



THE LUCERNE LEADER

ISSUE 51
December 2018



Lucerne Variety Trial

Lucerne Australia's three year variety trial is looking good with the first herbage cut carried out by Kalyx staff, Nic Amos and Jessamy Bennet on 30th October.



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THE WORLD'S LEADING
SPECIALIST IN FOOD
AND AGRIBUSINESS
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GOOD PEOPLE TO KNOW

The 2018 Lucerne Australia AGM was held on Tuesday 11th September at the Keith Bowls Club.

Guest Speakers:

Angus Gidley- Baird, Senior Analyst, Animal Protein, RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness presented a very interesting insight into the world protein markets and how that impacts Australian producers.

Mark Lourey from Feed Works explained how a recent trip to the US investigated a new system of hay making.

Election of Committee

This year - two grower members and two associate members were up for re-election and as there were no other nominations they were re-elected to their positions: Bruce Connor, grower member, Simon Allen, grower member, Joshua Rasheed, associate member, Scott Hutchings, associate member.

Changes to Executive Committee

At the October meeting, the position of Chair and Deputy Chair were declared vacant.

The new Chairman of LA is **Joshua Rasheed**.

Incoming Deputy Chair role has been filled by **Scott Hutchings**.



Outgoing President Bruce Connor, who did not seek to stand as chair again, was thanked by the committee for his great work over the last 2 years.

FEEDWORKS
"Performance through Science"

Lucerne Australia Hay Demo Day



Over 40 people attended the "Bale hay in 7 days with stem moisture not dew" workshop at Brecon, just south of Keith on Friday 9th November.

Representatives from Feedworks, Gazeeka, and Palmer Ag along with Scott Campbell, owner of Brecon explained how making hay can be much faster and produce better quality hay using the new system incorporating Hay Guard.

Special guest from Indiana, Brad Paulus explained how this system works on his farm where there is constant wet weather and only a few small windows to make hay.



Dairy commodity prices have eased in recent months although the market did find some support through October with sales for New Year delivery into China keeping traders busy, in addition to healthy Algerian buying. Nonetheless, prices for several commodities have continued to weaken, and as the window for early 2019 delivery passes, there are fears that activity may slow down. The other key factor at play is milk production, in particular that of New Zealand. Data for September shows growth of around 6% in NZ milk collections for that month, and a similar year-to-date trend. Local sources suggest this may slow from November onwards due to dry conditions, however many buyers will remain sceptical until more definitive indications are observed.

New Zealand's season has its most direct impact on whole milk powder (WMP) prices, which continued to drift in October and November. The next month should prove instructive, with NZ now past its season peak and into the shoulder period. Relatively buoyant supplies from South America, Europe and even the US are also weighing on global prices, although limited Australian production is supporting a local premium.

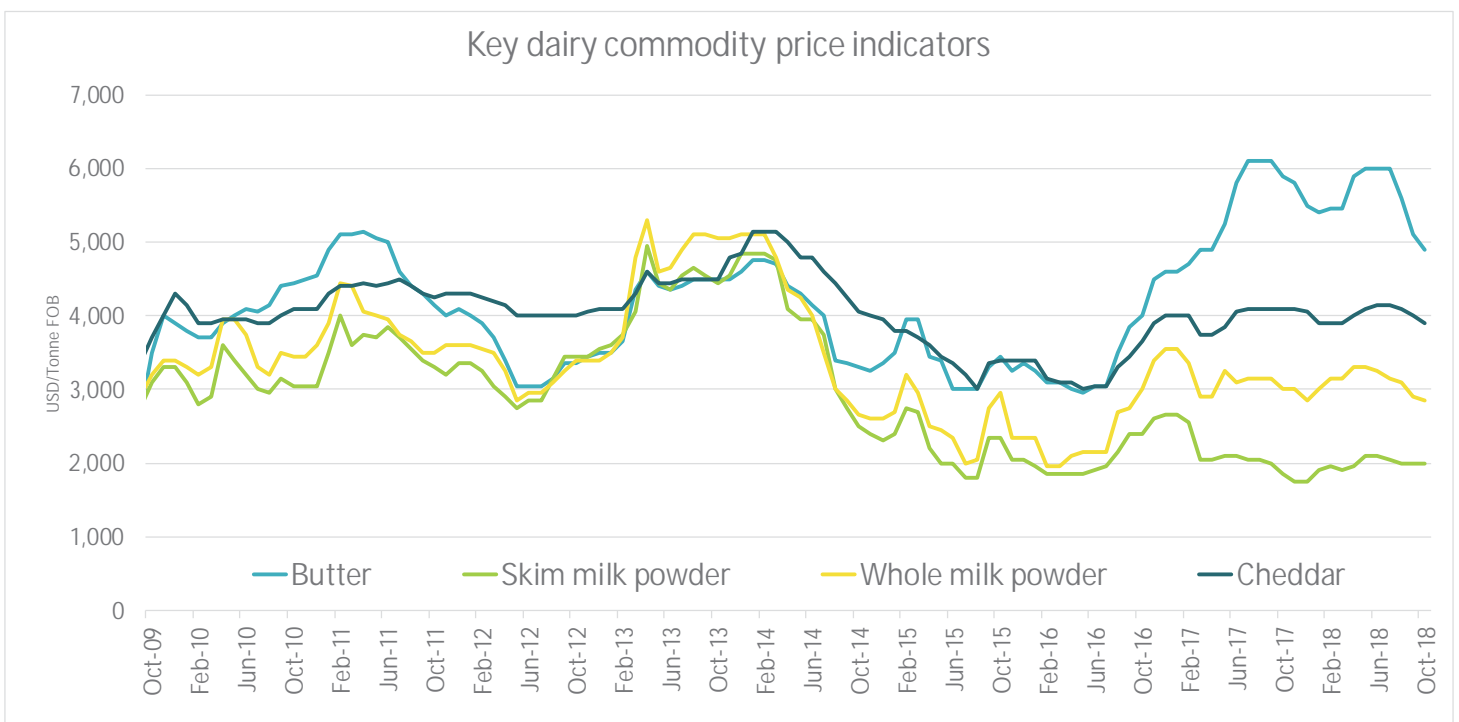
Prices for skim milk powder (SMP) are relatively stable and some of the higher specification product has seen increases, although traders report that it remains one of the more difficult products to sell in significant volumes. The European Commission continues to sell material volumes from its intervention stockpile and confirmed that there will again be no fixed price purchasing in 2019.

The spread in butter prices remains as wide as ever, with some Australian domestic market butter quotes well over US\$1,000/t higher than international indications, due to tightening local milk supplies. A mid-month lift in prices on GDT only partly reversed earlier losses, while European butter prices continue to fall sharply as production increases. Australia's milk production outlook remains challenging, and despite a likely increase in imports due to the existing price differential, the domestic fat market is expected to remain tight for the foreseeable future.

Cheddar prices have continued to ease, although the weakening has been mainly at the low end of the price range. Quotes for premium product have been more stable, and reports suggest spot sales of smaller parcels are able to attract even higher prices.

The main challenge for Australian manufacturers remains sourcing their targeted volumes of milk. For Australian farmers, the ability to produce this milk will depend heavily on the cost and availability of grain and hay as the season progresses. Dairy Australia is currently forecasting a decrease of between 5% and 7% to the national milk pool for 2018/19, as a consequence of the current situation.

Key dairy commodity price indicators





Rabobank



The Rabobank difference



100%
of our South East team come from a rural background



Rabobank supporting the South East region for

20
YEARS



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2008

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LA variety trial - November 2018

- Farmer health, wellbeing and safety are often neglected when facing the pressures of harvest
- Simple safety measures can dramatically reduce the risk of injury and illness
- When planning for harvest, take time to integrate these measures to protect the health, wellbeing and safety of you, your family and other farm workers.

As harvest approaches, it's crucial that all machinery is checked to ensure a smooth and timely harvest. But simply mending the header and servicing the tractor won't cut it if you want to protect the key component – you. Considering your health, wellbeing and safety is so important with the upcoming long hours and pressure to get the job done.

Have a quality harvest this year – don't compromise your health

Take some time to protect yourself against injury and accidents by planning ahead with these tips.

1. Check your tractor cabin to make sure you've got the right filter in place.

Harvest can be a dusty business so make sure you have an appropriate – and clean – dust filter fitted into your cabin. If you're using chemicals, an activated carbon filter is recommended. These should be recharged every 6-12 months (or after 400 hours of service). *If you have cabin dust, or if you can smell the chemicals you're spraying, you need to recheck your filter.*

2. Check the safety of your equipment.

Does your auger have a guard in place, and how about the PTO? These two pieces of equipment are the main cause of injury to hands and feet. Also consider the risks unguarded equipment has for children and pets – they don't understand the equipment you use or how dangerous it can be.

3. Plan a healthy harvest diet.

Sitting in the tractor or header all day, you won't need to eat as many calories as you usually would. Have a good breakfast of low-GI carbohydrates (oats, barley- or bran-based cereals, grainy breads, eggs and/or cooked veggies). Don't skip meals – pack a wholegrain sandwich and some fruit, nuts and veggies to nibble on. Avoid 'convenient' snacks like muesli bars, biscuits and chips as these are often high in sugar, salt and saturated fats.

4. Avoid dehydration.

Plan to drink a few litres of water a day – have plenty of fresh water on hand to make this easy. Doing this will help avoid the constipation that can result from sitting for hours on end. Keep an eye on your urine – if it smells or is dark yellow, you need more water.

5. Exercise.

Sitting in a bent or rotated position puts you at increased risk for of spinal and joint pain. Plan to make regular stops to get out of the cabin and walk around. Here are some exercises you can do in the cab, too:

- point your toes and use your big toe to write your name in the air,
 - do some marching on the spot (while sitting down),
 - sit up straight and gently twist side to side,
 - arch your back then straighten up tall, and,
 - turn your head side to side to stretch out your neck muscles.
- They might sound a bit silly, but it's better than a sore neck or lower back pain!

6. Manage fatigue

Your body needs sleep to regenerate, refresh and repair. Despite the pressure to get the crop off, make silage or hay, you need to plan your sleep so that your mind and body can function properly.

"It sounds basic – and it is," says Director of the National Centre for Farmer Health, Prof. Sue Brumby. "But it never seems to amaze how many people neglect to do all, or any, of the above. Yet we all know, or know of, someone who has suffered, and suffered badly, during harvest."

"It might have been an accident because they have fallen asleep, suffered a heart attack, hurt themselves in machinery, or tripped and sprained. With the proper planning, however, nearly all this can be avoided".

Don't forget the impact an accident or injury can have on your family and business.

Reduce the risks – plan ahead



Naracoorte Seeds- Market Report

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

It is timely writing this market report as I have just returned from Argentina where I attended the Buenos Aires Seed Conference, as well as toured some of the seed production areas throughout country Argentina. The conference was held over two days in Buenos Aires with around 75 participants attending, the majority from Argentina. I then had the opportunity to tour some of the Argentinean participant's seed production crops and facilities which finished the trip off well and gave me a much better insight into how the market works in Argentina.

Argentina has always been an important destination for sending Australian Lucerne seed and they have consistently been our second or third biggest lucerne importer. This year however they are down on purchasers by over 70%. Argentina generally purchase 1,000+ tonnes per annum, but this year to end of September they have only purchased 245 tonne and 218 tonne of that was exported in January.

All year I have been hearing the Argentinean domestic Lucerne seed market was depressed due to drought conditions in key areas which hindered lucerne seed sales, which then allowed the local growers to have a successful lucerne seed harvest. This was

definitely seen and heard first hand throughout the conference and when travelling, with all companies experiencing large carryovers throughout 2018. One positive I did come away with was I felt the worst looks to be behind them and Argentina could potentially be an important market for us again in 2019.

On a local note and as a public seed trader, going into the 2019 season is an interesting one. We will have little to no carry-over of certified and uncertified public lucerne seed and it is looking likely that production area for lucerne seed this coming season will be down by over 40% with growers choosing to either cut crops for hay or graze with livestock while prices for these commodities are close to record highs. This won't be a bad thing as the US and Argentina still have reasonable lucerne seed stock levels, but with Australia having 40% less area in for production there is little chance of us having a bumper crop, which will hopefully help keep upward pressure on prices.

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, so please call to discuss on 0427 790 655.

Below: Josh at Gentos Breeding and Research Station in Pergamino inspecting a lucerne dormancy trial.

Right: harvesting ryegrass.



Industry update November 2018



Current
Projects



Invested
in RD&E
July - Sept
2018



Committed
to RD&E
1 July 2018
onwards



AgriFutures™ Pasture Seeds Advisory Panel (L-R):

- Joe Cook
- Brian Fields
- Dr Melanie Bradley (AgriFutures Australia Program Manager)
- Dr Mary-Jane Rogers
- Lisa Anderson (Chair)
- David Brown

New AgriFutures™ Pasture Seeds Program RD&E Plan 2019-2023

The AgriFutures™ Pasture Seeds Program RD&E Plan 2019-2023 has been developed by AgriFutures Australia in consultation with certified seed growers, seed cleaners, commercial seed suppliers, grower organisation representatives, researchers, allied industry stakeholders and agronomy advisers. The Plan outlines the AgriFutures™ Pasture Seeds Program's RD&E objectives for the next five years:

1. **Production and processing efficiency and profitability:** Increased profitability of certified temperate pasture seed production through improved production and processing efficiency.
2. **Sustainable certified temperate pasture seed production:** Certified temperate pasture seed production is a sustainable enterprise capable of responding to potential threats to production and markets.
3. **Connectivity and communication:** All sectors of the certified temperate pasture seeds industry and allied industries are connected and engaged through effective communication channels.
4. **Building industry capability and capacity:** Temperate pasture seed growers and industry service providers have the necessary training, capability and capacity to adopt and/or promote best management practices and to provide industry leadership.

Program team update

- AgriFutures Australia welcomed Annabel Stoddart to the team on Tuesday, 30 October. Annabel has been recruited as Program Officer for the AgriFutures™ Honey Bee & Pollination, Pasture Seeds and Thoroughbred Horses Programs.
- Program Manager, Dr Melanie Bradley, will commence maternity leave from Monday, 19 November.
- Annelies McGaw will be commencing Monday, 26 November as Program Manager for the AgriFutures™ Honey Bee & Pollination, Pasture Seeds and Thoroughbred Horses Programs.

Landmark Keith offers a comprehensive Lucerne Monitoring service. Working with you from the start of the season to the end, our qualified and experienced agronomists will help you get the maximum economic value from your crops.

Landmark Keith offers comprehensive Fee For Service Lucerne Seed/Hay Monitoring. Working with you from the start of the season to the end, our qualified and experienced agronomists will help you get the maximum economic value from your crops.

The service will provide regular visits over the summer months and provide advice on insect/weed pest management and irrigation scheduling.

Call Paul or Ben to discuss how the service may benefit your Lucerne production for the coming season.



Paul Ruchs

Senior Account Manager – Agronomy

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E: paul.ruchs@landmark.com.au



Ben Farmer

Senior Account Manager - Agronomy

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E: ben.farmer@landmark.com.au

Areas locked up for lucerne seed production are set to be at the lowest levels seen for many years. At this stage without a significant rainfall event, dryland seed areas are expected to be at less than 20% of those seen in recent years. A number of factors are contributing to this including dry spring conditions which means that not enough sub-soil moisture is available to take the crops through to a harvest.

High hay prices have prompted many growers to cut paddocks rather than take the risks associated with seed production. These paddocks could still be shut up in the coming four weeks in the unlikely event of a significant rainfall event. High livestock prices have also seen many dryland paddocks allocated to finishing lambs or retaining breeding stock. Uncertainty about seed pricing has also influenced these decisions.

Irrigated area for seed production is estimated to be down by about 40% based on similar factors to the dryland production. This area has been either taken out with the withdrawal of contracts or shifted into hay production for the short term. As stand management for hay or seed is similar in the early lock up stages many growers who are still uncertain as to what they will do with paddocks are keeping their options open until they reach budding - around the Christmas/ New Year period when they will commit one way or another depending on market indicators for hay or seed.

Growers who opted out of planting or removed existing lucerne seed stands early this year and chose to plant and irrigate broad acre crops have been well rewarded with canola in the 2.5 - 3 ton range, faba beans 3.5 - 4.5 ton and barley crops in the 5 - 7 ton range being harvested.

The dry spring has generally made for reasonable lucerne hay making conditions. Dryland hay yields have been modest as have first cuts of irrigation due to dry conditions and regular frost events during spring but prices have compensated for lower yields. Hay yields off second cuts have been better.

Pest levels through spring saw some early high aphid levels and strong flights of native budworm in October, but pest levels have lowered on the back of cooler conditions in November. The hot weather forecast in early December may increase numbers again. At this stage no seed wasp has been detected and it will be interesting to see what effect such a low area of dryland production will have on the pest.



Landholders invited to apply for native revegetation funding

Expressions of Interest **NOW OPEN**

BuzzBids

Restoring the agricultural landscape

BuzzBids aims to assist landholders to re-establish native vegetation on their properties to contribute to nature conservation and/or resources for pollinators of lucerne in the Upper South East.

Landholders within the BuzzBids boundary are invited to apply for funding for the establishment of native revegetation and associated management. Landholders may wish to use a revegetation service provider to assist in costing their tender, and to implement their revegetation plan if successful.

An information brochure, map, information sheets, and a list of revegetation service providers can be viewed online at <http://www.oconnornrm.com.au/BuzzBids>

To find out more about BuzzBids or to register your expression of interest please call **0447 037 903**. Landholders are advised to be quick to express interest as over subscription may result in later registrations missing out.



Native Vegetation Council

Delivered by: O'ConnorNRM

Funded by: the Native Vegetation Council.

BuzzBids Restoring the Agricultural Landscape

Daniel, our export trader visited Argentina recently to attend the World Alfalfa Congress. The Congress was attended by 500+ people from South America, Europe, Australia, US, New Zealand and China. There were presentations from Forage Genetics, Alforex, SARDI, UC Davis, wholesalers, universities etc. Take away message - the world is still bullish towards lucerne demand, particularly for hay into the Middle East and China.

PGW are fielding considerable enquiry from re-sellers throughout the eastern seaboard of Australia as farmers plan their autumn pasture improvement programs. Dry conditions and over grazing have seen many lucerne stands deteriorate. PGW are looking forward to considerable sales of our Stamina and Titan range of lucerne in the coming autumn.

At home, the PGG Wrightson Seeds Keith cleaning shed have continued to invest heavily, with the recent purchase of a grain dryer complementing our existing equipment. We have also installed a new dust extraction system, purchased more scarifiers and screens, as well as a new pallet wrapper and all new electric forklifts. Our annual Grower Day will be on again in early February where we will give a comprehensive update on research and development, production, cleaning and sales.

Lucerne seed production has faced a challenging time this year with alternatives such as livestock or hay production showing good returns. Many dryland lucerne paddocks will be grazed this year therefore there will be considerably less tonnage produced.

Supply of domestic common lucerne varieties of mid- dormancy could be tight in the coming autumn.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our seed growers who are committed to growing seed year-in-year-out, despite some uneasiness in the market. Having consistent supply of quality seed is the basis of a superior pasture seed company, something that PGW Seeds prides itself on.

We are currently in the process of drafting our contracts for 2019 plantings of lucerne, and are sure we will have an attractive, stable option for you to consider shortly. In 2019, PGW Seeds will be contracting a large area of proprietary lucernes. Please contact our PGW production agronomists for further information.

All the best for the coming season.

The PGG Wrightson Seeds Team

Contracting and Agronomic Support:

Jess Nottle – Seed Production Agronomist – 0438 302 148

Wayne Heading – Seed Production Agronomist – 0447 551 458

Commons Purchasing:

Anthony Quilter – Commons Procurement Coordinator – 0427 572 125

Seed Cleaning:

Greg Excell – Keith Site Manager – 0408 838 684

Natural Resources Management Officers (NRMOs) in the Upper South East are urging landholders to start taking steps to identify and control silverleaf nightshade before it becomes established as we head into summer. Natural Resources South East Team Leader Pest Management Kym Haebich says now is the time to control the declared weed, to help reduce its impact on local agricultural productivity. For more information, contact your local NRM.





S & W Seed Company Report

By *Walter Van Leeuwin, Vice President, Sales and Marketing Ph: 0419 983 984*

Demand for Australian lucerne seed continues to be low given that most customers are only ordering what they require at any given time, as opposed to ordering larger volumes and then sitting on that inventory until their selling season begins.

To sum up the situation its best described in the below dot points.

- Saudi still very inactive. We are moving seed into this area but in low volumes. Exports of lucerne seed out of Australia to Saudi YTD is 33% down on corresponding period in 2017 and 72% down on 2016
- Other MENA areas are active but volumes are not high when coming to orders. The biggest issue we have is that inventory levels in these areas are high so therefore they do not need to order larger volumes well ahead of their major selling season.
- Argentina will be very inactive this season. With their dollar collapsing and inventory levels at adequate levels, they too are in no need to be aggressive with their purchases.
- US inventory stocks are also at decile 7-8 levels. This has led to some US companies to reduce all, or a majority, of their non-dormant lucerne production for 2019 harvest.
- EU harvest, as previously stated, was down this year. How

this pans out in 2019 we don't know. All we know is that production in the EU, particularly in Italy, is produced at low costs so therefore can be sold at low values.

Exports of all lucerne seed out of Australia to all destinations is 25% down on corresponding period in 2017 and 52% down on 2016.

Now is the critical time on whether to go for seed, hay or grazing and with the market information above not telling a great story, you will question whether growing seed is a viable option for 2019. Once global inventory stocks are reduced, we then may see some reflection in improved pricing for the 2019 crop. So opportunities are still there for those who are still undertaking a seed production program.

If you require any more information on the current market situation, please do not hesitate to call myself, Dennis Jury or Peter Gibbs.

Finally on behalf of S&W Seed Company, we wish all LA members a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to further communicating the latest market information possibly at the LA trial site field day at some stage early in the new year.

Number of beekeepers and hives in Australia from the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council as at 31 October, 2018

| | No. with < 50 hives | No. owned by keepers with < 50 hives | No. with 50+ hives | No. owned by keepers with 50+ hives |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Queensland | 4,702 | 24,434 | 320 | 84,806 |
| Victoria | 7,404 | 32,763 | 233 | 83,342 |
| Tasmania | 216 | 1,572 | 46 | 19,388 |
| South Australia | 1,660 | 9,457 | 188 | 64,498 |
| Western Australia | 2,525 | 13,729 | 167 | 31,374 |
| Northern Territory | 90 | 345 | 4 | 1,140 |
| ACT | 442* | 1181 | NA | NA |
| TOTAL | 16,597 | 83,481 | 958 | 284,548 |

NSW **New South Wales is not able to separate out those with 50 or more hives

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Total no. of beekeepers | 25,053 |
| Total no. of hives | 672,216 |

* ACT is not able to differentiate between those with less than 50 hives and those with more than 50

LUCERNE EXPORT STATISTICS from AUSTRALIA -January 2012 to September 2018

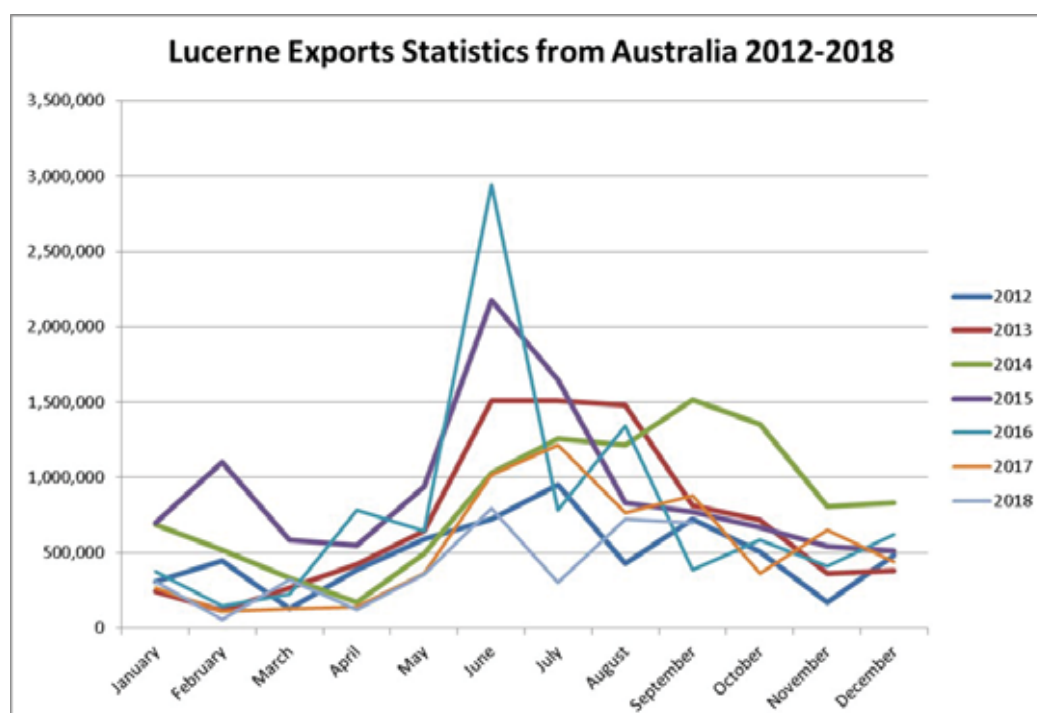
Courtesy of Teague Australia



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 | 355,575 | 155,507 |
| Jun | 721,122 | 1,509,605 | 1,029,000 | 2,176,805 | 2,942,685 | 1,018,477 | 794,995 | -67,975 |
| Jul | 951,685 | 1,510,278 | 1,260,782 | 1,649,080 | 786,450 | 1,214,352 | 303,288 | -979,039 |
| Aug | 430,924 | 1,482,357 | 1,217,121 | 834,178 | 1,339,684 | 767,256 | 721,730 | -1,024,565 |
| Sep | 726,310 | 811,667 | 1,516,965 | 770,857 | 388,207 | 882,195 | 698,665 | -1,208,095 |
| Oct | 509,447 | 719,882 | 1,356,922 | 667,503 | 588,199 | 364,673 | | |
| Nov | 169,450 | 363,877 | 810,704 | 543,246 | 409,700 | 649,318 | | |
| Dec | 483,832 | 379,122 | 829,293 | 511,127 | 623,560 | 443,729 | | |
| Total | 5,858,663 | 8,481,211 | 10,227,833 | 11,023,212 | 9,257,339 | 6,348,911 | 3,683,096 | |

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: Lake Ellen Pastoral

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



Lucerne Australia Sponsors

GOLD



SILVER



LA welcomes Landmark to the Silver level sponsorship - Thank you for your support.

Associate Members/ Bronze Sponsors

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



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. Also in 2016 Josh and his wife Emma bought into the business 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.

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



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.



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