

LUCERNE *Leader*



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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 the 23rd of March 2022. The seed has now been cleaned and the analysis of the seed yields is currently being completed.

The summary report of the fourth-year seed yield results will be made available by email to all members in June. The full results will be presented at an information session to be held on **Wednesday 27th July 2022 at the Keith**

Bowling Club from 8.00 to 10.30am. Further details will be released shortly.

Seed varieties have been supplied by: Alforex Seeds, Barenbrug, Naracoorte Seeds, DLF Seeds, Seed Force, S & W Seed Co and Upper Murray Seeds.

More details on the trial, link to the moisture probe data and photos are available on the Lucerne Australia Website.



Rabobank

OUTLOOK ON 2022/23 GLOBAL GRAIN AND OILSEEDS MARKET PROSPECTS *Rabobank*



June 7, 2022

by Cheryl Kalisch Gordon, Rabobank Senior Commodities Analyst

Given how tight the global commodities market is, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) first outlook on the 2022/23 global grains, oilseeds and cotton marketing year was even more eagerly anticipated than normal.

For those just finished, or still in the process of, planting their 2022/23 winter crop, it was good news as the USDA's May World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) supports an ongoing high price environment, says Rabobank senior commodities analyst Cheryl Kalisch Gordon.

"The outlook shows 2022/23 may be the first year since 2012/13 in which the world consumes less grain than the previous year – due to high prices and low supply. The USDA forecasts a drop of only 0.1 per cent, but that compares to average annual growth of 2.1 per cent over the past decade," she said.

"However, even if less grain is consumed globally in 2022/23, this won't prevent stocks falling to their lowest level since 2015/16, according to the USDA supply outlook."

Ukraine's grain and oilseeds (G&O) production in 2022/23 is forecast to be 40 per cent down from last year's very strong production and its G&O exports to be down 45 per cent compared with typical export volumes in recent years, Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

Globally, the USDA expects another reduction in wheat stocks over the course of 2022/23, taking them to their lowest levels in six years. "This is bullish for wheat, especially in the short-term, given this comes in below the average of trade expectations for ending stocks for the next year, and is supportive of global wheat pricing remaining elevated over the course of 2022/23," she said.

Equally, it paves the way for ongoing exaggerated volatility in pricing in response to new developments in global wheat supply and demand – and this has rung true in the wake of India's recently announced wheat export ban, Dr Kalish Gordon said.

"An expected year-on-year fall of three per cent in global corn production – and steady consumption – is expected to eat into global corn stocks by about one per cent, meaning the global coarse grain market, including for barley and sorghum, will also remain supported. This outlook should keep prices strong and the US would need to pull off a record corn yield for material price pressure – but that's something we'll only know by September or October, she said.

The USDA expects global oilseed production for 2022/23 to be 647.1 million tonnes, up 50.3 million tonnes from 2021/22, when



production was markedly lower due to drought-affected South American soybean and Canadian canola crops. Dr Kalisch Gordon said the USDA's forecast should underpin some softening, though not a lot, in global oilseed prices, including those for canola.

"However the market will be closely watching the USDA's forecast for Ukrainian and Canadian canola production and its expectations for the US soybean crush, so that softening is in no way guaranteed just yet. This is especially so because the USDA forecast for Brazilian soybean production is based on trend production given that the crop is still so far from even being planted," she said.

"The USDA forecasts cotton ending stocks to fall again in 2022/23, but by just one per cent, compared with 2021/22's drop of five per cent and the nine per cent drop of 2020/21. This is supportive of cotton pricing in 2022/23."

"With no signs of market's loosening soon", Dr Kalisch Gordon said, "we can expect extra strong anticipation of each monthly WASDE update, and associated market volatility, for the foreseeable future".

To find out more about other Rabobank research, contact your local Mount Gambier Rabobank branch on (08) 8726 2500.

Rabobank Australia & New Zealand Group is a part of the international 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 38 countries, servicing the needs of approximately 8.4 million clients worldwide through a network of more than 1000 offices and branches. Rabobank Australia & New Zealand Group 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 94 branches throughout Australia and New Zealand.

DLF SEEDS REPORT

by Jess Nottle, Production and Procurement



Now that the season has well and truly kicked off, our agronomists are back out in the paddock monitoring newly sown lucerne & other annual seed crops. With plenty of moisture now available, we are now focusing on pest & weed control strategies for our proprietary seed crops. At the time of writing, we have some new seedling lucerne crops yet to be planted before pulling up and aiming for late August/September sowings.

All South Australian cleaning sheds have worked hard to get through this year's crop although there are still a few lines yet to be cleaned from the past harvest. Seed quality has been better than expected after some irrigated crops receiving large amounts of rain just prior to harvest. Summer grasses have also proven challenging to control in the paddock, limiting the marketing avenues for some seed lots.

DLF Seeds still have a few good lucerne seed production contracts available for planting this season. If you're looking to sow this year, contact Jess for further information.

DLF Seeds has had an excellent autumn sales season. Strong demand was initially indicated with many early orders placed, however we wondered if this was as a result of 'panic-buying' due to concerns of supply delays - it was not! Robust demand continued throughout the autumn period, with the last of orders still rolling in from our South Australian customers (it seems we were the last in the country to get the rain!).

Our business, along with all businesses in Australia, suffered from logistics issues with transport around the country in short-supply. This particularly affected the WA sales region after the trainline got washed away with heavy rain! The backlog of freight was massive during our busiest sales period, severely impacting our customers' expectations of receiving high quality seed, on-time.

Internationally, the past month has been busy with The International Seed Federation (ISF) Annual Conference recommencing in May after a 2 year absence due to COVID. There was a positive feeling amongst the seed community, buoyed by strong livestock prices and demand for most species.

While there isn't a large contingent of lucerne buyers at the ISF Conference, it is always good to compare notes with marketers from the US and Europe of their production. Lucerne seed is in relatively short supply due to low carryover seed from last year and lower than expected production, from a yield and quality perspective, both in Australia and the Northern Hemisphere.

We are seeing continued demand from our existing Middle East customers as well as our newer customers in North Africa who would normally buy out of Europe however, pricing will be harder for them due to current market pricing. While all this is very positive news, the ongoing challenges of container availability, freight rates as well as the USD changes will make for an interesting journey as we execute our sales.

DLF Seeds are excited to have new lucerne varieties in the pipeline. Our R&D team is continuing with its domestic program to breed our next lucerne varieties, putting them through stringent selection, evaluation & stabilisation programs prior to releasing high-grade seed to our seed growers.

We are thrilled with the potential of our new varieties for both the seed producer and the end user.



*ALBA Sub Clover Breeder, Phil Nichols.
Field trial selections of yannicum sub clover for disease resistance, waterlogging tolerance & increased dry matter production.*

If you're interested in taking part in high-grade seed multiplications or would like a seed yield trial based on your farm, contact Jess to discuss upcoming opportunities.

DLF Seeds also have a joint venture with The University of Western Australia, named ALBA (Annual Legume Breeding Australia). ALBA aims to provide producers with new varieties of annual forage legumes, developed with a focus on producer needs. Key species of interest are subterranean clover, arrowleaf clover, balansa clover and persian clover. The program was launched to provide farmers better access to advances in seed technology.

Wishing you all the best for the season ahead!

Seed Production Agronomists
Jess Nottle - 0438 302 148
Martin Flower - 0427 530 454

Public Seed Purchasing
Anthony Quilter - 0427 572 125

FREE SCREENING SERVICE TO TEST FOR INSECTICIDE RESISTANCE IN THE REDLEGGED EARTH MITE



by Aston Arthur, Cesar Australia

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 advisors 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 Email: aarthur@cesaraustralia.com

SEED FORCE UPDATE

by David Barnett, Territory & Key Account Manager



On the Move

It is my pleasure to announce that David Peake has joined the Seed Force team in the role of Commercial Manager – Broadacre - based in Perth, Western Australia.

David grew up in a rural community in Western Australia and now resides in Perth with his wife and family.

Prior to embarking on his career, David attained a Bachelor of Science B.Sc. (Agriculture) and B.Sc. (Anatomy and Human Biology) from UWA.

David is an energetic and results-driven commercial manager with a demonstrated history of success working in the Australian agriculture industry. Specialising in broadacre technical agronomy, marketing and sales management, cereal and canola market development and sales extension. David is passionate about Australian agriculture with an extensive network.

Over his career before his direct seed experience, David was an Agronomist with Elders initially in Geraldton, then went on to become a Senior Agronomist for Elders Moora collectively spanning 10 years of in field agronomy and advisory. Most recently prior to joining Seed Force David has held various roles including Regional Sales Manager – WEST for BASF and Market Development Agronomist and Seeds Agronomic Services with Bayer.

David is eager to get out and engage in industry events and seek feedback from end users of our broadacre portfolio and explore opportunities and I look forward to introducing you to David throughout the SE SA spring field days.

Spring Forage Options

With excellent red meat and milk pricing, Seed Force can offer many options to suit the spring planting window, including Seed Force proprietary Lucerne range SF614QL, SF714QL & SF914QL or our high-performance Forage Brassica's - SF Greenland forage rape & SF Pacer leafy turnip. We can also offer complimentary herbs in SF Punter chicory, SF Endurance plantain and SF Rossi red clover and SF Quest white clover to maximise animal health and weight gains.

Once we hit consistent soil temperatures of 16C and rising our forage sorghums will come into play - SF Flourish (Sudan x Sorghum) is ideal for grazing, hay and silage. Spring sown Oat/Pea mixes are perfect for excellent quality silage/hay for fodder conservation.

If you would like to invite David Peake to your spring Field days or to discuss spring planting options, please feel free to give me a call or drop me an email.

David Barnett

Phone: 0467 246 326 Email: davidbarnett@seedforce.com



YOUR TOP PIVOT INSTALLATION QUESTIONS

Answered by Benparts Irrigation your local Zimmatic Dealer

When it comes to installing pivots, Zimmatic™ dealer Benparts Irrigation, knows a thing or two. With over 35 years experience John, Paul and the team know how to get the most out of your pivot irrigation system once it's installed. Here are the answers to some common questions we get asked when people are considering a Centre Pivot.

1) Will my land need to be inspected?

In short, yes. The first step to any Pivot installation enquiry should be to evaluate your land before doing anything else. This assessment includes looking at your water source to ensure it can support a pivot and irrigate crops properly, your fuel source and the topography. It also means paying special attention to any high and low areas that might affect flow rates.

Part of the Zimmatic pivot design process is determining what will work and what is the best solution for your land. We need all of this information to do our software drawings and for the grower to do the planning on their end.

2) Can I help with the construction?

As soon as a final contract is signed, your machine will be ordered and shipped and then construction can begin. As a customer you can be as involved or hands-off with the construction as you want.

Some customers want to handle aspects of the installation themselves. For example they may want to put in the pipe or pour their concrete pads etc. Or purely provide labour for the actual construction of the pivot. Alternatively, other customers are happy for the complete construction and commissioning to be handled by us.

3) What should my application rate be?

This depends on your soil, crop and topography. It's common for new pivot owners to run their irrigation system too slow, which results in a lot of runoff. We make it our job to know your land well enough to guide you through determining the best application rate for you and your system. We highly recommend the installation of FieldNET to remotely monitor your pivot or program it to change speeds to assist in the application rate process and regular irrigation monitoring.

We are happy to come out and guide you through the operation of the system when you begin and can provide recommendations on watering, too.

4) What about wheel track management?

It's important to keep wheel tracking in mind, especially when it comes to your crop and soil type. We try to look at drainage to minimize wheel tracks when we know from the get-go where we're going to have problems.

A good rule of thumb for any new pivot is to first run a dry circle, and then a couple of light applications to try to really pack the wheel track. Then you can start doing your regular applications.

5) Are my sprinklers operating correctly?

Just because your pivot is running doesn't always mean your sprinklers are working properly. This happens most often when there's a buildup of debris on the regulators, which can plug sprinklers, contaminate your water supply and affect your yield.

We see quite regularly, along with plugged nozzles. Keeping an eye on the system, particularly new installations because you can get a lot of debris buildup during construction as well as from your water source is very important.

To check for this, turn your system off and go to the end of the pivot since that's where the debris tends to build up the most. Pull off the regulator and clear the debris out, then start working your way back down your pivot to check the rest of the regulators.

6) Is there regular maintenance I should be doing on my pivot?

Yes, and now is a great time to get on this! Walk down your pivot at least once or twice a season doing a simple visual inspection to make sure everything looks good. You want to primarily keep an eye out for loose bolts or wires. This is also a great time to look for flat tires. And you will need to change the oil. Benparts regularly performs annual maintenance and servicing on our machines and we are more than happy to assist you and provide detailed checklists of maintenance to perform if you wish to complete these tasks yourself.

7) Does my dealer offer any post-installation services?

Yes of course! Benparts prides itself on our customer service and being available for our customers with any questions they may have.

If you are considering installing a new irrigation system or have any questions at all in relation to centre pivot irrigation, remote monitoring or sales and service please call John Bennet or Paul Croser on 0417 619 331 (John) or 0427 619 337 (Paul)

LIMESTONE COAST SEEDS UPDATE

by Greg Excell, Limestone Coast Seeds



As we finalise the lucerne seed processing, I would like to thank all of our new and existing clients for using our services. Limestone Coast Seeds started trading on the 20th November 2021 and I am pleased to report that it has been an extremely busy six months of operating. This year's lucerne harvest was above average in the Keith area and we temporarily re-named the month of March 'Mad March' as we worked around the clock and on weekends to keep up with seed deliveries. Having now had a small amount of time to reflect on our data it was interesting to note that eighty percent of our lucerne seed deliveries were received in March. Whilst we received a significant amount of lucerne from Keith growers, we also received a good amount from farmers in the Mid North, The Coorong, and other areas of the Limestone Coast.

The rain that growers encountered just before harvest did cause damage to many crops and contributed to larger than normal processing losses. However, after looking at the data from last year, the clean out rates are only 3% higher this year. Perhaps one of the biggest problems that we encountered during processing this year was the increased amount of abnormal seed in the seed tests. Whilst some of this could be put down to rain damage, much of it is caused by mechanical damage at harvest time.

I would like to thank the lucerne growers, who continue to improve the management of their crops which has resulted in less re-clean issues than previous years. This not only improves the efficacy of the supply chain process, but it means less costs for the growers as well.

Staff at our site have been kept busy with processing and we are just starting to see the first lots of this year's lucerne being exported. Export for all commodities has been quite slow due to a shortage of available containers and other contributing freight issues. Once again, Certified Siriver and Aurora have been the first varieties to leave our warehouse.

I am grateful to have such a modern processing facility and a team of knowledgeable and experienced staff. With recent additions to our existing plant and equipment, we aim to further increase the processing and services which we provide.

We currently offer:

- B-Double Weighbridge
- Three Complete Processing Plants
- Spiral Separators
- Length Separators
- Velvet Roller Separator
- Scarifiers
- De-awner
- Grain Drying
- Satake Colour Sorter
- De-Huller
- Treating Machines
- 5,000 tonne of storage
- On-site Export Inspector
- Export Container Loading Facilities

LUCERNE AGRONOMY REPORT

by Scott Hutchings, Senior Agronomist, Cox Rural



Cowpea aphid have again appeared in the Upper South East and we are already getting reports and seeing livestock particularly lambs effected by grazing infected pastures.

The livestock show signs of photosensitisation and this can be seen in behaviour such as severe irritation, restlessness and shaking of head and ears and seeking of shade.

Physical signs include swelling & drooping of ears, eyelids, lips and nose. Lucerne, Vetch and medic growers are urged to monitor paddocks before introducing stock and treat pastures prior to the introduction of livestock as required to avoid any issues.

This is particularly a case of treating the problem in the pasture as once livestock are affected recovery is slow and production losses have already occurred.

Once the pest has been identified consult your agronomist about treatment options prior to introducing livestock as grazing withholding periods and export slaughter intervals will need to be considered for your individual needs.

If you see symptoms in stock immediately remove them from the paddock and provide shade as affected stock will require shade for 7 days. If detected early stock may recover withing 4-5 days.

Always consult your Veterinarian for your best management options particularly in severe cases.

Earthmite are now also present in lucerne stands and pastures it is suggested that paddocks are monitored and treated as required depending on thresholds and pasture stage & species.

It is now the beginning of winter cleaning season and summer rainfall occurred in many areas and as a result we may see some larger weeds present in paddocks. As always target winter cleaning between now and the end of July as often by the middle of August we start to see barley grass running to head and other weeds causing shading and consequent poor weed control. After the end of July we also start to see more damage caused particularly by Simazine and Terbutylazine in high winter active varieties.

A good strategy when targeting large weeds is to double knock paddocks, applying a knockdown product to burn off weeds then once burn down has occurred apply a second knockdown to kill shaded weeds with your normal winter clean residual products.

Now is also the time to spray channels and check banks so residual products can be used as required and not cause damage once irrigation occurs.



Left: Cow pea aphid on Lucerne (photo courtesy of Makin Nominees Keith)



Right: An affected lamb (photo courtesy of Scott Hutchings)

2022 NATIONAL FODDER CONFERENCE - REGISTER NOW!



Join us! After a long two years of restrictions, lockdowns and mandates, we are very excited to be planning a long-awaited fodder family catch-up in Queensland.

The two-day conference will be held in Toowoomba from Monday 25 July to Wednesday 27 July.

- Welcome function – 5pm, Monday 25 July
- Conference – Tuesday 26 July & Wednesday 27 July
- Gala dinner – Tuesday 26 July
- Post-conference tour (optional) – Thursday 28 to Friday 29 July



Join AFIA and local hosts, Feed Central, for an informative post-conference tour of a range of agriculture industries and other businesses operating in the Darling Downs region. This is a two-day infotainment event not to be missed! [Please note numbers are limited].

Early-bird discounts are available until 14 June 2022.

Information about the program, which includes sessions on the national oat breeding program, customer perspectives, future fodder, agriculture's 2030 \$100 billion industry target, regional communities and cyber security are available on the AFIA website.

Special accommodation rates for AFIA members and more can be found at: www.afia.org.au/events/#fodder-conference

Delegates will be required to follow the latest Queensland Government COVID guidelines - <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19>

WILL HIGH PRICES ELICIT A PRODUCTION RESPONSE?



by John Droppert, Industry insights and analysis manager, Dairy Australia

For many Australian dairy farmers, the 2021/22 season has been one where the weather has mostly been supportive, farmgate prices have held, and until recently, costs were reasonable. Yet the milk pool remains flat, with a decrease of just over 3% projected for the current season and limited growth expected in 2022/23.

Most farmers are likely to make an operating profit in 2021/22, and 2022/23 milk price announcements indicate strong demand for milk, with offers well above historical precedents. Continuing market strength is critical, but competition for what is expected to remain a severely constrained milk pool is clearly a key driver of the moves.

Furthermore, with a good autumn break across most regions and major irrigation storages holding more water than the same time last year, the seasonal outlook heading into 2022/23 is as favourable as can be expected this far in advance.

Nonetheless, the labour shortages, high beef prices and strong gains in land values seen over successive years have continued to incentivise reduced herd sizes and industry/farm exits. On top of this, a recent surge in the costs of key inputs such as grain, fertiliser and diesel (along with many minor cost items) has abruptly pruned what would otherwise have been very attractive margins at prices over \$8/kg MS.

Region-specific factors are also in play; it's likely that pasture availability in much of southern Australia is below average heading into winter, due to drier conditions through Autumn. Additionally, there are fewer cows on hand, though some recovery is possible over the next season. Milk intakes in southern Victoria are forecast to be flat, with less certainty around seasonal conditions, ongoing competition for land and continued farm exits. Assuming a more favourable season, Tasmania is expected to see some recovery from the drop in production experienced in 2021/22.

Weather in northern Victoria and southern NSW has been more favourable, but again, cow numbers are limited, and many farmers are prioritising non-dairy investments – with the exception of feed pads and similar facilities, as well as general farm maintenance. Another good season (in the absence of excessively wet weather or flooding) offers the potential for some per-cow production growth, partially offsetting likely exits.

Further north, severe floods across large areas of NSW and QLD have caused disruption and devastation for many farmers. Such conditions have exacerbated herd management issues such as mastitis and delayed pasture renovation and winter cropping, with high fertiliser prices denting investment in the latter. Additional exits are likely as farmers reassess their position and the requirements for recovery. From March onwards these issues have wiped out what had been year on year growth in NSW milk production and will continue to be felt well into 2022/23.

Western Australia faced dry conditions for several months, though more recently these have approached average for the time of year. Nonetheless, the state continues to struggle with structural challenges and farmer fatigue. Although improvements to farmgate pricing may stabilise the situation somewhat, farmers are conscious of the state's turbulent history when it comes to balancing supply and demand in a relatively small market and cautious about investing in expansion.

Despite the volatility in input markets, the outlook for profitability heading into the 2022/23 season remains positive overall. However, there is a strong element of margin risk, with significant inflation continuing across many key input costs. Although farmgate prices announced to date are well above historical peaks, returns on new investment are far from guaranteed. In conjunction with ongoing staff shortages, heightened sense of risk in markets and the general economy may also contribute to limiting farmers' propensity to make large investments in the short term.

2022 LUCERNE AUSTRALIA STUDY TOUR



Are you 25 years and under? Interested in attending the Lucerne Australia 2022 Study Tour?

Thanks to AgriFutures Australia there is a generous bursary available to help subsidise the tour cost for those aged 25 years and under*

For further information, and to express your interest, contact the Executive Officer by 30th June 2022 – 0439 538 332 or info@lucerneaustralia.org.au

*Conditions apply



LUCERNE AUSTRALIA

2022 STUDY TOUR

Mid North and Yorke Peninsula

16-18th August 2022

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 'Ezy Bale', Freeling

Hart Field Site Group, Hart

Wundersitz Family, 'Anna Binna', Maitland

Barley Stacks Wines, South Kilkerran

AG Schilling and Co, Cunliffe

Plains Grain, Mallala

Lot 100—Food and Craft Beverage Collective, Hay Valley

Cost \$470 members and \$620 non-members—kindly supported by AgriFutures Australia

To register your interest call or email.

Katrina Copping 0439 538332 or info@lucerneaustralia.org.au

Depart Keith Tuesday 16th August at 7.30am.

Overnight accommodation Tuesday at Clare and Wednesday at Wallaroo.

Returning at 5.30pm Thursday 18th August 2022.



WHAT WORKER RECORDS SHOULD YOU BE KEEPING?

courtesy of Safe Ag Systems



Farming isn't a 9-5 job, we get the tasks done when they need doing. With winter finally here, and hopefully a quieter season, there are a few things we can do now that will assist our record keeping, but also help us get ahead ready for harvest. This article is going to focus on our workers - what records we should have on file, why up-to-date health records are important, reviewing inductions and maintaining training.

What worker records should you be keeping?

As a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU), it is your responsibility to ensure you know your farm workers and maintain employee records. Did you know that in Australia it is a legal requirement for employers to keep some worker records for up to 7 years? There is a lot of detail that needs to be retained and stored confidentially. We have created a quick guide below to help you, keep in mind this isn't an exhaustive list:

General Records; Full name, date of birth, commencement date, emergency contact details, a copy of contract offered

Pay and hours worked; Pay rate, deductions, hours of work, overtime hours worked, pay period

Leave; leave taken or accrued

Superannuation and Tax; Amount of superannuation paid, name of super fund, tax file number

Best Practice (not compulsory); position description, performance reviews, resume, training records

Are your worker health details up-to-date?

Whilst it is not a requirement for your employee to share details on their health conditions with you as the PCBU, we suggest that as part of your induction process, you ask your employees if they are aware of any pre-existing medical conditions or anything that may affect their ability to safely perform their work.

As an individual, we all have our own health concerns. Whether it's the damaged knee from that old footy injury, high blood pressure, or a mental health condition, we've all been to the GP and understand our own limitations. But it's important health conditions are shared between employee and employer to ensure that if anything happens on-the-job, the most accurate emergency response can be provided.

It is up to your employee as to how much information they would like to share. However, with the protection of workplace laws and regulations, the more detailed the information they can provide, the more likely you will be able to tailor help in an emergency.



Our team recommends keeping records of the below information:

- Has their condition been diagnosed? If so what was the diagnosis?
- Do they suffer from symptoms? Can they provide a list?
- Do they require medications or treatment?
- What restrictions do they have for work, for example, lifting limits, ability to operate equipment etc.?
- Are there potential complications, for example, if they miss medication?
- Does their health condition limit their job performance?

As part of your farming induction process, and on an ongoing basis, ask your workers about their health details, if they have any medical conditions they would like to share with you in order to update their health records.

Farm safety inductions and ongoing training to keep your workers safe

With seeding complete and the wet weather setting in, take advantage of the slower pace and spend time reviewing your safety management system. Pay special attention to your worker records, have you employed a new worker/s that require an induction, or perhaps you have purchased new machinery, equipment or tools? Each time you introduce new machinery, equipment and tools you should take the time to ensure your workers receive updated training.

As an employer, or PCBU, you are legally required to ensure workers are trained and competent to safely complete all tasks they're required to do at work. As primary producers, our responsibility is heightened as we are routinely completing tasks determined by the legislation to be 'high risk'. Not only will you gain increased efficiency through your workers being trained and better equipped to perform their jobs, you'll be encouraging a culture of safety.

A general safety induction should be the very first action taken when someone steps foot on farm. This general induction should cover the basic safety information, it should cover how the business manages its safety such as your emergency management plan, policies and procedures, include known hazards associated with working onsite such as traffic hazards, overhead powerlines, dams, chemical storage, etc. Following the general farm inductions, a safety induction specific to the job role should be included, covering any new activity the job might include such as use of specific equipment, operating or moving a vehicle.

Did you know you can tailor inductions now for your upcoming seasonal workers. Often these seasonal roles involve transferable and valuable skill sets, but you shouldn't just assume these seasonal workers know everything. Agricultural and horticultural work may require mechanical picking, preparing soil, planting, weeding or pruning. This involves numerous hazards such as chemicals, machinery and other equipment.

To tailor the safety induction kits to suit your seasonal workers, consider the season and tasks they will be undertaking. For example, it is essential they know an emergency response and first aid kit locations, but not as important to be inducted for chemical

use or machinery they may not use. While these seasonal workers are coming in at a busy time of year or for a specific task, their seasonal safety induction should be approached with the same time commitment as a long-term worker.

Consider covering the following:

- Farm safety awareness
- Location of known hazards, such as overhead power lines, dams, chemicals storage etc.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Machinery safety
- Safe lifting
- Emergency response
- First aid
- Contact lists
- How to report hazards and incidents

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.

SYNERGY SEEDS UPDATE

by Craig Myall, Managing Director



Processing of Lucerne lines at cleaning sheds is almost complete and we have certainly observed a significant quality difference in lines harvested following the large rainfall events in the region, to those that were reaped prior to, or those that missed the storms. Seed lots affected from the rain obtained larger cleaning losses and typically have a higher percentage of abnormal seeds in the germination count.

Overall, the total volume produced from the 2022 Australian lucerne harvest will be well below the average of recent years, which when coupled with strong international demand, has seen prices continue to strengthen to similar peak levels attained back in 2016.

Demand from most countries has been very good as buyers come to terms with the shortage of supply, and a hike in prices. Exports for the period January to April 2022 totalled 1,420mt, an increase on the same period last year by 184mt. Major destinations for this seed were USA 445mt, South Africa 223mt, France 152mt and Saudi Arabia 142mt.

Export shipping issues show no sign of slowing with constant vessel and equipment shortages, cancellations, and increased charges continuing to challenge all exporters. At a recent ASF regional meeting held in Adelaide, a major shipping broker alluded to the current situation faced rolling well into 2023 and potentially beyond, with the lack of Australian port infrastructure spend/development and one way trade (export with little import), the major contributing factors.

On a brighter note for Lucerne seed producers, the near future looks bright with demand outweighing supply which points to continued high prices. With Australia soon to be in a sell out position of Lucerne seed, lets hope we re-stack the shelves in 2023 with a bumper crop so industry can cash in on the opportunity at hand.

CONTACTS

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TATIARA SEEDS REPORT

by Graham Ramsdale, Tatiara Seeds

Season 2022

I've never in 40+ years of seed processing have I encountered a season where so many varieties of seed are needed so urgently. Even to the point where a marketer was asking why we had not processed a certain line only for us to explain that the grower had not started harvesting it yet! With interest rates at a low level perhaps there needs to be a situation when some seed is carried over to early the next selling season to have seed available for varieties that weren't harvested early enough.

Since my last report, virtually all COVID restrictions have been lifted and what we have seen is a significant impact to our workforce. First off, more workers have had to self-isolate owing to a close contact then many more have contracted COVID, meaning about a week or two off work. Unlike people working with computers and phones who can relocate their office to their home, we have not come up with a way of sending a seed processing plant home with our plant operators so they can continue to process seed in their own homes while isolating.

We received a first delivery of new seasons Lucerne on the 20th of January and the last on 25th of May with about 95% of deliveries prior to the end of March. Our highest loss while processing was 90.2% (and we still haven't got it quite good enough) and the lowest 7.2%. This was delivered to us between the 9th and 11th of March and by the look of it, it was harvested with no weather damage – an unbelievable quality in a year where much weather damage caused huge variations in loss. It doesn't get any easier trying to ensure we get as good a recovery for the grower as possible yet meet the expected germination standards (85% normal seeds, including hard seeds) for the world markets.

We encountered some seed wasp damage with the subsequent residue on our screens and in our indents, but minimal compared to a few years ago.

In most lots of seed, weeds weren't excessive, but weather damaged seed was the greatest factor in larger than ideal losses. Losses between 20-35% were common.

Very few lots of Lucerne needed to be dried. There will be a report from marketers outlining the problems and frustrations in shipping seed. Our warehouse area designated for AQIS inspectors isn't large enough as seed has to be prepared and

presented for AQIS inspection, then sometimes we are waiting for empty shipping containers to arrive or space on them so that we can load them. I believe Australia isn't a favourite destination to send a ship to be loaded with containers as freight rates from other parts of the world return more money to the owner of the ships.

As of now we have more than 400 Lucerne varieties listed in our database. Each variety and each grower need to be kept separate and treated separately.

We were fortunate in Bordertown to have had 4 backpackers across the peak season (two by two at different times) – probably about six too short of what would have been ideal! With most Lucerne lots processed we are still busy and have been for a month or so preparing shipments for export. I looked back through some old seed processors record books recently and in 1999 when we began treating seed for SAUDI on about the 10th of June, and the last entry for treatment was the 16th of November. I think in those days we processed a lot of seed back into our silos then when markets were found the seed was taken from the silos and treated and bagged or bagged without treatment depending on the sale. The last few years there has been very little of this work to do past the end of June.

Sometime in August/September we will be audited by Seed Services (there is mutual recognition by the other seed labs). At the audit we need to account for every certified tag used, extra sampling is done to make sure the results of the lines our workers have sampled are in tolerance with other sampling, that no certified seed has left our premise before the release date and if it does there needs to have been an early release given. All Pre-Basic and Basic clean downs are documented, all our seed processing records are correct, all our plant operators have been trained and OIC samplers are up to date with their training and accreditation.

As the cleaning season winds down, it is time for our staff members to have a well-deserved holiday before the next season!

Thank you to our seed growers and also the companies who use our services, we really appreciate being of service to you.



LUCERNE EXPORT STATISTICS FROM AUSTRALIA

- January 2013 to April 2022

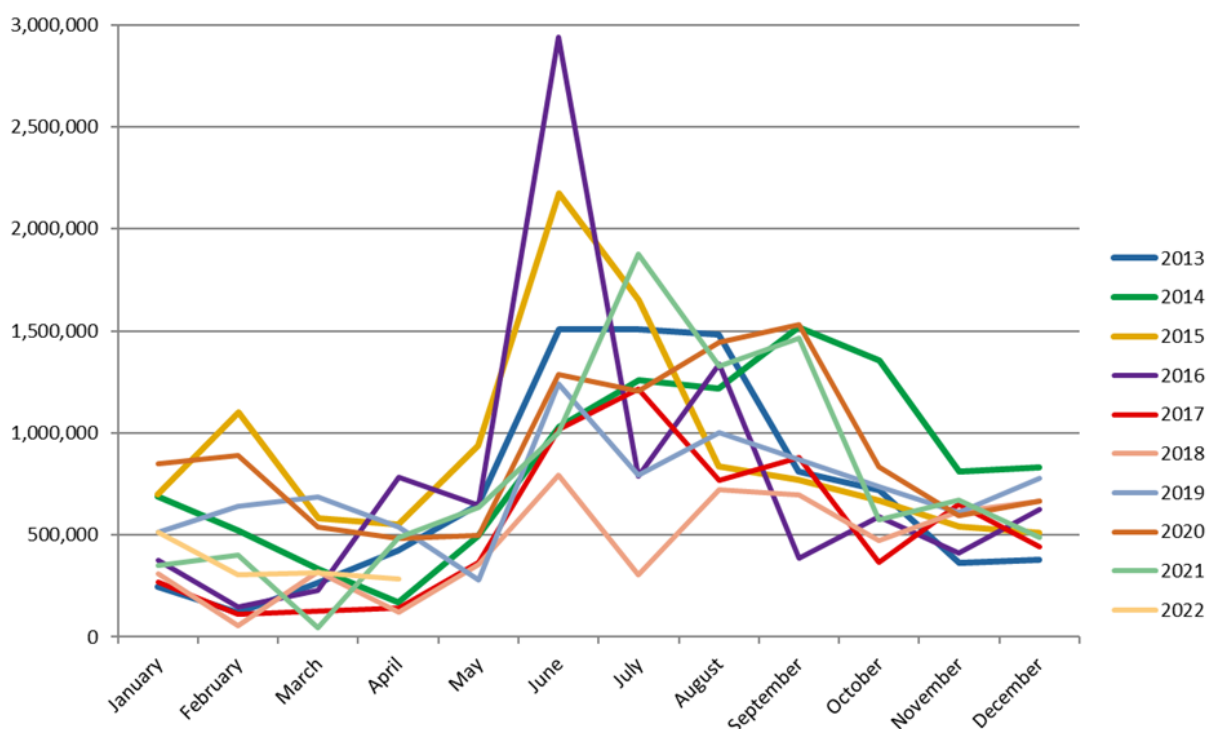
courtesy of Teague Australia

Quantities below are in kg.

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	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	515,246	+163,190
Feb	118,025	518,553	1,099,252	148,919	108,988	57,008	639,425	887,613	400,125	302,525	+65, 590
Mar	269,091	334,033	582,929	227,050	127,000	321,205	684,044	539,525	44,500	317,332	+338, 442
Apr	424,057	171,816	549,340	784,031	143,025	123,100	536,501	482,194	439,500	284,839	-183, 761
May	647,509	495,472	940,000	644,704	363,023	355,575	281,335	495,875	633,571		
Jun	1,509,605	1,029,000	2,176,805	2,942,685	1,018,477	794,995	1,239,461	1,286,579	1,000,145		
Jul	1,510,278	1,260,782	1,649,080	786,450	1,214,352	303,288	792,380	1,205,927	1,875,361		
Aug	1,482,357	1,217,121	834,178	1,339,684	767,256	721,730	1,002,472	1,443,626	1,329,201		
Sep	811,667	1,516,965	770,857	388,207	882,195	698,665	871,762	1,533,097	1,463,717		
Oct	719,882	1,356,922	667,503	588,199	364,673	472,480	738,090	832,925	573,749		
Nov	363,877	810,704	543,246	409,700	649,318	615,285	609,028	595,095	670,850		
Dec	379,122	829,293	511,127	623,560	443,729	664,134	775,684	667,771	488,544		
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	9,271,319	1,419,942	

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

Lucerne Exports Statistics from Australia 2013-2022



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

LUCERNE AUSTRALIA Members

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



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Alpha Group Consulting	JJ O'Connor & Sons Pty Ltd	Stoller Australia
AFIA (Aust. Fodder Industry Assoc)	Kalyx Australia Pty Ltd	Synergy Seeds Pty Ltd
Barenbrug Australia Pty Ltd	Kongal Seeds	Tatiara Seeds
Cox Rural Keith	Limestone Coast Seeds	Teague Australia
D & M Rural	Naracoorte Seeds	Upper Murray Seeds
DTS Seed Assurance	Nutrien	Vermeeren Bros Manufacturing
Elders Keith	DLF Seeds	Western AG
Farmers Centre	Riverina Local Land Services	Wickham Flower
Forage Genetics International	Safe Ag Systems	Wilchem
Frank Fatchen Pty Ltd	SA Apiarists Association	Wise Farm Equipment
Gibbs Agricultural Consulting	S & W Seed Co	

LUCERNE AUSTRALIA

Executive Committee

Got a question for Lucerne Australia?

Contact the Executive Officer or any our Executive Committee Members who will be happy to help.



Scott Hutchings, Chairman
Contact: 0428 551 188

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.



Aaron Freeman, Deputy Chairman
Contact: 0428 875 600

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 along with a prime lamb enterprise on a recently purchased property.



Katrina Copping, Executive Officer
Contact: 0439 538 332

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.



Josh Rasheed, Associate Member
Contact: 0427 790 655

Joshua started with Naracoorte Seeds in 2011 and has since become a part owner/director of Naracoorte Seeds. Originally employed as the Contract Cropping Manager gave Josh a solid grounding in pasture seed production, including Lucerne, and he has now moved into his current role of Lucerne Seed Trading and Pasture Advisory. Josh has always enjoyed getting out working with clients and looks forward to working in the lucerne industry for years to come. Josh lives in Naracoorte with his wife Emma and three daughters but prior to this move he worked as a Real Estate Agent for 12 years at the family Real Estate business in Meningie.



Adam Zacker, Grower Member
Contact: 0417 853 799

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.



Rodney Lush, Grower Member
Contact: 0419 862 510

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 Proadvise.



Scott Campbell, Grower Member
Contact: 0417 887 562

Scott and his wife Sophie Campbell own a mixed farming business at Keith, producing Lucerne seed, hay grain and prime lamb production. As a business with a high reliance on lucerne Scott believes it is important to keep abreast of industry issues both domestic and international. His family have been involved in the lucerne seed industry for more than 40 years.



Simon Allen, Grower Member
Contact: 0408 893 786

Simon is involved for 15 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.



Greg Excell, Associate Member
Contact: 0408 838 684

Greg has more than twenty eight years experience in the seed industry. He has performed various roles including seed cleaning, grain drying and engineering, and has now purchased his own seed processing site called Limestone Coast Seeds. Greg works collaboratively with both growers and marketers to ensure that only Lucerne seed of the highest quality is exported. From working in the seed business for many years it is obvious to Greg the many benefits that Lucerne Australia can offer the industry.