



**ISSUE 57
June 2020**

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Lucerne Variety Trial Update

Assess optimum plant stress levels for seed production



The variety trial was harvested by Kalyx on 17th March 2020 and the analysis of the seed yields has recently been completed.

The summary report of the second year seed results will be made available by email to members next week. A results information session is being planned for July with full details to be confirmed. It is hoped that restrictions on crowd gatherings will have relaxed sufficiently to allow this to proceed as a "face-to-face" meeting.

Seed varieties have been supplied by:
Alforex Seeds, Heritage Seeds, Naracoorte Seeds, Pasture Genetics, PGG Wrightson Seeds, Seed Force, S&W Seed Co, Upper Murray Seeds.

More details on the trial, link to the moisture probe data and photos are available on the LA website.



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GOOD PEOPLE TO KNOW

Stacking safely

Loading, unloading and stacking hay is almost second nature for those in the fodder industry. For some, it's a daily task and often completed without consideration of the risks. But complacency in the workplace can lead to accidents and dangerous incidents, even for the most seasoned operators.

That's why the Australian Fodder Industry Association (AFIA) has developed a *Hay Stacking Guide*.

The resource, available free on the AFIA website, was created with everyone along the fodder supply chain in mind.

"It's for fodder growers, customers and managers, anyone who uses hay, silage or straw," AFIA CEO John McKew said. "The easily accessible guide, complete with diagrams and pictures, can be used to train new employees or as a skills refresher for long-term workers or business managers."

The *Hay Stacking Guide* includes best practice tips, such as stacking two bales together to reduce the chances of

building an unstable stack and practical "rule of thumb" measurements to ensure stack stability.

There are also guidelines for stacking round bales, storing hay near powerlines and loading and unloading trucks and trailers.

Take a look at the guide: <https://www.afia.org.au/index.php/projects/safety/hay-stacking-guide>

For more safety tips and fodder information: www.afia.org.au

- Do you and/or your staff currently need to undertake any workplace training to assist you to meet your Work Health and Safety obligations i.e. Telehandler, Work Safely at Heights or Forklift Licence?
- Would you be interested in having access to accredited training and assessment offered in Keith by a registered training organisation (RTO) to minimise travel and cost? (once current restrictions on crowd gathering cease)

Register your expression of interest by email to info@lucerneaustralia.org.au

Farm insurance that knows you mean business.

For farm insurance call 1300 934 934 or visit wfi.com.au

To see if our product is right for you, always read the PDS from the product issuer, Insurance Australia Limited (ABN 11 000 016 722 AFSL 227681) trading as WFI (WFI).

Good people to know.





Australia's winter crop planting is set to climb by over 25 per cent this year on the back of widespread and well-timed rainfall across most of the country.

After prolonged drought conditions, which have delivered three years of decline in Australia's grain production and exports, global agribusiness specialist Rabobank is forecasting the nation's crop planting to be up by 26 per cent on last season to 22.5 million hectares. This is also 12 per cent above the five-year average.

Combined with forecast above-average rainfall for the critical growing season ahead, this should deliver Australia an average to above-average winter grain crop, the bank says.

Much of this improvement will occur in the previously-droughted cropping regions of the eastern states, with New South Wales-planted area forecast to be up by a staggering 95 per cent and Queensland by 44 per cent, Rabobank says in its just-released **Australian 2020/21 Winter Crop Outlook**.

For wheat, the report says, a total harvest volume of 26 million is "not unrealistic, given our expectations for hectares planted this year".

Rabobank senior grains and oilseeds analyst Cheryl Kalisch Gordon says the promising crop outlook is welcome news for Australia's agricultural sector after years of drought and the severe disruptions of summer bushfires and COVID-19 in the first half of 2020.

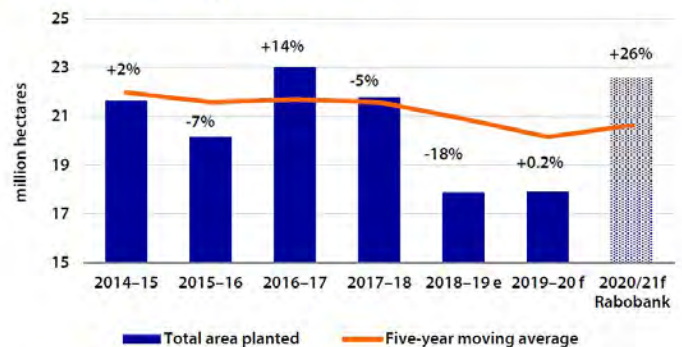
"While it's still around six months until the grain is in the bin, all the hallmarks of an above-average season are now falling into place," she said. "2020 finally saw a strong opening to the east coast winter crop planting season, with good rains and fast planting progress.

"With the Bureau of Meteorology's forecast for above-average rainfall for all Australian cropping regions during the critical growing months of June to August, these increased hectares planted are expected to combine with at least average yields to deliver an average to above-average grain crop."

Dr Kalisch Gordon says eagerness to 'make hay' while there is moisture around after drought – along with the high cost of the alternative of restocking livestock – had featured in farmers' decisions to expand their planted area in 2020/21.

A more buoyant outlook for wheat than barley had prompted greater increases in wheat planted compared with last year and longer term averages. "And the recent announcement of China's tariffs of 80.5 per cent on Australian barley would also have influenced this choice for the small number who hadn't planted by then," Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

Australian winter crop planted area



Source: ABARES, Rabobank, 2020

While the renewed supply of Australian grain would see prices move down from the drought-driven highs of recent years, the Rabobank report says average prices are expected to "remain in sight", supported by an ongoing softer Australian dollar.

Export volumes – though remaining challenged by competitive global supplies along with the Chinese barley tariffs – would likely increase by near 70 per cent on last year.

This could see Australia set to export up to 17 million tonnes of wheat (up 100 per cent on last year), 4.5 million tonnes of barley (up 12 per cent) and two million tonnes of canola (up 17 per cent).

States

Crop planting is up across all states.

Report co-author, Rabobank associate analyst Dennis Voznesenski says rainfall was received across large sections of New South Wales and Victoria during late summer and early autumn.

"Favourable soil moisture profiles in both states were then further enhanced as the months have rolled on and rainfall events continued," he said.

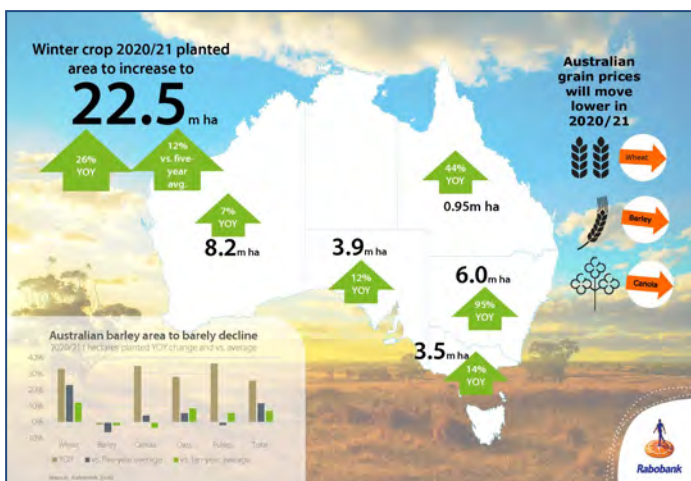
"Strong early season rainfall has put New South Wales in a great position to plant a large crop of six million hectares, up a staggering 95 per cent from last year and 31 per cent above the five-year average. This planting program has been driven by the best opening rains in three years, but also the challenge of sheep and cattle restocking at high prices, which has prompted putting more country to cropping."

Victoria's planted crop for 2020/21 is forecast to be up 14 per cent to 3.5 million hectares.

For Queensland, however, the report says, good early rains have not been followed up in all areas and the cumulative rainfall levels for many cropping regions, especially central Queensland, have now fallen below the 10-year average. Cumulative rainfall, though, is improved from last year and sub-soil moisture levels remain average. Rabobank still sees total area planted to cropping in Queensland increasing by 44 per cent in the 2020/21 season.

South Australia has seen a fantastic start to the year, with most cropping areas enjoying above average planting rains, Mr Voznesenski says.

"Meanwhile, Western Australia had a promising start, but then conditions became drier through March and April. However recent May storms are likely to have improved prospects," he said. Rabobank is expecting total grain area — *Continued*



Barenbrug Australia has sought some input from our commercial partners on their view of the current industry in their area.

USA— in a nut shell, the Corona Virus has impacted the markets with delays in shipping and packaging. The entire ag sector in the United States has seen consumer demands falling due to no restaurant operations. Vegetables, meat, milk and other commodities are in surplus, due to supply chain restrictions as well. Although some small noise of supermarket shortages heard in some sectors of the country due to supply chains primarily.

For Lucerne, the USA is just starting the production of the seed crop and total seed acres expected to be the lowest in past 30 years. Once again, Australia is forecasted to exceed USA production the past two years.

Lucerne inventories remain ahead of demand but expect a balancing end of this selling season.

Main winter active markets as follows :
North America - fair to stable in 2020

South America - down due to economic / political crisis
Africa / Middle East - down from high mark a few years ago due to water restrictions

The Alfalfa industry in Europe does not have an organization like we have in Australia. Therefore, only limited information is available.

The Barenbrug companies in Europe are primarily using dormancies 4-5 and just a bit dormancy 6-7 for the Mediterranean area. Production is 60% in France and 40% in Canada. The market is stable, which is partly due to lower yields in 2019 in France and failing harvest in Russia. Stocks are on acceptable levels, but if harvest 2020 will be a good harvest, some oversupply might be expected.

Eastern Europe (including Russia) is consuming most of the volume. Russia is also producing non-certified seed in Russia, but the last 3 years their harvest failed. The year their local harvest does not fail, the prices will come down substantially.

If you would like to discuss Lucerne planting opportunities for spring, please contact Richard Prusa 0408 851 411.

Movin' on up – Australia's winter crop planting set to soar more than 25 per cent - continued

planted in South Australia to be up 12 per cent on last season at 3.9 million hectares and Western Australia up seven per cent at 8.2 million hectares.

Commodities

Across the country overall, wheat, canola and pulses will see the largest increases in planting from last year, the report says, mainly driven by improved conditions in the eastern states.

Wheat planting is expected to be up by 33 per cent on last season, with canola up 35 per cent and area planted to pulses increased by 36 per cent.

Barley has seen a modest (one per cent) decline in planting, Rabobank's Dr Kalisch Gordon said, off the back of a pessimistic price outlook. "Further declines were limited by the fact the China's tariff decision following the anti-dumping investigation came after the majority of barley area had been planted," she said.

Prices

The bank forecasts Australian grain prices to move lower in 2020/21. Although the "return to earth will be softened by the Australian dollar", it says. "Firming global wheat production expectations and a softening in demand post the COVID-19 stockpiling means we have a neutral outlook for global wheat prices over the coming 12 months," Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

The bank expects CBOT (Chicago Board of Trade) wheat to trade in the USc 525-534 range.

Renewed local wheat supply prospects will, however, increasingly weigh on local prices as harvest approaches, with local prices down year-on-year, Dr Kalisch Gordon says. For barley, increased supply and a competitive global feed grain market (due mainly to cheaper corn prices because of a

coronavirus-driven slump in ethanol demand for fuel) means global prices will be down this year. Locally, increased barley supply and a challenging export market – particularly in light of the imposition of China's tariffs – sees a flat price outlook, although also supported by the lower dollar.



With Australian canola, particularly the non-GM variety, enjoying stronger pricing in recent times – off the back of drought-driven low supply, increased usage in home-cooking during COVID-19 lockdowns and increased export demand – prices are expected to return lower over the course of the year.

For pulses, lower global supply should keep chickpea and lentil prices supported in 2020 –with increased demand from India and Turkey critical – although higher Australian production will hold domestic prices in check, the report says.

Exports

Increased Australian production, lower domestic premiums and a favorable Australian dollar all support an increase in Australian grain exports in 2020/21, the Rabobank Outlook says. However, finding a home for that grain will likely be challenging. Stagnant global demand, low shipping costs and depreciation of Black Sea region currencies will continue to challenge Australia's competitiveness in traditional markets, Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

Rabobank Australia & New Zealand is a part of the global Rabobank Group, the world's leading specialist in food and agribusiness banking. Rabobank has more than 120 years' experience providing customised banking and finance solutions to businesses involved in all aspects of food and agribusiness. Rabobank is structured as a cooperative and operates in 40 countries, servicing the needs of approximately 10 million clients worldwide through a network of more than 1000 offices and branches. Rabobank Australia & New Zealand is one of Australasia's leading agricultural lenders and a significant provider of business and corporate banking and financial services to the region's food and agribusiness sector. The bank has 93 branches throughout Australia and New Zealand.

How the spread of COVID-19 is disrupting global dairy markets?

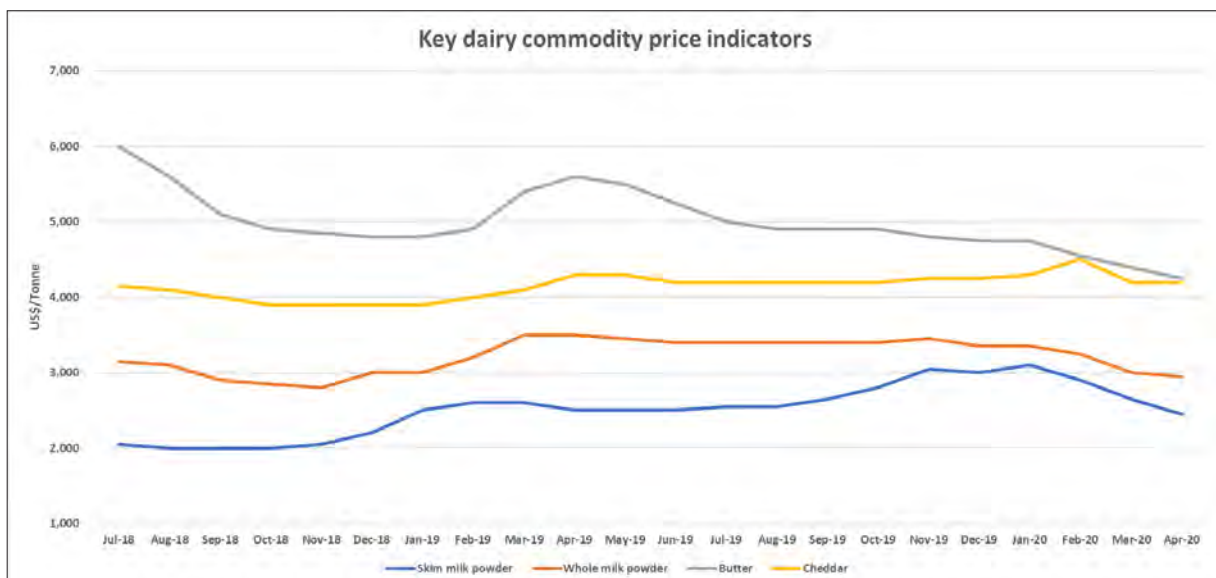
With significantly improved weather conditions and a partial recovery in milk production, the outlook for the dairy industry was looking up heading into autumn. Recent rain across most regions lowered fodder costs and combined with the strong farmgate milk price, saw milk production increase, year-on-year (for the fifth month in a row in April). However, as domestic conditions grew increasingly favourable, the global outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) threw a spanner in the works. Disruptions to supply chains and a shift in the global supply and demand fundamentals are impacting international markets, with flow-on effects for the Australian dairy industry. Whilst it is yet too early to assess the full impact COVID-19 will have on dairy markets; some developments are already emerging.

Whilst the initial panic that followed the COVID-19 outbreak has begun settle, global dairy demand remains under pressure. Ongoing restrictions, implemented to curb the spread of the virus, have seen demand from the foodservice sectors particularly impacted. Additionally, the drop in passenger planes available in southeast Asia, has limited fresh export opportunities to the region. The initial drop in Chinese demand for dairy imports saw commodity prices decrease, however China's re-entry into dairy trade in April was a welcoming sign and has provided some support. As the economic outlooks deteriorates, national and per-capita incomes decrease in many countries. This is likely to impact demand for premium priced dairy products.

As COVID-19 continues to drive market sentiment, milk supply growth is equally weighing on global markets. Milk production has continued to grow in the EU and in the US. With restrictions, implemented to curb the spread of COVID-19, disrupting supply chains and sales through foodservice outlets plummeting, dairy commodity prices have dropped.

In the US, the Government has announced a farmer support package, including the purchasing of dairy products by the Department of Agriculture. The purchased products are to be redistributed to food banks and used as humanitarian aid. In the EU, the European Commission has re-introduced a private storage aid (PSA) scheme for skim milk powder (SMP), butter and cheese for the first time in three years. Any reduction to overall the supply of dairy would support commodity prices and are important to keep track of due to the potential impacts further afield. In Australia, the situation is quite different as the country is no longer in the peak production period. With a smaller national milk pool, the risk of factories being full (as is the case in the US) is low and thus milk dumping is unlikely.

Australia is not immune to the growing headwinds facing the global market. The escalating economic fallout of the crisis is likely to have reverberations and reduce consumers' purchasing power in key markets. On a brighter note, relatively strong domestic demand for dairy and a weak AUD will provide some insulation from international market pressures, whilst further weather improvements remain a welcoming sign.





Native Bee Snippet No.2

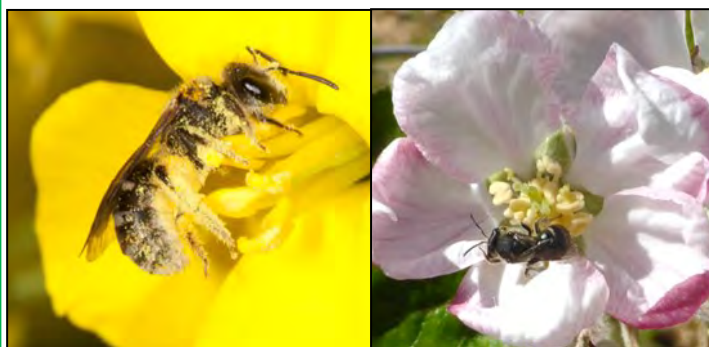
By Katja Hogendoorn and Scott Groom

Over the last four years, a group of bee researchers from the University of Adelaide have been investigating the native bees that pollinate lucerne. We are excited to announce that we have found a wide variety of species visiting lucerne, including leafcutter bees, blue-banded bees, resin bees and halictine bees. You can read more about them in the blog, the wild pollinators of lucerne (<https://polli2017.wordpress.com/>), which is irregularly updated with new information.

In these snippets, we will highlight some of the bees we found.

Among the most abundant native bees on lucerne and other crops are a range of ground nesting halictine bee species in the genus *Lasioglossum* or furrow bees: we found 13 species visiting lucerne!

Lasioglossum is a very speciose group with a worldwide distribution. Australia alone has more than 250 species – about the same number as there are mammal species in Australia – with equivalent variation in morphology and lifestyle. Nearly all species nest in the soil, and nests can be very deep: up to 1.5 m. For a small bee, that's a huge distance. In human terms it is equivalent to the distance from the Keith pub to the Land rover on the pole. Dig that!



Lasioglossum on Canola (Michael Edwards) and Apple (Manu Saunders)

The group contains bees with a very broad diet, and these generalist species are widespread. Some species occur all the way from Melbourne to Perth. It is among these generalists that we find the crop pollinating species. These bees pollinate a wide range of flowers including apple, lucerne, the tomatoes in your veggie patch, and weeds. But they also visit native plants. The females are very hairy and get covered in pollen, so they can be excellent pollinators!

Lasioglossum species overwinter as adults in nests in the ground. On warm days, they can be found looking for flowers from August onwards. Many species have more than one generation, and overlapping lifecycles occur, so females of different species are present and searching for food to provision their offspring over a long period of time. We caught *Lasioglossum* species on lucerne in the Keith area from November until late summer.

As with the *Nomia* bees (see last snippet), these bees need food in the environment whenever the lucerne is not in flower. A broad picture emerges: to benefit most from the pollination services of wild bees, ensure there are flowers in the landscape between late winter and early autumn.

We are currently formulating advice about suitable local native plant species for hedgerow plantings and whole area revegetation that support native bees. If you are interested in plantings, get advice from your local native nursery, Trees for Life or Greening Australia or send us an e-mail.

Watch this space for the announcement of the full planting information!

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment as part of its Rural R&D for Profit program.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



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Securing
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Benparts is here to help with all your irrigation needs and would like to introduce

A NEW GENERATION OF IRRIGATION CONTROL PANELS

Benparts Irrigation are excited to share with you the latest in Next Gen Zimmatic® Controllers which are giving growers greater control over their irrigation while improving productivity and helping conserve valuable resources.



The Next Gen control panels from Zimmatic® are industry leading, state-of-the-art, unparalleled and so much more. The new controllers provide advanced technology and an intuitive interface, while being incredibly powerful but very easy to use. All three of the new control panels are also FieldNET® ready – making remote monitoring and control capabilities more accessible than ever before. The best news, you don't need to have a Zimmatic Pivot to access this latest technology. The Next Gen Zimmatic® Controllers can be retrofitted to most brands of Pivots!

These new models also come with smart barrier automation – providing a simple method for irrigating part circles.

More growers are looking at part circle systems. So, in addition to simplifying the user experience, these new controllers make it more effective to run part circles. The smart barrier feature gives users the ability to start a part

circle pivot and automatically reverse, return and stop at the original starting point.

The controllers have been released in three different models.

The Standard 500C, which is anything but standard! In addition to being FieldNET-ready, it has the capability to deliver low pressure shut down alerts and low pressure start-up countdowns.

The 700C which has the same ultra-simple, in-field user interface as the 500C and, with FieldNET and GPS positioning, growers can remotely automate stops, control end guns, create precision irrigation plans and more. It's also compatible with FieldNET Advisor® - the industry's first irrigation scheduling tool. And finally,

The 712C which has everything the 700C offers as well as the industry's largest touchscreen. The 12-inch, interactive touchscreen is very easy to use and will be familiar to anyone who uses a smart phone.

At Benparts we know every grower's situation is different. That's why, together with Lindsay we offer a range of advanced Zimmatic controllers – all FieldNET-ready and prepared to go to work in your farming enterprise. And "over-the-air serviceability" makes software and firmware updates and the addition of future feature enhancements easier than ever.

If you are like to more about how these latest controllers can benefit your irrigation management, upgrading your current control panel or even simply the benefits of installing a Remote Irrigation Monitoring system we would be very happy to answer all your questions.

Give us a call on 08 8365 3855 or email john@benparts.com.au and don't forget, irrigation management systems qualify for the **ATO immediate deduction which has been increased from \$30,000 to \$150,000 as part of the Government Stimulus package!!**
***Conditions apply, ask your taxation specialist about this today!*

Naracoorte Seeds Update

By Joshua Rasheed, Public Lucerne Seed Trader

If someone told me that after writing my last market report 3 months ago that not only Australia, but the world would be in lockdown, including travel bans internationally and domestically, I would have told them they've been watching too many movies. But here I am writing the next market report and that is exactly what has happened due to Covid-19. Thankfully, agriculture is an essential business and seed companies in Australia and overseas could continue business as usual, but under strict guidelines, especially in heavily affected countries.

So, what affect has this had on our seed market so far? Domestically Covid-19 was not an issue for seed businesses and pasture seed sales. We had amazing drought breaking rains throughout NSW, QLD & parts of Victoria before Covid-19 was an issue and by the time it started to affect our way of life, we were well into our season. Rains continued throughout Australia through April & May and pasture seeds were a high priority for farmers while we had such a strong break and strong commodity prices. This bode well for pasture seed sales with our domestic demand been as strong as we had seen it in 3 years. Lucerne seed also had strong domestic demand with much of the certified & uncertified Aurora moving to the Eastern states.

Internationally businesses have generally been under heavier restrictions than Australian businesses, but thankfully have still been seen as essential businesses so have been able to operate in some form/capacity during this pandemic. This was encouraging as it was a major worry whether our export markets would continue to be

active through these testing times. The past 3 months may not have been as busy as we would like, but there is a strong belief that export sales for pasture seed will come as farmers throughout the world still need to plant pastures. It is interesting to point out Covid-19 has affected shipping over the past 3 months with prompt bookings been hard to source and many vessels having delayed arrivals, however it appears shipping lines are working through this with recent shipping requests being easier to source.

As mentioned earlier, domestic Lucerne seed sales for Autumn have been strong, which is a direct reflection on drought breaking rains through the Eastern states and great general rains throughout Australia. We saw some promising enquiry on the export front for public Lucerne seed, especially certified Siriver early and we are hopeful this will continue into this season, especially as our harvested area was approx. 50% down on long-term averages and harvest was also down around 20% on last year.

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 - Public Lucerne seed trader
Ph: 0427 790 655





Tatiara Seeds Report

By Graham Ramsdale Ph: 08 87 520 054

With agriculture being deemed an essential industry and with living and working in the rural area, we seemed to have been minimally effected by the Covid-19 pandemic – we have been able to still go to work, no one has lost their job, yes we have asked visitors to remain outside of the premises until we meet with them and we’ve identified the how many people are allowed in our office and lunchroom to the recommended number. We’ve maintained social distancing and tried to follow good hygiene practices. Our work colleges have chosen to stay put on the weekends and public holidays, rather than visit the big smoke and we are very proud of the way we have all gone about our business with no hint of any infection. We’ve all had enough to eat, some have grown fruit and vegetables in their home garden, and no one has had to resort to manufacturing toilet paper.

As expected, because of good hay prices and demand, good returns to be had from livestock and reasonably low value for Lucerne seed, the area locked up for seed was less than last season. Very little dryland Lucerne was harvested but most of the yields from irrigated Lucerne were satisfactory. Our first delivery of Lucerne was on the 20th January with the last on the 25th May. The seed was good quality, reasonable good weight, which allows easier separation of some of the harder to separate weeds on the gravity table.

The lowest clean out was 6.8% and the highest 69%, with an overall average 19.1%.

Seed to be exported to the USA must be free of Panicum and Seteria, whilst all other seed needs to be reasonably free from wireweed and fat hen and totally free of dock, wild turnip and all other undesirable weeds. We had no positive PCR results with all known dodder paddocks not harvested. There was nil or very little effect, or sightings of seed wasp.

Very few lots of Lucerne needed drying (2.72% of total crop), however, some with high counts of wireweed, fat hen and some with plenty of plant material in the sample needed drying to be safe. Because of the cooler maturing and harvesting conditions, there seemed to be higher than normal amounts of hard seed in some lots, with more needing scarification than normal. Abnormal seedlings seemed to be quite low, which is a reflection on the professionalism of the header operators.

With carry-over from 2019, a smaller harvest from 2020,

there still seems to be plenty of Lucerne seed to be prepared ready for export to keep our marketers with a few challenges.

Siriver still seems to be an extremely popular variety to be grown, for yield prices and demand.

In 2004, an area was sown with 5kg/ha Basic Lucerne Seed. For the next 10 harvests certified seed was harvested each year, then quality assured seed for the following 6 years. Seed from each has produced about 9,600kg of Lucerne seed, enough to sow 1900ha. In dollar terms that 5kg of Basic seed has yielded about \$40,000 worth of seed in 16 harvests. Now I’m not real smart, but I’m pretty sure that if you plant 5kg of iron ore it doesn’t increase in quality! Agriculture is sustainable and it creates wealth compared to spending \$500 Million on the Adelaide Oval upgrade which only redistributes wealth.

Thank-you to the growers who persevered with producing Lucerne seed as the seed processors don’t get a lot of work from the stands grazed or cut for hay. We hope that Lucerne seed prices and demand improve significantly in the near future, to ensure the seed industry’s sustainability.



POPE PACKAGING

NEW BLUE TIGER PLUS HD Large Square Baler Twine

BLUE TIGER PLUS HD combines high tensile strength with long-running spools making it the ideal choice for contractors looking to increase efficiency through less spool changes. At a manageable 11.6kgs per 1250m spool, BLUE TIGER PLUS HD was developed and tested in Australia with professional contractors who demand trouble-free high density baling all year round.

Knot-Tech technology | Long running | UV stabilised | High tensile strength | Consistent performance | Great value | High density

1250m



NEW BLUE TIGER XXX HD Large Square Baler Twine

BLUE TIGER XXX HD has the same high tensile strength and knot-grip performance as BLUE TIGER PLUS, but in a more compact spool size allowing it to fit all HD balers. BLUE TIGER XXX HD includes Knot-Tech and UV stabilisation for Australia's harsh conditions.

Knot-Tech technology | Compact spool | UV stabilised | All modern HD balers | High tensile strength | Consistent performance | Great value | High density

1100m



POPE BULLDOG BLUE Large Square Baler Twine

BULLDOG BLUE represents years of development and applied know-how. With enhanced fibrillation during manufacturing and a spool length of 1220m, BULLDOG BLUE is the ideal choice for contractors and hay producers looking for consistent knot performance and long running spools.

Excellent knot performance | UV stabilised | Long running | Consistent performance | Trouble-free spooling | Enhanced fibrillation for better knot resistance

1220m



POPE BULLDOG BLUE Small Square Baler Twine

BULLDOG BLUE Small Square Baler Twine was developed from years of in-field testing and is formulated with the highest quality raw materials available, to give consistent performance bale after bale.

Knot stability and grip | Perfect spooling | UV protected | Easy feed and soft on knotters | Bright blue | Available in 1500m or 2500m spool sizes

Tried and True



MEGANET Premium Bale Netwrap

MEGANET is manufactured with quality raw materials providing maximum tensile strength, high resistance to tearing and maximum protection against UV radiation. Meganet is the best solution for perfect baling and is recognised by farmers and contractors worldwide for its reliable performance, even under the harshest conditions. As a premium bale netwrap, Meganet provides consistent and uniform bale coverage. Available role sizes include: 1.30m x 3000m, 1.23m x 2500m, 1.23m x 3000m, and 1.23m x 3600m. Meganet is suitable for all crops.

Compatible with all popular balers | High breaking strength to cope with the heaviest of bales | Maximum bale coverage | UV stabilised and antistatic treated | DLG SIGNUM tested and approved | End-of-roll warning

Premium Quality



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or call Jack Wetherall on 0427009870**

It has been one of the best starts to a season in recent memory in the upper South East; the weather held off until the majority of the Lucerne seed harvest was completed and since then we have had consistent and regular rainfall with a true Anzac day down pour. Yields of irrigation were solid and generally slightly above average long term averages but that has been offset by significantly lower area shut up for seed. The widespread rains has sparked increase domestic sales of lucerne and the early start has seen quite a few graziers use the opportunity to increase their pasture renovation programs. The early rains have created good early feed although ground temperatures have fallen quickly and pasture & crop growth is perhaps slightly lower than expected for such a good start (although still very good).

Currently we are seeing large numbers of earthmite in lucerne pastures and with ever increasing cases of insecticide resistance in the nation growers are advised to use robust insecticide rates, use correct adjuvants and water conditioning products were appropriate (ie: for alkaline hydrolysis of dimethoate), apply insecticides in robust water rates for better coverage and apply in ideal conditions. Finally recheck paddocks after application to make sure the products has worked and if it has not contact your advisor and arrange for a resistance test and discuss with your advisor. Long term look at application timing for best results (AWI Timerite) and using alternative products such as seed dressings or different chemical groups for control. It is also worth looking at some of the recently bred pasture species with increased tolerance or resistance to earthmite. In more positive news, GRDC have just tested Lucerne flea populations for insecticide resistance and have not found any resistance at this point in time.

With a wet start and forecast above average rainfall conditions snails will also potentially be a problem this

year, closely monitor numbers and bait where appropriate, be particularly vigilant in seedling stands.

An early start also creates problems for winter cleaning lucerne stands, often we will seed large weeds (particularly capeweed) this can result in shading of weeds and poor results form winter cleaning, make sure stands are grazed down prior to winter cleaning, winter clean early before weeds get too big, use robust chemical rates, consider double knocking stands with the first pass being a straight Knockdown (Paraquat/Diquat or Paraquat + spikes) then a second pass with a knockdown and residual herbicides.

There has also been some changes to grazing withholding periods for products containing Bromoxynil which will directly effect lucerne growers, please note the grazing/ cutting withholding period for these products containing bromoxynil (Jaguar & generics and all products containing the active Bromoxynil) has been extended to 8 weeks (56 days) effective immediately. This may make its application impractical in all but seedling stands, but make sure you are aware of this change as it limits a number of commonly used herbicide applications in lucerne particularly targeting capeweed..

As far as plantings for Lucerne seed production are concerned growers still remain cautious in varietal selection but generally I am seeing a conservative and modest increase in irrigation area being planted back to lucerne. Dryland area will always remain enigmatic and will be a function of season, feed availability and seed price versus hay/ livestock pricing.

Regards,

Scott Hutchings
0428551188



Craig Myall 0409392320 craig@synergyseeds.com.au
Nathan Smith 0487655220 nathan@synergyseeds.com.au
Website: www.synergyseeds.com.au

Synergising the process from grower to customer, creating a sustainable farming future

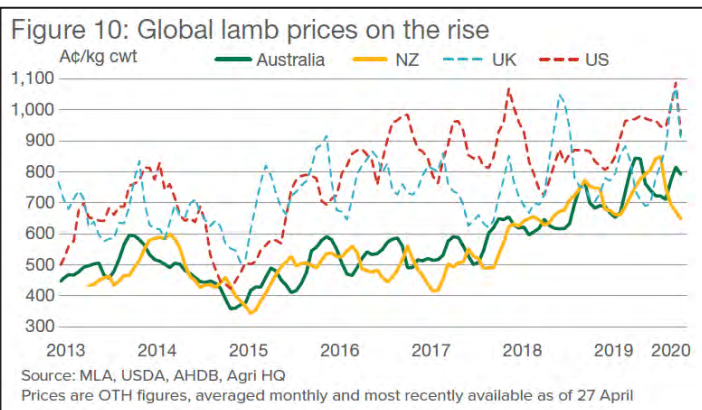
Synergy Seeds are an independently owned seed company, supplying both proprietary and public seed to customers here in Australia and around the world. Contact us today to enquire about the products and services we provide.



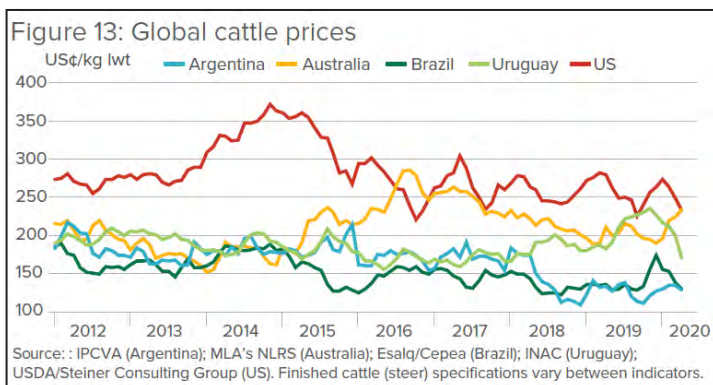
Livestock Update—June 5th

By Steve Doecke, Branch Manager, Elders Ph: 0427 817 323

With a “general” breaking rain across the nation we saw a huge spike in sale \$/Head of feeder and backgrounding stock. In the past month the main topic of discussion is the requirement of where to source joined females or any that have progeny at foot. That being a feedlot or paddock fattening lamb of 47kg was making \$185/head and its equivalent carcass being slaughtered making \$170-\$175. The best sale I heard was lambs 35kg in WA being purchased and trucked to TAS and estimated cost at final destination would have exceeded \$200/Head. Now the slaughter price is on the rise with lessening supply of finished lamb but requirements still high, and a saleyard quotation on good trade XB lambs this week making in excess of \$10/kg carcass weight.



Feedlot and paddock backgrounding cattle have had the same increase in demand. The January weaner sale cattle were \$2.85-\$3.20 for 330kg live to now being \$4.30-\$4.60/kg live, an increase of \$500/head for steers and for heifers \$2.65-\$2.85/kg then, and now they are similar to steers at \$4.30-\$4.60/kg live weight. Currently = A\$3.30/Kg Liveweight price on Heavy kill cattle.



Breeding Ewes Scanned in lamb are making between \$280, for older merino scanned to lamb in August, up to \$430 for young XB ewes scanned in lamb. Ewes with lambs at foot

are making between \$350 - \$400 per unit. Preg-tested heifers are making \$1800-\$2500 and needing between \$2,300 to \$2,900 for cows with calves at foot.

It is great for all markets to be moving in a positive direction BUT, we need to keep a close eye on management of all stock on this early growing feed and what the fodder source will be through the winter. Lamb marking % are coming in at annual average's and preg test rates have been varied depending on the condition of animals. There were some lambing difficulties with “general” problems coming back to a lack of calcium in ewe diets.

We feel that livestock producers should manage the protein/ fibre requirements of animals through the winter and the supplement of cereal hay should be considered to keep up dry matter in the diet.

As paddocks will be more lush and moist, worms will become more of a burden and should be monitored at least once through the winter. Also as there will be more bulk within paddocks, pressure on clostridial diseases will be higher when paddock shifts happen. The extra booster of a simple 3 in 1 plus B12 would be recommended, and extra minerals for animals to reach the full potential of their genetics.

We still have clients looking for agistment and see rates could be for sheep \$1-\$3/head/week and cattle up to \$15/head per week.

Feel free to contact us at keithfarmsupplies@elders.com.au
Steven Doecke - Manager



LUCERNE EXPORT STATISTICS from AUSTRALIA -January 2013 to 2020

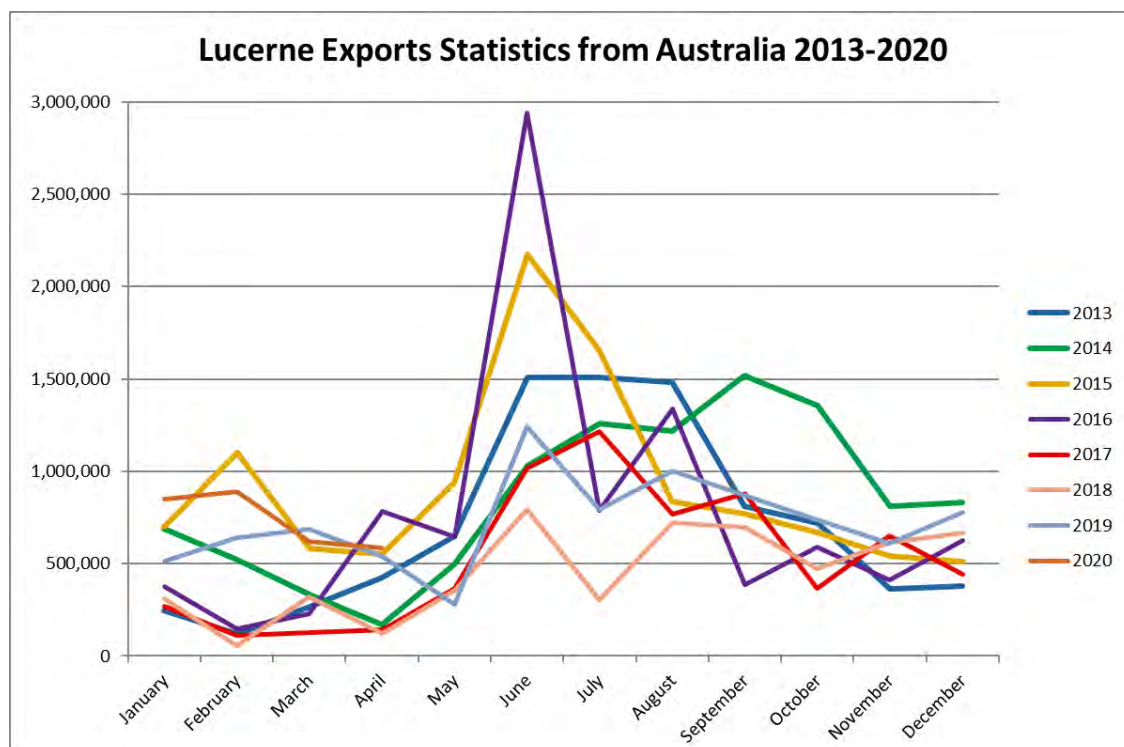
Courtesy of Teague Australia



Quantities below are in kg

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Year to date Difference 2019 & 2020
Jan	245,741	687,172	698,895	374,150	266,596	307,530	512,692	850,518	337,826
Feb	118,025	518,553	1,099,252	148,919	108,988	57,008	639,425	887,613	586,014
Mar	269,091	334,033	582,929	227,050	127,000	321,205	684,044	621,475	523,445
Apr	424,057	171,816	549,340	784,031	143,025	123,100	536,501	586,725	573,669
May	647,509	495,472	940,000	644,704	363,023	355,575	281,335		
Jun	1,509,605	1,029,000	2,176,805	2,942,685	1,018,477	794,995	1,239,461		
Jul	1,510,278	1,260,782	1,649,080	786,450	1,214,352	303,288	792,380		
Aug	1,482,357	1,217,121	834,178	1,339,684	767,256	721,730	1,002,472		
Sep	811,667	1,516,965	770,857	388,207	882,195	698,665	871,762		
Oct	719,882	1,356,922	667,503	588,199	364,673	472,480	738,090		
Nov	363,877	810,704	543,246	409,700	649,318	615,285	609,028	,	
Dec	379,122	829,293	511,127	623,560	443,729	664,134	775,684		
Total	8,481,211	10,227,833	11,023,212	9,257,339	6,348,911	5,434,995	8,682,874		

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.

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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



Katrina Copping, Executive Officer

Katrina was raised on a mixed farming enterprise at Mundulla and as an active partner in a family farm at Avenue Range has a good understanding of rural issues. She has spent most of her career working in research and extension and is strongly passionate about agriculture. Contact: 0439 538 332.