic diseases of honeybees, particularly American foulbrood (AFB)
- facilitate the cross-border movement of bees through the adoption of a single national code for biosecurity practices.

The new regulations that apiarists must comply with also provide lucerne producers with a guide to assessing an apiarist's management and biosecurity competency. They include:

- all apiarists must annually register with Biosecurity SA
- all apiarists must brand each of their hives with their registered hive identification code
- all apiarists must report and eradicate notifiable diseases
- all apiarists with 20 or more hives must annually test a specified number of their hives for AFB
- honeybees must be kept in hives of an approved kind, including being bee-proof except for specifically designed and manufactured access points
- hives, parts of a hive, hive products, and appliances must not be exposed
- swarm catch boxes must only contain frames of foundation, and must be labelled with the apiarists name and phone number if located on a property other than their place of residence
- water suitable to sustain bees must be provided within 200 metres of any hive
- hives must not be abandoned or neglected
- all apiarists must annually read and understand the latest PIRSA information on identifying notifiable conditions
- all apiarists with 50 or more hives must complete a course in bee disease and pest management
- all apiarists must keep records of specified biosecurity related management practices

Lucerne seed growers can play a further role in minimising the potential negative impacts of having non-compliant hives on their property by establishing a formalised agreement between themselves and the apiarist. Such an agreement should include identified best management practices such as:

- staggering the introduction and removal of hives to ensure hive densities match flowering densities (an example of this could be to commence hive introductions at 5-10% flowering, reach maximum density at approximately 20-30% flowering, and commence hive removal by 90% completion of flowering for complete removal by 95% completion of flowering)
- allowing apiarists to keep their apiaries adjacent to each other, and where possible maintain any barrier system they have
- specifying minimum standards regarding hive strength and hive management ensuring that they are free from notifiable diseases and comply with the requirements of the *Livestock Act 1997*.
- seeking recommendations from apiarists already on the property prior to engaging additional apiarists
- communicating regularly on topics such as pesticide applications, irrigation schedules and access
- assessing apiarist's management ability, hive strength and disease status by:
- requesting an independent audit of the hives (current industry practice is to inspect a random 10% of the hives)
- requesting copies of current registration certificates; and for interstate apiarists, current health certificates
- requesting copies of recent independent packer collected honey test results.

As part of the national beekeeping industry's initiative to take greater ownership of biosecurity issues facing the industry, a Bee Biosecurity Officer (BBO) position has been funded in each state. In South Australia a full time BBO has been employed by Biosecurity SA to provide extension advice and undertake compliance within the South Australian honeybee industry.

Further information on apiarist requirements can be obtained by contacting Biosecurity SA Apiary Inspectors:

Michael Stedman - Project Co-ordinator, Apiaries
Phone: 08 842 90872 Mobile: 0408 812 698
Email: michael.stedman@sa.gov.au

Teagan Alexander - Bee Biosecurity Officer
Phone: 08 842 92170 Mobile: 0439 864 382
Email: teagan.alexander@sa.gov.au

Tatiara Seeds Report

By Graham Ramsdale

It's been great to be able to receive lucerne seed that hasn't been affected by rain and also to be able to unload grower's seed and deliver seed to our processing plants without having to dodge rain and other inclement weather.

Our first delivery or Lucerne seed was 29/1/2018 with our last being 21/5/2018 (at the time of writing).

Month	Percentage of Deliveries
January	0.11%
February	17.31%
March	61.53%
April	20.63%
May	0.42%

Cleanouts range from as low as 3.94% to as high as 75.35%.

Mostly we use the same size screens, indents with small variation to the gravity table settings and aspiration settings. The losses are usually indicative of the amount of other material, other seeds and plant matter left in by the harvesting operation. Abnormal seed counts have generally been below 10%, however some are still quite high – those operators using the ferric chloride test and making the necessary adjustments to their headers are seeing reductions in abnormal counts.

Crops this season yielded between 150kg to 200kg per hectare less than the visual estimates.

Demand for Lucerne seed is very quiet as indicated at a couple of grower meetings recently. We currently still have 85% of cleaned product in our warehouse along with approximately 12% from the 2017 harvest.

If Saudi Arabia are to reduce their water usage by as much as we are told, there will need to be huge imports of hay to feed their meat animals and also their dairy cows!

Some challenges this season have been what is the cut off for drying seed affected by seed wasp? In the past, a moisture level of 12% was the maximum allowed – mostly due to weeds like fat hen, love grass and wireweed or being harvested too soon after desiccation or windrowing.

This season, 90% of the deliveries that needed drying were due to seed wasp damage and we found that readings up to 13.5% were safe to store. Some lots affected by seed wasp were nearly impossible to get the moisture below 14%, no matter how long they were left in the dryer!

Those deliveries affected by seed wasp have a waxy type residue that the wasp creates. This reside has been causing us problems by blocking up our screens, length separators (indents) and scarifiers, plus chutes that feed our equipment have also been getting the waxy build-up.

Above is a photo of a screen with one section cleaned using a wire brush and the rest of the screen showing the waxy residue. With our indent cylinders, the pockets are blocking up quickly requiring us to clean them with a hot high pressure cleaning unit.

As a result, those lines that contain dock, wireweed, lovegrass and panic grass that have also been affected by seed wasp have been unbelievably inefficient to process. The waxy residue quickly blocks up our screens that we use to screen out these weeds. When using our velvet rollers, large amounts of good seed is being rejected along with the weed seeds because of this residue as well. Large amounts of time is being spent re-running what gets rejected in order to minimise the loss of good seed. Not only is the seed wasp causing us problems with our cleaning plants, but our plant operators report that they are being bitten by live wasps causing a similar affect to sand fly bites.

Our agronomists tell us it's almost a waste of time chemically trying to control seed wasp by spraying. Many growers have shut-up their paddocks earlier than was traditional and I believe this has helped those growers. However, I think the seed wasp has moved in earlier as well! I can't pin it down to specific areas, but it seems north of Keith has less problems than the southeast area of Keith. Padthaway, south of Bordertown and possibly north of Wirrega have been affected badly, plus into areas of Victoria.

Continued next page-

Tatiara Seeds report continued

In 1982 I visited America looking at seed processing and seed production. I remember seeing a D8 dozer towing an offset disc cross working their harvested lucerne fields. The lucerne plants were in 30" rows. Immediately after the working, the paddocks looked like a worked paddock, nothing visible. I also saw some paddocks that had been worked some weeks before with the lucerne rows growing as though nothing had happened. This was to help bury any residue and help control the chalcid fly. Speaking with an agronomist over the past week, he said the chalcid fly and seed wasp are the same thing. Perhaps this is some food-for-thought!

In summary, perhaps it could be highly recommended that all lucerne fields are shut-up for seed on an agreed date and that as many volunteer plants in corners of paddocks, check banks and along road sides are destroyed or prevented from setting seed and a spraying program be adopted by every lucerne seed grower. Immediately after harvest the paddock is worked to bury all residue conducive to allowing seed wasp to multiply over winter in it. Or, is there a chemical that will do a similar job?

Below is a photo we have taken in our lab of the damage the lucerne seed wasp is causing. The photo shows dead lucerne seed wasps, the wasp still partly in the seed and the empty shells of seed compared to full normal lucerne seed. The wasps in this photo hatched out since the seed had been delivered and came from the delivered pre-processing samples that we had taken.

Another testing factor we are finding as cleaners is that more and more seed companies are needing lucerne seed with fewer or no other seeds/weeds in the lots so that they can make sales, meet contract or country requirements. Those lots destined for the USA market have even greater requirements. Rumex species (dock and sorrel), lovegrass, panic grass and wild turnip are prohibited in the USA. A maximum of 3 in 50 grams of fat hen and wireweed is permitted for the USA markets.

We hope to be very busy between now and the end of the year preparing seed ready for export so we will have some space in our warehouse for next year's production!

On behalf of all the staff at Tatiara Seeds, we would like to thank all our growers for their continuing support during the season, plus we would like to thank all those farmers we hired field bins from to help our storage whilst lucerne was being delivered.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The National Fodder Conference is the prime event of the year for every fodder industry professional. Join us for another year of fodder talk and networking!

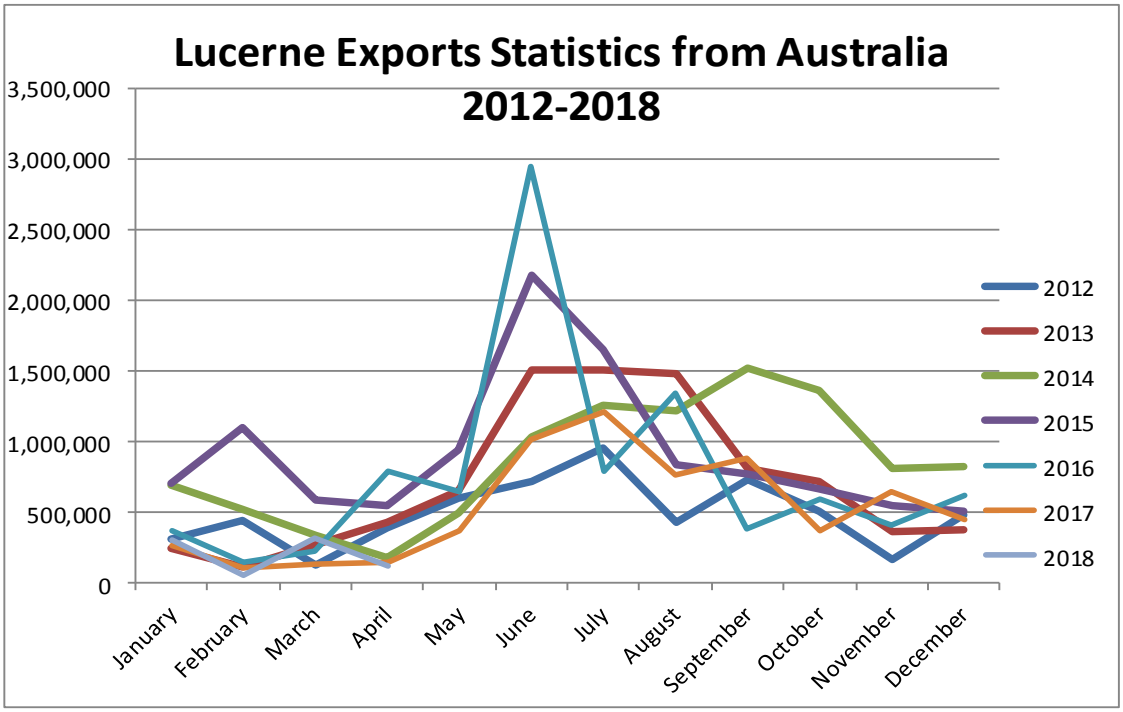
LUCERNE EXPORT STATISTICS from AUSTRALIA -January 2012 to April 2018

Courtesy of Teague Australia

Quantities below are in kg

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Year to date Difference 2017 & 2018
Jan	310,144	245,741	687,172	698,895	374,150	266,596	307,530	40,934
Feb	445,793	118,025	518,553	1,099,252	148,919	108,988	57,008	-11,046
Mar	130,625	269,091	334,033	582,929	227,050	127,000	321,205	183,159
Apr	385,262	424,057	171,816	549,340	784,031	143,025	123,100	163,234
May	594,069	647,509	495,472	940,000	644,704	363,023		-200,068
Jun	721,122	1,509,605	1,029,000	2,176,805	2,942,685	1,018,477		-1,218,545
Jul	951,685	1,510,278	1,260,782	1,649,080	786,450	1,214,352		-2,432,897
Aug	430,924	1,482,357	1,217,121	834,178	1,339,684	767,256		-3,200,153
Sep	726,310	811,667	1,516,965	770,857	388,207	882,195		-4,082,348
Oct	509,447	719,882	1,356,922	667,503	588,199	364,673		-4,447,021
Nov	169,450	363,877	810,704	543,246	409,700	649,318		-5,096,339
Dec	483,832	379,122	829,293	511,127	623,560	443,729		-5,540,068
Total	5,858,663	8,481,211	10,227,833	11,023,212	9,257,339	6,348,911		

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.

LA's First "Sticky Beak" Day - a success

Wednesday 7th March

The first LA Grower "Sticky Beak" day was a success with participants enjoying the day and saying that it was one of the best things they had attended. We hired a small bus and toured around seven properties to see how other people run their operation.
We will make it an annual event – hopefully next year before we get into harvest.

We also think it would be great to do tours in more areas, so that more growers get the chance to be part of this worthwhile exercise. So if you have ideas on what you want to see or where you want to go, get in touch. There's nothing like sharing ideas and experiences.

Agronomy Report

by Scott Hutchings – Senior Agronomist, Cox Rural, 0428 551 188

After an extremely dry 5-6 months rainfall through the lower and upper south east of South Australia in May has been just adequate to get crops in the ground in a timely fashion with the majority of legume, oilseed and cereal plantings finished or near completion. Seeding of the non-wetting soil where lucerne is traditionally sown is only just beginning as more rainfall occurs to provide moisture for these areas which dried out considerably over summer. Early sown crops from Coonalpyn south have emerged well but are relatively dirty due to dry sowing and modest rainfall to get germination for knockdown herbicides and activate pre-emergent herbicides. Rainfall across the rest of the state is relatively poor and patchy except for the more traditionally consistent areas. The adoption of modern moisture conserving farming methods has stood out strongly this year.

Low market demand for lucerne has resulted in many contracts being discontinued prior to the end of certification and a lot of stands finishing up extended production contracts. This market uncertainty has resulted in low availability of attractive contracts for new area to be sown this year and a hesitation in the planting of new area to public varieties. This has resulted in a lower than normal area of lucerne for seed production being planted this year and will also see significantly lower areas locked up for seed production this summer unless demand rapidly increases between now and December.

The area being taken out of seed production is being largely replaced by irrigated cereals where soil types permit, livestock production - primarily in the form of sheep, lamb and wool and an increase in stands to be allocated for hay cuts in the summer season. Fortunately for SE seed producers dry conditions over the rest of the nation has resulted in high grain prices on the back of domestic feed grain demand and has cleared out what was a huge surplus of hay which will inevitably result in solid hay prices next year - if the forecast for a dry season occurs.

Sheep and wool prices are also going to have a strong influence on the area shut up to dryland lucerne with feed availability, risk management and profitability being the key influencing factors for a strong shift back towards grazing.

Agronomically, it has been a quiet period since the seed harvest for lucerne. Low rainfall after harvest and the extended dry period has seen poor growth from lucerne stands and since the rain started stands have been slow to respond. This has been mainly due to the lack of large soaking rainfall events to wet up the profile of lucerne paddocks that had pumped out all soil moisture reserves. Snails have been an issue again around the crowns of lucerne stands slowing down recovery and growth.

Earth mites have hatched recently with high numbers in stands that were not sprayed last year. The earth mites have savaged any annual clovers and sown crops that have not been treated bare earth or early and are slowing down established pastures. This is extremely visible on sandier soil types. Mice numbers have significantly dropped off this year with only isolated paddocks where low grazing pressure occurred over summer being an issue.

Lucerne Australia Members

Welcome to new members: Circle H Farms

Adlington, Stuart and Valerie
Allen's Warrawee Park
Altus, TJ & JL 'Moonmera'
Arney, JF & JT & Sons
Ashby, AD & DC
Bellsands
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Lyntunga Props
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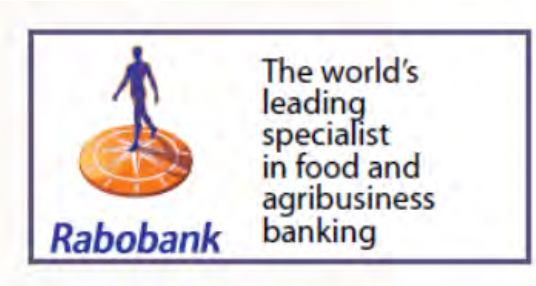
Maroona Proprietors
Martin, JP & SGP
McMurray, BJ & CB
McMurray, JA & KA
McWimay Ptd Ltd
MM Hawkins, Brippick
Munrose Nominees
Nalang Pastoral Co
Newfair Investments P/L
Newton Pastoral Pty Ltd
Nupey Pty Ltd
Obst, MB & SC
Oldfield, T & J
PSB Investments
Richardson, AJ & MJ & Son
Rillamead Pty Ltd
Rowett, NJ & LK
Ryan, GT & WB
Sanders, DE & FM
Sanders, GE & LM
Sanders, SN & DA
Sanders, RJ & ED
Scottswell Partners
Shepherd, JE & Co
Simpson, GE & TM
Twynem Partners
Vowles, B, K & M
Yurgo Farms
Wilsdon, RE & TK
Zacker, AJ & JM

Lucerne Australia Sponsors

GOLD



SILVER

Welcome to new members: Benparts, AFIA, Western AG

Associate Members/ Bronze Sponsors

AgXtra
AJ Cotton & MA McDonald
Alforex Seeds
Alpha Group Consulting
AFIA (Aust. Fodder Industry Assoc)
Cox Rural Keith
Crop Monitoring Services
D & M Rural
DTS Seed Assurance
Elders Keith
Farmers Centre
Forage Genetics International
Frank Fatchen Pty Ltd
Gibbs Agricultural Consulting
Heritage Seeds/Seedmark
Imperial Valley Milling Company
JJ O'Connor E. Sons Pty Ltd
Jolpac Rural Supplies
Kongal Seeds
Landmark Keith
Murray Nankivell
Naracoorte Seeds
NAS Agribusiness
Nufarm Australia
Pasture Genetics
PGG Wrightson Seeds
Rabobank Australia
Riverina Local Land Services
SA Apiarists Association
Safe Ag Systems
S& W Seed Co (SGI)
Seed Force
Seed Services Australia
Stoller Australia
Tatiara Seeds
Teague Australia
Total Eden
Upper Murray Seeds
Vermeeren Bros Manufacturing
WFI
Western AG
Wickham Flower
Wilchem
Wise Farm Equipment
Zadow Apiaries

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.

Bruce Connor, Chairman
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.

Josh Rasheed, Deputy 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. Also in 2016 Josh and his wife Emma bought into the business with Jamie & Peta Tidy. Contact: 0427 790 655.

Guy Cunningham, Grower Member
Guy farms with his wife Sarah and family near Willalooka. The business comprises a 300 cow stud beef cattle herd, dryland winter cropping and lucerne production, mainly aimed at seed with some hay sold off farm. Contact: 0429 875 422.

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.

Sarah Martin, Associate Member
Sarah is a Senior Rural Manager at Rabobank, responsible for a portfolio of rural clients. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) from the University of Adelaide. She resides on a mixed farming operation (lucerne, sheep, cattle and horses) with her family west of Keith. Contact: 0429 101 840.

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

Scott Hutchings, Associate Member
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.

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.