



**ISSUE 61
June 2021**

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Lucerne Variety Trial Update

Assess optimum plant stress levels for seed production



Lucerne Australia's variety trial was harvested by Kalyx on 23rd March 2021 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 all members in June. A results information session is being planned for July with full details to be confirmed shortly.

Seed varieties have been supplied by:

Alforex Seeds, Barenbrug Naracoorte Seeds, 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 Lucerne Australia website.



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Global urea price declines in sight – but is it too little, too late locally?

The past six months has proved difficult for farmers procuring phosphate and urea ahead of the winter season, both from a price and in some regions, a supply perspective, according to Rabobank senior agricultural analyst Wes Lefroy.

In US dollar terms, Mr Lefroy says global DAP benchmarks increased between 37% and 47% (year-to-date). Additionally, many global suppliers have been caught on the hop, meaning supplies were also very tight.

“Local growers who locked in prices and supply early managed to miss the brunt of the pain,” he says. “Some of those who left it later, however, are paying much higher prices for product that is yet to be delivered, or have had to settle for an alternative phosphate fertiliser.”

With the winter crop season here, Mr Lefroy says attention has well and truly turned to urea for application through winter and spring.

“As with phosphates, Australian growers are heavily reliant on global markets,” he says. “On average 90% of urea sold locally, is imported – meaning growers remain heavily exposed to global fertiliser price movements.”

At the peak, global urea benchmarks across Asia increased by approximately 23%, while urea of Middle East origin

increased by 39%. Like the phosphate market, the global urea price rally has been demand-led.

Looking forward, Mr Lefroy says he expects global prices of nitrogen and phosphate to have largely peaked across the global fertiliser complex and to continue to ease in Q3.

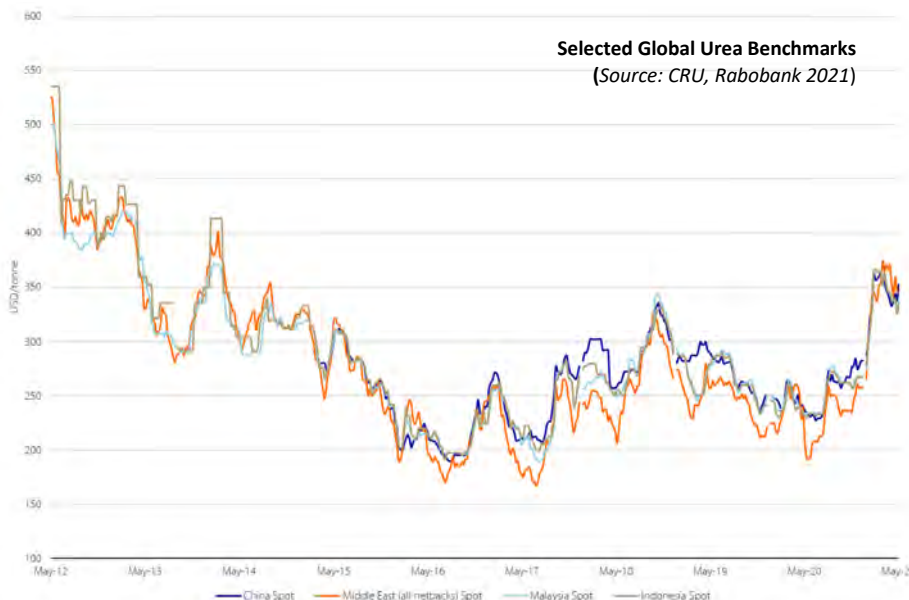
“We also expect urea supplies to be ample, meaning that we do not foresee the global shortages that have been seen within the phosphate market,” he says.

However, timing is everything. “We are now in the middle of the peak urea-importing period, with on average approximately 64% of Australia’s annual imports hitting our shores between April and July.

“Given global prices can take months to flow through locally, we consider it unlikely Australian growers will receive the full benefit of the global price downside this season.”

Mr Lefroy says the heavy congestion in global freight markets due to the strong demand for shipping has also impacted prices, with prices per tonne between origin and destination increasing by as much as 5%.

“For growers, the importance of maintaining close communication with suppliers was re-affirmed over the summer,” he says, “and we see this as imperative to ensure farmers don’t suffer the same fate, as some did with phosphate.”



To find out more about other Rabobank research, contact Rabobank Mount Gambier on 08 8726 2500 or subscribe to *RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness Australia & New Zealand* on your podcast app.

Domestic Update

Domestic demand for lucerne seed has remained stable for the last few months. Dry conditions in some key growing areas of southern NSW and northern Victoria have resulted in some growers changing their plans. High value cropping options like wheat and canola have encouraged some growers to rethink their rotations. Looking forward there is uncertainty for spring given below average rainfall in most lucerne growing areas. That said red meat prices remain high so growers with moisture are prepared to invest in lucerne.

International Update

The early season demand for Australian lucerne has increased over the last few months with buyers in all major regions looking to secure volume. Highly winter active varieties remain the most sought after with continued strong demand from the MENA region and Argentina along with good indications from South Africa remain strong at this stage. The biggest issue around exports remains shipping. Being able to secure vessels and containers is challenging, cost of freight is soaring and vessel routes in some cases are being cancelled and/or re-directed and transshipment suffering significant delays. This culminates in exporting companies having little to no flexibility with getting goods on the water and that in turn puts pressure on the seed

labs and cleaning sheds to have seed processed. We are hoping that this problem will improve over the coming months, but it is a watch and see space.

Seed Production Update

We are excited to introduce Justin Elliott as a new member to our seed production agronomy team. Based in the Adelaide Hills, Justin is responsible for managing our seed production crops throughout the Upper SE, Central S.A. and the Eyre Peninsula.

Justin brings with him a vast experience across many facets of technical agronomy including paddock rotations, fertiliser/nutrition, chemical, pests and diseases, and will add a valued service to our grower base. He has 25 years' agronomy experience having spent time in the Naracoorte, Mount Gambier, and Murray Bridge regions.

Please join me in welcoming Justin to our team and I look forward to him building and strengthening our seed grower relationships. Feel free to reach out to him for your seed production requirements on 0408 851 411.



Synergy Seeds Update

By Craig Myall, Managing Director

The exciting news for the industry, is that we are currently in a "higher than average price market", and the overall non dormant market is unlikely to change in the next 12-24 months due to supply and demand appearing to be in greater alignment. Obviously, there are a number of levers that can potentially alter this, currency, political events/decisions and changing export/import regulations to name a few, however in general you can expect prices to be buoyant for the short term.

Just shy of 800mt were exported in the period January to March 2021, and whilst this is well back on the last two years for the same period, (over 1,000mt less), it is very much in line with the years 2016, 2017 and 2018. If you overlay it with pricing, the larger quantities have generally moved in these periods when the value of the seed is lower.

When looking at the recent harvest, seed quality this year has been generally good whilst cleanout levels have been varied, as have yields. Most sheds are almost finished conditioning seed and timelines for testing seems to be reducing following a busy time for certification and testing agencies.

An issue all marketers are now facing is that vessel spaces and containers are getting tighter, and the pricing on major routes for Australian Lucerne seed is increasing, sometimes overnight by up to USD \$700 per container. This does provide some challenges however it's the world we live in, and it appears to be some time yet until the world supply chain will return to some normality. From what I understand, exporting has a lot less headaches at present than importing!

On a final note, Synergy Seeds recently moved into a new office located at 44A Magill Road, Norwood, so if you are up in town at any stage and have the time, please feel free to drop in and say hi.

Contacts

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Nathan Smith	Sales & Supply Manager	0487 655 220
Wayne Heading	Production & Procurement	0427 071 458

Website: www.synergyseeds.com.au

Facebook: Synergy Seeds Australia



The Australian Fodder Industry Association (AFIA) welcomed the recent announcement from AgriFutures Australia regarding the National Oat Breeding Program, which will now be overseen by InterGrain.

The \$11.5 million commercial breeding Program, co-funded by AgriFutures and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) will provide new varieties for milling and hay oats, side-by-side, with a broad genetic base equipped to respond to the changing needs of Australian growers and exporters.

InterGrain have identified priority activities in the short, medium and longer-term, to build a best practice oat breeding program and deliver benefits to hay and milling oat growers.

Short term

Increasing population sizes and selection intensity
 Reduced time for variety development cycle (using speed breeding and summer nurseries)
 Improved seed delivery pipeline

Medium term

Develop and apply genomic selection methods
 High throughput phenotyping of hay yield and quality

Longer term

Widen the oat gene pool

This Program builds on research in hay and milling oat breeding by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), which was first established in 2003 and resulted in nine milling oat varieties (three dual purpose) and eight oat hay varieties.

While this new breeding program is a joint initiative of AgriFutures and GRDC, there is considerable fodder-related research and development underway across the country yet there appears to be no clear national view on these research initiatives.

AFIA is committed to initiating a Fodder R&D stocktake over the coming months to help inform and shape the industry's future R&D focus and ensure that Australia's research efforts are focused where they need to be, delivering tangible outcomes to farmers, and that we are getting the best bang for our buck.

There has been significant media interest in fodder exports to China in recent months. AFIA developed a briefing note for members and stakeholders which is available on our website providing background on the situation to-date. It includes the information below:

- China is one of several valued Australian fodder markets.
- Australia remains very committed to Chinese customers, particularly those dairies that rely on our quality product for the health, welfare, and productivity of their dairy cows.
- Australia not only provides a quality fodder product but one that is competitive and accessible (given our physical proximity to China).
- To deliver product (oaten hay) into China, Australian companies undergo a registration process for their facilities. In addition to this, the importer in China is also required to have a valid import licence to take delivery of the hay at the port.
- Several Australian exporter registrations had a February 2021 renewal date. While these renewals have not yet been issued, the industry is working with relevant authorities (in both Australia and China) to ensure these registrations remain valid and are extended/renewed beyond 2021.

The Australian fodder industry remains committed to a long-term and mutually beneficial relationship with China.

Domestically, following floods and mice plagues, key fodder data and insights across Australia's dairy regions are available in weekly Hay Reports.

The information is sourced from AFIA and available (almost) every Friday on the Dairy Australia website - <https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/industry-statistics/industry-reports/hay-report>

For all this and more, information about becoming an AFIA member is available at www.afia.org.au

Naracoorte Seeds Update

By Joshua Rasheed, Public Lucerne Seed Trader

It has been a great quarter for growers of public lucerne seed with strong sales for nearly all varieties of certified and uncertified public lucerne seed.

Certified lucerne seed is already very short and I expect will be sold out by the end of next quarter, if not before. Uncertified seed hasn't seen as strong demand as certified, excluding Aurora, but I would still expect supply pressure to come on in the 2nd half of the year as supplies of all other lucerne varieties dry up.

Along with these strong sales we have seen grower prices rise significantly, especially for certified varieties. Certified prices have seen increases over the season above 20%, where the uncertified price has been more stable, but potentially prices could rise as stock levels decrease depending on future demand? This is all good news for growers, with low to no stock of lucerne seed coming into the 2022 season and prices rising to a 4 year high.

One interesting point to highlight is the gap between prices of certified and uncertified lucerne seed. Often we only see a \$0.30 to \$0.50/kg benefit to growers growing certified seed, where now it is a lot closer to \$1.00/kg. This is something to consider when deciding whether to sow a certified or uncertified variety of lucerne seed?

The above is all positive for our industry, but there have been some issues this season that have made life difficult for marketers. Some of these issues include seed getting harvested later than normal, cleaning sheds behind due to large clover and sub clover harvests and seed testing labs

over 2 weeks behind with testing for a long period. All these points have made life more difficult than normal, but one issue causing more headaches than all of them combined is shipping. Export vessels are extremely difficult to find/book and fees/charges are rising significantly, adding a lot of pressure to export costs. Normally a vessel can be secured 3-4 weeks in advance, but now this is getting out to 6 to 8+ before you can secure a slot/container. This isn't an issue for grower, but it is something you should be aware of.

Basic Siriver

As I made you aware last edition, Naracoorte Seeds are the new maintainers of the variety Siriver Lucerne and I explained the amount of Basic Siriver becoming available this season was going to be low.

I can now advise the Basic seed was cleaned & tested and we have since allocated all that was available. We are now be hoping for a significant increase of Basic seed next year, but will advise when we get closer next season. If you are looking to plant Basic Siriver in 2022 please either call or email our office and place your orders early.

If you would like to know more about any of the above or have public Lucerne seed to sell, please feel free to give me a call to discuss on 0427 790 655 or email josh@naracoorteseeds.com.au

Joshua Rasheed – Director Naracoorte Seeds
Ph: 0427 790 655

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Stage set for modest milk growth in 2021/22

With minimum prices for the 2021/22 season recently announced, one of the key drivers of the dairy industry's trajectory for the year ahead has fallen into place. It might just be time to start talking about growth in the milk pool.

The current 2020/21 season has been a welcome relief for many dairy farmers and others in the industry. Stability in milk prices and easing input costs (together with favourable weather) have enabled many farmers to recover financially, even though milk production did not grow nationally.

With feed markets reflecting the near record grain and fodder harvest over summer, and an abundance of pasture growth reducing overall demand, many farmers have chosen to increase supplementary feeding rates this autumn. This varies by region and farm; indeed some farmers have continued to favour grazing as a cheaper feed source. However, our overall expectation is for a feed-driven boost to per-cow yields that is likely to support milk flows heading into the 2021/22 season.

Current input market dynamics are coinciding with relatively strong farmgate milk prices. A stagnant milk pool in conjunction with favourable dairy market conditions has further intensified competition between processors, evident by several step-up announcements in recent months. In addition, global dairy fundamentals remain supportive, and opening farmgate milk prices are higher in 2021/22 as processors again aim to secure milk supply.

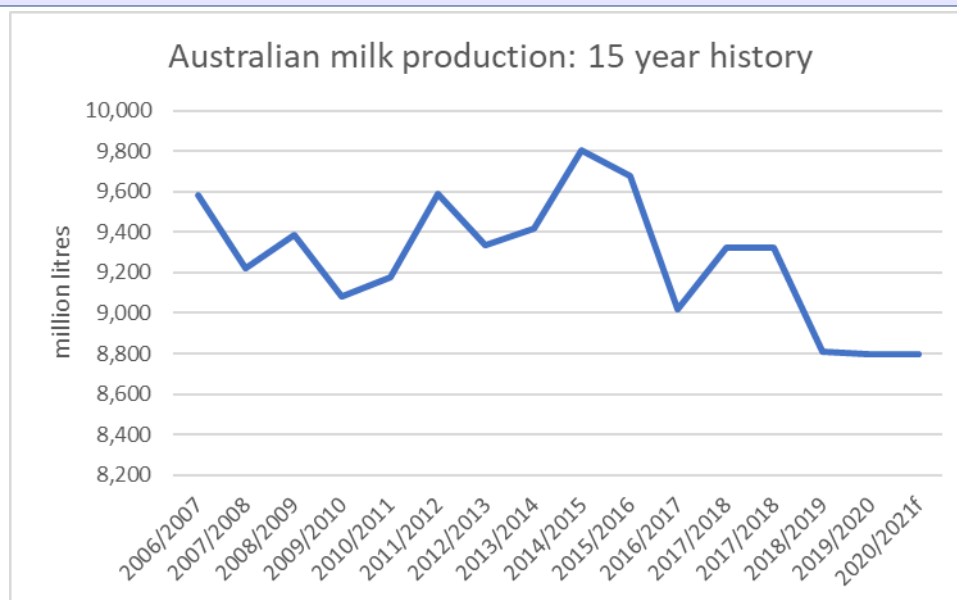
Whilst many factors are converging to support milk production growth in 2021/22, there are still some opposing forces at play. Persistently high beef prices continue to hold back a national rebuild of the dairy herd, as some farmers reduce herd sizes release capital and repair balance sheets, while others see beef farming as a more attractive pursuit.

Nonetheless, there are increasing signs that more farmers have been working to expand their herds. Dairy culling has slowed, with data indicating year-to-date culling numbers are down 18% - despite cull cow prices remaining high. Dairy Australia expects that on balance, Australia's national dairy herd will stabilise in 2021/22.

Labour shortages continue to pose significant issues for the industry, as international borders are set to remain closed for the foreseeable future. According to the NDFS, labour availability is seen as a challenge in the next six months for nearly half of farms with herd sizes over 500 cows. Survey data also shows that close to 7 in 10 of these farms are finding it difficult to recruit staff and 42% would be looking to recruit overseas workers if it was available. A lack of labour is commonly cited amongst farms reducing herd sizes or diversifying towards beef production.

Whilst ongoing culling, labour challenges and farm exits still temper expectations, many of the precursors of profitable growth finally seem to be coming together. Dairy Australia is currently finalising the details of its 2021/22 milk production forecast for publication in the upcoming June Situation and Outlook report, but suffice to say, we are expecting modest growth.

With a year of stability and consolidation banked, profitable growth in the national milk pool would be a welcome sign. Farmers remain risk averse and there are still real constraints to the opportunities that would exist in a perfect world. However, 2021/22 does look set to provide the Australian industry with a chance to capitalise on any improvement in returns offered internationally and maintain a balanced portfolio of markets. In turn, this will support the industry's resilience in the face of future market, weather, or pandemic-style (completely out of the box) challenges.



Well, what a start to the season! We don't need to tell you all how much we'd love a good couple inches of rain on our patch! As I write this report, some of our annual seed crops are yet to be planted as we wait to get a decent germination and knockdown on dryland paddocks. Some seed growers with irrigation kicked their pivots into gear and watered up paddocks, which allowed for earlier sowing while the soil temperature was still a little higher.

At our Keith Seed Processing Facility, all plant is focused on lucerne cleaning. The mountain of seed received at harvest has now receded, with a small amount of export lucerne yet to be cleaned. It's pleasing to report that the timeliness of seed being cleaned at all cleaning sheds this year has met with sales demand, with good tests being received for the most part.



This month, PGG Wrightson Seeds has welcomed Martin Flower to our Seed Production Team as a Seed Production Agronomist. Martin brings a wealth of knowledge to the role and will be covering a range of seed crops in the Lower South-East, Mid North, and Western VIC regions. Martin's role includes contracting and providing agronomic support for

our proprietary seed varieties, plus being the key contact for seed growers in these regions should they require any information or advice for anything seed related. Many will know Martin as being a Frances local, where he owned and managed a property on The Gap road for many years. Others may recognise Martin from his previous experience as a Seed Certification Officer with both Seed Services and BVAQ. We look forward to having Martin as part of our team for many years to come.

On the 7th of April this year, we harvested our extensive seed yield trial near Kybybolite, following its establishment year. The site established well in dry conditions and performed beyond our expectations as a seedling crop. The results are just in and it's turned up some thought-provoking figures, some good, some not-so-good! But, that's why we run these trials, to make sure we are placing the right variety, with the right grower, in the right area – so growing a seed crop is a win-win situation for all involved.

Of the good news, we're pleased to see some new varieties at the top of the chart for seed yield, while in bad news, some trial material from international customers didn't perform so well here in Australia. I am already eagerly awaiting the next harvests results to confirm our findings from this year!

PGW Seeds have some extra lucerne seed contracts available for planting this year. If you have a paddock free, give us a call to discuss an option with PGW Seeds. We are also currently purchasing both certified and uncertified public varieties of lucerne seed. If you have unsold seed with a seed test, feel free to contact us on the numbers listed below.

For any information on current export & domestic market conditions, you can give Jess a call to discuss

Seed Production Agronomists

Jess Nottle – 0438 302 148

Martin Flower – 0427 530 454

Public Seed Purchasing

Anthony Quilter – 0427 572 125

For more information on PGG Wrightson Seeds' range of products, visit:

<https://www.pggwrightsonseeds.com.au/>



*PGW Seeds' Seed Yield Trial Site – 7 Weeks Post Harvest
Showing varied growth rates in alignment with winter dormancy ratings*



Another Lucerne seed processing season draws to a close and it is only the end of May.

Season Delivery Statistics

First delivery of new seasons Lucerne was on the 6th January and the last 14th May.

Deliveries:

January = 1.05%

February = 5.4%

March = 62.36%

April = 30.02%

May = 0.9%

In 2021 intake was 47.53% of the largest ever intake, and 8.4% more than the smallest for the last 10 years, and 67.75% of the 10-year average.

Expectations

As I have said in previous reports, more and more companies are now expecting close to nil other seeds with dock, lovegrass, panic, wire weed, fat hen and of course dodder the least desirable of other seeds.

This harvest has seen the greatest urgency I can remember for Lucerne seed to be processed, tested, treated, packed, loaded into shipping containers, and delivered to the wharf.

We have even been asked to process seed before it has been harvested!

Dodder

There were only two positive PCR results this season (from a single grower) which came from paddocks with previous dodder listed. The grower highlighted these to us prior to delivery for which we are very thankful as this enables us to take appropriate precautions.

Pre-Basic and Basic Seed Processing

A huge concern is the cleanliness of Pre-Basic and Basic Lucerne lines presented for processing. Most of these lines come from seedlings stands of Lucerne obviously planted with Breeders or Pre-Basic seed and which the owners of the seed must have more seed ready to be planted the following year.

We all know that there are very few chemicals which can be used on seedling stands to control undesirable weeds, hence some crops are delivered with high numbers of Fat Hen, Lovegrass, Wireweed, Panic Grass, Amaranth and to a certain extent Wild Radish, Dock and one crop with large

amounts of Millet.

No grower wants any of these seeds in the Basic seed when they go to plant, therefore it is up to the processor to remove all other seeds.

Can Basic seed be taken from the second-year stand of the lot eligible for Basic seed status, to allow more undesirable weeds to be removed with chemicals before harvesting?

From a processor's perspective, virtually two basic seed clean downs are required; one before the Basic seed lot and another once the lot is finished so the next lot is not contaminated even though it may only be certificated seed.

Consistency

Another thing that would be nice is if both major seed labs could report the same way. Where I am coming from is that, I can't see how you can have nil other seeds yet other seeds are listed! Can ASA or ISTA give a ruling on this as it is very confusing?

Looking Ahead

With the amounts of Lucerne seed exiting our warehouse, it seems certain there will be a near on sell out of all varieties, meaning Season 2022 will see a similar urgency for processing, testing etc that we have had in 2021.

Conclusion

A big thank you to our work colleagues for getting seed processed, treated, packed etc as quickly as possible, as Covid prevented virtually no backpackers being available as short-term help.

Another big thank you to all the Lucerne growers who stuck with seed production this season, as it provided work for companies like ours.

Graham Ramsdale, Manager





Rethink what's possible with irrigation.

The future of agriculture relies on finding new ways to increase output while conserving resources and reducing waste. Benparts Irrigation is passionate about delivering solutions that assist farmers to advance irrigation methods and help make every drop count.

Sustainability is a word we hear a lot, particularly when it comes to farming. While it's most often understood as land and environmental stewardship, it also refers to the longevity of a farm - doing what it takes to ensure the farm business survives for future generations. From rotating crops to utilizing the latest technology, farmers have always played a leading role in promoting soil health, conserving water and efficiently using resources. Benparts Irrigation has a long history of helping farmers make the most of every drop of water they use. We are passionate about assisting farmers and agronomic advisors to use industry leading FieldNET technology to equip them with the data and insights to run irrigation systems efficiently.

The adoption of technology such as FieldNET around the world has reportedly saved:

- More than 189 billion gallons of water
- 543 million kilowatt-hours of electricity
- 891 million pounds of carbon dioxide

How can Benparts Irrigation and FieldNET technology assist you with minimizing risk to your crops, conserving water and increasing confidence you are making the best irrigation decisions to maximise yield and profit while conserving valuable resources?

1. Remote Monitor/Control Capabilities: Monitor the operational status of your irrigation systems and control them quickly and easily from a smartphone, tablet or computer 24 hours a day from anywhere. Easy access to pressure, flow, water level and power provides greater efficiency, reduced energy usage, and less wear and tear on equipment.

2. WaterTrendSM Feature: Make irrigation decisions based on water usage trends in your crops. Using advanced data, science and modeling technology, FieldNET with WaterTrend provides a 7-day water outlook on crop water

usage and precipitation amounts. The feature is available to all FieldNET subscribers at no additional cost and with no need for additional equipment.

3. FieldNET Advisor[®]: Add this irrigation scheduling tool and take your irrigation management to the next level. FieldNET Advisor is the first-in-industry, award-winning solution giving growers continuous delivery of updated, science-based recommendations, customized for each field.

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7. Custom Reports: Track data from your field, create custom reports and get recommendations with a user-friendly interface.

8. End Gun Adjustability: Align end guns to deliver water where it belongs — on your field.

9. Pressure Monitoring: Know immediately if you have enough pressure for water application and end gun operation and ensure maximum ROI with sprinkler package efficiency.

10. Chemigation: Control chemical applications, reducing runoff while ensuring precise application

We know farmers want to leave their land better than when it was entrusted to them - and every bit of water and energy saved makes an impact. Benparts is committed to expanding and promoting knowledge around irrigation innovation to give farmers the tools they need to produce more with less and to protect their operations for generations to come.

**Give us a call on 08 8365 3855 or email
john@benparts.com.au**

Handling of chemicals for farm safety

In Australia, most farmers are partway through the seeding process in preparation for increased rainfall over winter, but have you prepared your team for the risks that come with handling possibly hazardous chemicals?

With seeding completed, your team will often follow up with various treatments to protect your seeds, and hopefully seedlings in the future, from an array of diseases and pests that would otherwise damage or kill your crop. These treatments can range from Herbicides, Insecticides and Fungicides that could cause significant problems. Chemicals are an integral part of farming operations; they can assist with production of high-yielding crops and pasture as well as livestock. Other common chemicals in agriculture include fuels and cleaners. And exposure can come in the form of:

- liquids
- powders
- gases
- vapours

Safety around chemical handling can be maintained by ensuring proper storage, transportation, usage, and disposal.

Hazardous chemicals are defined as substances or mixtures that can lead to a health or physicochemical hazard in the workplace. Health hazards can differ from chemical to chemical however common risks when handling chemicals include skin exposure and irritation as well as airborne emissions of carcinogens and respiratory sensitisers.

How do you identify a hazardous chemical in the workplace?

You should start by checking the label and the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). At least once every five years a manufacturer or supplier is required to review their SDS. For guidance on what information should be included in an SDS and on labels you should check your States' Hazardous Chemicals Code of Practice. For example, [South Australia's Labelling Hazardous Code of Practice](#) requires chemical labels to be the appropriate size when attached to the outside of the storage container. The label must be written in English and allow the user to clearly identify the chemical, including information on the hazards it presents and details on safe storage, handling, use and disposal.

A PCBU is responsible for eliminating or managing the risks associated with hazardous chemicals. In the first instance removing the hazards should be the focus. When it is not

reasonably practicable, the PCBU should look to reduce risks by either substituting the chemical, isolating the use or implementing controls.

Suggestions for the safe storage, usage and handling of chemicals include:

- Keep chemicals in their original containers and do not pour into smaller bottles.
- Ensure bottles, containers, etc. are all labelled correctly with warning placards and safety signs.
- Store chemicals in a locked, well-ventilated shed with floors that will contain spills.
- Do not store chemicals with personal protective equipment (PPE) when not in use.
- PPE such as boots, face masks, gloves, goggles, etc. should be provided to enhance higher-level control measures.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper storage and usage including quantities.
- Maintain a hazardous chemical register and manifest also keep note of when and where they are used on your property.
- In your hazardous chemical register, retain a copy of the current SDS from the manufacturer or supplier.
- Ensure anyone using chemicals is suitably trained.
- Provide a spill containment system where necessary – mop-up materials including a granular absorbent such as Dryorb or even a bag of kitty litter.
- Make certain you do not exceed workplace exposure standards for hazardous chemicals.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper disposal of the chemicals as well as the equipment used for applications.
- Triple rinse empty containers and puncture the container to prevent repurposing.
- Contact your local council about proper disposal methods for empty containers.

Have you explored the option of a contamination shower? It's easier than you think. You can purchase a [contamination shower online](#) or search your local area for suppliers.

Exposure standards

Regarding hazardous chemical usage in Australia, the [Workplace Exposure Standards lists](#) approximately 700 chemicals. It is the PCBU's responsibility to ensure workers are not subjected to airborne contaminants that are above the workplace exposure standard. [SafeWork Australia has published the Workplace Exposure Standards.](#) *Continued*

Continued. SafeWork Australia has noted this list does not represent acceptable exposure levels for workers, but rather the maximum upper limit prescribed by legislation. Did you know that under the model WHS regulations you may be required to monitor airborne contaminants? Worker exposure to airborne contaminants should be monitored if there is uncertainty if the exposure standard was exceeded or if there is a risk to health.

What if it goes wrong? Do you have an emergency plan?

Your workplace should be prepared with an effective emergency plan created by your PCBU. Your emergency plan's purpose should be to minimize a dangerous occurrence or near miss caused by handling or storing hazardous chemicals. Your emergency management plan must include a list of emergency services and contact details.

If the PCBU is provided recommendations from emergency services for your plan, your plan should be revised. Make sure everyone knows where they can access your emergency management plan as well as find your contamination shower.

What is chemical accreditation?

Chemical accreditation provides training for individuals and businesses working with chemicals in order to ensure their safe transport, storage and application and can be done online with several registered training organisations. The traditional farmer has always been known for keeping all of their useful records in their head. There are farmers across the country who can recall the last time the season was this good, this dry or this late down to the year. But in this modern day, farming is also a business and businesses need accurate record keeping systems to do everything from borrow money, plan budgets and identify strengths and weaknesses in the business. Keeping accurate chemical records is a legal requirement.

Record keeping for hazardous chemicals.

Do you know that you are required by law to record the use of agricultural and veterinary chemical products? Therefore, a register for hazardous chemicals in your workplace must be prepared and maintained. Your register must be easily accessible for workers that handle hazardous chemicals as well as anyone exposed to hazardous chemicals in your workplace. Your records must be updated within 48 hours of chemical use for agriculture and should cover:

- Trade name of product
- Date of use
- Information to calculate application rate
- Commodity that was treated or why the product was applied
- Location of product use
- Wind speed and direction at the time and location that chemical was used
- Name and contact details of the applicator and supervisor

These records must be kept for 2 years from the date of use.

A chemical register not only assists your work health and safety management, but it can also save your agribusiness money by managing records for product usage, you can track its application as well as effectiveness and adjust your practices as required.

You will find it is easier to access and maintain your chemical records with the use of a digital system. Allowing you access to your inventory records anytime, anywhere, Safe Ag Systems™ makes the process simple to ensure you meet your legal responsibilities. Through keeping a digital chemical manifest with Safe Ag Systems™, you can keep track of your stock levels, chemical usage, attach notes and link the Safety Data Sheets in case of an emergency.

This article has been written specifically for our members by Safe Ag Systems. As a member of Lucerne Australia, you can receive a 10% discount off your annual subscription. Terms and Conditions apply so please head to their website www.safeagsystems.com or contact their team on 08 8490 0939.





Free screening service to test for insecticide resistance in the redlegged earth mite.

Have you noticed a chemical control failure or suspect insecticide resistance in redlegged earth mite (RLEM)? If so, we can help to test whether your local RLEM populations have developed insecticide resistance.

RLEM is a major cross industry pest affecting the pasture seed industry. Chemical pesticides available for their control are decreasingly effective due to the evolution of resistance. Insecticide resistance in RLEM is increasing across southern Australia and resistance to both pyrethroids (SPs) and organophosphates (OPs) is now widespread across Western Australia and since 2016 has been confirmed in multiple populations from South Australia and in Victoria.

Cesar Australia is offering a screening service to test for insecticide resistance in RLEM within South Australia, Victoria, NSW and Tasmania. The screening is at no-cost for Australian pasture seed growers and advisers, thanks to co-investment by AgriFutures into a larger GRDC program so that some research activities in grains systems are extended to pasture seed producers.

We are particularly interested in hearing from growers or advisers who have had noted recent or past failures or have paddocks that are frequently impacted by the mites, and often require spraying.

The service will not only help detect any resistance before it becomes widespread but will also help identify the best control options for growers.

Cesar Australia will be undertaking field trips in the coming months to collect RLEM for resistance screening, so get in touch if you would like us to collect RLEM from your area.

A collection kit can also be provided containing the necessary equipment to send mites in for screening if required.

For further information or to access the resistance testing service, please contact:

Dr Aston Arthur

Cesar Australia

Phone 0427 875 040

aarthur@cesaraustralia.com

www.cesaraustralia.com



Cesar Australia



GRDC



AgriFutures
Pasture Seeds



In contrast to last years great start 2021 has started below average with most areas in the Lucerne growing region well below average year to date.

Rainfall patterns throughout the region have been variable and marginal with most areas recently getting just enough to germinate crops on loamy and clayed soils where moisture was preserved over summer, non wetting sands are only just getting enough rain to germinate and lucerne pastures are responding very slowly to recent rains but are not providing much production, irrigated lucerne paddocks have been watered for feed where water is available.

Short to medium term rainfall forecasts are relatively conservative and we are now starting to get a number of frost events, this will mean that pasture growth & biomass is likely to be limited until August even if reasonable rainfall events occur in the medium term. Current short term forecasts are suggesting a similar pattern of small rainfall events for the next few weeks.

With a late cold start growers are urged to monitor pastures for earthmite as clover germination and slow growth may coincide with earthmite hatchings which will quickly decimate clover growth in established and planted annual pastures.

Large numbers of earwigs, millipedes and some false wireworms are being observed in the local region and can be particularly hard to control if hiding under thick stubbles in dry conditions often treatments can more successful if applied at night or before rainfall to get some movement into stubbles.

Snails numbers are also high after a good spring, cool summer and high trash loads and can quickly decimate slow growing seedling lucerne and significantly reduce growth on established lucerne.

The bottom line is that pests have a bigger effect on established pasture in cold dry conditions due to slow growth rates so be vigilant in monitoring crops and pastures and timely in treatment.

Last seasons lucerne yield were below average and coupled with increased demand has seen prices firm and lucerne seed stocks move which will see the industry positioned well for next year.

Hay sales have been slow but have increased significantly in the last few weeks with a dry cold start across the majority of South Australian and areas of Victoria boosting demand.

Increased seed pricing is resulting in a slight increase of irrigated plantings, at this stage very little dryland Lucerne for seed or pasture has been planted while waiting for more significant rain. A significantly wet winter and spring will be required for dryland seed areas to increase.

Regards,

Scott Hutchings Ph: 0428 551 188

**** LA Seeder Tour ****

**Wednesday 23rd June 2021
8.30am leaving from Keith**

A free informal members day trip to inspect various seeders on properties around the Keith and Bordertown district.

- *Gason T Series*
- *DBS*
- *Seed Hawk*
- *John Deere P540 tine drill*
- *John Deere 1890 disc drill*
- *Equalizer Min-Till tine*
- *Horwood Bagshaw PSS*

**Enquiries or to register your interest
Phone Katrina 0439 538 332**



Feral Honey Bees : Bee Snippet No.5

By Katja Hogendoorn and Scott Groom

Over the last four years, bee researchers from the University of Adelaide have investigated the bees that pollinate lucerne. While we found a wide variety of native bees species visiting lucerne, feral honey bees are likely to be very important. You can read more about them in the blog, the wild pollinators of lucerne (<https://polli2017.wordpress.com/>).

European honey bees were introduced in Australia in the 1820s. Our mild climate together with the widespread presence of Eucalypts, which provide both nesting hollows and occasionally abundant nectar, the introduced honey bees quickly became feral. The feral bees contribute to the pollination of most of our crops, including lucerne.

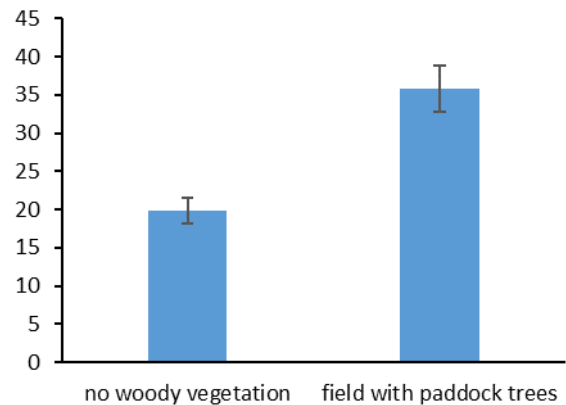
The importance of free pollination is high. A 2014 pollination survey by Lucerne Australia, one third of the dry-land seed producers do not use managed hives for pollination. The value of dry-land lucerne seed is \$A 30m per year, so the value of free pollination is \$A 10m! While native bees, such as green and gold Nomia, furrow, leafcutter and blue-banded bees (see earlier bee snippets), are important pollinators, feral honey bees deliver a very large part of this free pollination.



A feral honey bee hive

Nearly all feral honey bee hives are located in hollows in old Eucalyptus trees. Their density can be really high: in some fields we located hives in nearly every other paddock tree! We compared honey bees in flowering lucerne fields with and without paddock trees, using standardised methods. Compared to absence of woody vegetation, the number of honey bees nearly doubled in the presence of old paddock trees.

number of honey bees in 20 sweeps



So while some growers consider these trees a nuisance, they actually also convey benefits. They house, and, when in flower also feed, many of the bees that provide the free pollination services.

As with other bees, feral honey bees need food from the landscape. They do not collect pollen from lucerne, so they need to get this from other plants during lucerne flowering. And when lucerne is not in flower, they need pollen and nectar year round. To benefit most from the pollination services of wild bees, ensure there are flowers in the landscape between late winter and early autumn.

We have recently produced a planting guide (<https://www.pollin8.org.au/planting/>) to advise farmers about suitable local native plant species for hedgerow plantings and whole area revegetation that support native bees. If you are interested, we recommend that you also obtain advice from your local native nursery, Trees for Life or Greening Australia.

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.



LUCERNE AUSTRALIA

2021 SA STUDY TOUR

Mid North and Yorke Peninsula

10th—12th August 2021

A great opportunity to look outside your own backyard, identify future opportunities for your own business and network with other people within our industry.

Tour Stops include -

Schuster's EzyBale, Freeling
Pinion Advisory—Farm Advisory Boards
Hart Field Site, Hart
Wundersitz Family, 'Anna Binna', Maitland
Barley Stack Wines, Maitland— Tasting, Lunch and Tour
AG Schilling and Co, Cunliffe
Plains Grain, Mallala
Coopers Brewery, Adelaide—Tasting, Lunch and Tour

Members: \$600pp Non Members: \$750pp

*Includes 2 nights accommodation, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 dinner
(Tuesday lunch and Wednesday dinner at Wallaroo not included).*

**Limited Places—To register your interest call or email by
Katrina Copping 0439 538332 or info@lucerneaustralia.org.au**

Depart Keith Tuesday 10th August at 7.30am.

Overnight accommodation Tuesday at Clare Country Club and Wednesday at
Wallaroo Marina Apartments.

Returning at 5.30pm Thursday 12th August.

LUCERNE EXPORT STATISTICS from AUSTRALIA -January 2013 to 2021

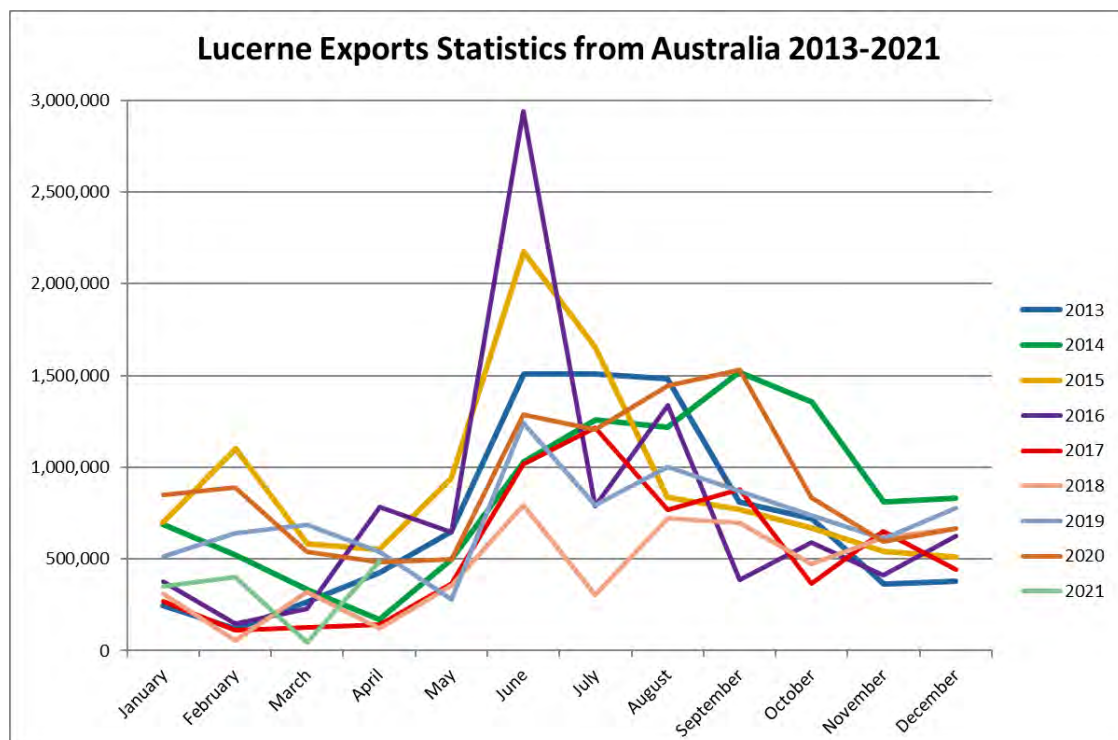
Courtesy of Teague Australia



Quantities below are in kg

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Year to date Difference 2020 & 2021
Jan	245,741	687,172	698,895	374,150	266,596	307,530	512,692	850,518	352,056	-498,404
Feb	118,025	518,553	1,099,252	148,919	108,988	57,008	639,425	887,613	400,125	-985,888
Mar	269,091	334,033	582,929	227,050	127,000	321,205	684,044	539,525	44,500	-1,482,933
Apr	424,057	171,816	549,340	784,031	143,025	123,100	536,501	482,194	489,500	-1,578,152
May	647,509	495,472	940,000	644,704	363,023	355,575	281,335	495,875		
Jun	1,509,605	1,029,000	2,176,805	2,942,685	1,018,477	794,995	1,239,461	1,286,579		
Jul	1,510,278	1,260,782	1,649,080	786,450	1,214,352	303,288	792,380	1,205,927		
Aug	1,482,357	1,217,121	834,178	1,339,684	767,256	721,730	1,002,472	1,443,626		
Sep	811,667	1,516,965	770,857	388,207	882,195	698,665	871,762	1,533,097		
Oct	719,882	1,356,922	667,503	588,199	364,673	472,480	738,090	832,925		
Nov	363,877	810,704	543,246	409,700	649,318	615,285	609,028	595,095		
Dec	379,122	829,293	511,127	623,560	443,729	664,134	775,684	667,771		
Total	8,481,211	10,227,833	11,023,212	9,257,339	6,348,911	5,434,995	8,682,874	10,661,226		

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

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



Photo: Kalyx

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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



Aaron Freeman, Grower Member

Aaron manages 'Colara' at Tintinara owned by the Munro Family producing dryland lucerne hay and seed, cereal hay and cropping along with a self-replacing merino flock and prime lambs. Aaron and his wife Penny also own and operate a contract harvesting business Colara Contracting. Contact: 0428 875 600

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 RAGT Seed Force Australia as their technical product development manager within the forage portfolio. Richard lives near Langhorne Creek with his wife and three children and currently grows olives, lucerne hay and fat horses.

Contact: 0467 770 353

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.



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