

LUCERNE *Leader*



ISSUE 64 | MARCH 2022



LUCERNE VARIETY TRIAL UPDATE



AgriFutures®
Pasture Seeds

*Assess optimum plant stress levels for
seed production*

Now into its fourth year, the Lucerne Australia Variety Trial continued to generate great interest at the annual Field Day held on Wednesday 2nd March 2022. Over sixty growers and industry representatives took the opportunity to inspect the site just prior to harvest.

Following the site visit, Matt Reeves (Kalyx) provided a brief overview on the herbage data collected in Spring 2021 from the seed trial area and Scott Hutchings (water management committee) discussed the different watering schedules, showing a selection of images captured at the site this summer linked to watering decisions. These images will be added to a digital resource that is being developed on the Lucerne Australia website. Dr Evatt Chirgwin (Cesar Australia) explained the preliminary results from the Bluegreen Aphid resistance project and Dr Alan McKay (SARDI) provided an update on the Lucerne Seed Wasp DNA test project.



Photo courtesy of AgriFutures Australia.

Trial Varieties have been supplied by: Alforex Seeds, Barenbrug, DLF Seeds, Naracoorte Seeds, Seed Force, S & W Seed Company and Upper Murray Seeds

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

Photo courtesy of AgriFutures Australia.



Rabobank

FERTILISER MARKETS JUST GOT EVEN 'UGLIER'

March 8, 2022

by Wes Lefroy, Rabobank Senior Agricultural Analyst



Rabobank

Decade-high prices and longer-than-usual delivery times have made it a very tough 12 months for both fertiliser importers and farmers.

While global urea (nitrogen) prices had at least begun to show some reprieve in recent months – falling 40 per cent in USD terms since their peak in late November – Rabobank senior agriculture analyst, Wes Lefroy said another storm has struck, pushing fertiliser prices, in particular urea prices, north once again.

“Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has primarily lead to a large-scale humanitarian crisis, but also major shocks to agricultural markets, including fertilisers,” Mr Lefroy said.

“The first impact is an interruption to global fertiliser supply and trade flows. Russia alone is responsible for 46 per cent of global ammonium nitrate (also used for mining), 23 per cent of ammonia, 14 per cent of urea and 14 per cent of MAP (mono-ammonium phosphate) exports. If we add Belarus to the equation, for potash (potassium), the global export share increases to a hefty 40 per cent,” he said.

Adding to the supply difficulty is the fact that many ports in the black sea are now closed, while shipping companies are also avoiding the Baltic, due to the risk of being caught in the conflict.

According to Mr Lefroy Australia imports little from Russia and Belarus – in 2020, only approximately 200,000 metric tonnes of urea from Russia, and 80,000 metric tonnes of potash from Belarus – shifting trade flows may be a cause for concern for Australian importers.

“Brazil is the country likely to be most heavily impacted, by disruptions to supply. Brazil, the world’s largest importer of fertilisers, relies heavily on imports of urea, ammonium nitrate, MAP and MOP (muriate of potash) from the region. If Brazil is forced to change the origin of its fertiliser imports, that may hold challenges for Australian imports, especially considering Australia’s purchasing power is lower than that of Brazil,” he said.

Mr Lefroy said the second way fertiliser prices will be impacted by this crisis is via the energy market. “Russia is a large supplier of natural gas (one of the key raw materials of urea) into Europe. While initially gas prices came off the highs we saw late last year – due to a milder-than-normal winter in Europe and improved supply from Russia – prices have now rapidly again moved upwards and threaten the viability of nitrogen production.”

For the time being, as a result of this crisis, Mr Lefroy said Australian growers can expect prices of Urea to remain high well into Q2. “Depending if supplies can be exported from Russia during Q2, we may see some marginal easing of global urea prices in late may inline with a seasonal drop in global demand,” he said.

“Due to procurement and ocean freight times, this may take up to three months to flow through to the local market.”

As for margins, Mr Lefroy said the war has also driven up the prices of grains and oilseeds, limiting damage to margins to some degree.

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

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 known as DLF Seeds (previously PGG Wrightson Seeds), our business is seeing exceptional demand of all forage seeds both domestically & internationally. With all temperate seed companies now in their peak busy season, the vibe from both our domestic & international sales teams is positive - they have quite the spring in their step, and the outlook for autumn sales is good!

At the time of writing, DLF Seeds has the odd proprietary dryland lucerne paddock left to be harvested, and we have seen good supply harvested from the dryland crops despite seeing very low rainfall in crop. There is no doubt that the earlier outlook of rising lucerne prices encouraged seed growers to lock up their paddocks for seed, rather than focus on forage production for hay or grazing. Early irrigated crops have started to come into cleaning sheds, with yields mostly inline with our expectations. Despite localised thunderstorms, we are hopeful of good seed yields to be continued - fingers are crossed for no rain and clear skies for the remainder of harvest. Seed wasp is a concern with the later setting crops once again, with a lot of wasp being seen whilst crop monitoring. It's important to remember that not all wasp sighted in-crop are seed wasp - some are predatory wasp which have assisted in the control of aphids recently. Helicoverpa levels have been very low this year, whilst mirids have been a real pest which has generally needed targeted control a couple times in most paddocks.

Internationally, it's no secret that sales demand is good. DLF Seeds continues to receive decent enquiry for our proprietary lucerne varieties, particularly from Saudi Arabia & Northern Africa. DLF Seeds International Trading Manager, Daniel Steadman, will be

travelling to Saudi Arabia in the near future to visit potential new & existing buyers. It's been quite a while since we've been able to see our customers face to face, something which is greatly valued by the Saudi culture & important in maintaining a strong relationship with international customers.

This season, DLF Seeds have a range of lucerne seed production opportunities with attractive contact terms, available for 2022 sowing. As always, seed production contracts with DLF Seeds are granted on a first-in best-dressed basis. To find out more information, please contact our Seed Production Agronomists on the numbers listed below, or catch up with us at the Lucindale Field Days on the 18th & 19th of March. Planting seed is available immediately for most varieties.

DLF Seeds are active buyers of all public varieties of forage cereals, vetches, annual clovers & medics, and lucerne. Please contact us via the details listed below if you're a seller, or for further information on current export & domestic market conditions.

Wishing you all the best for the remainder of your lucerne harvest.

Seed Production Agronomists

Jess Nottle - 0438 302 148

Martin Flower - 0427 530 454

Public Seed Purchasing

Anthony Quilter - 0427 572 125

AFIA'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE: 25-27 JULY 2022



Save the Date for AFIA's National
Fodder Conference!

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 sunny Queensland.

Destination: Toowoomba!
Lock in 25 to 27 July, 2022.

Monday 25 July - Welcome Function
Tuesday 26 July - Conference (Day I) and Gala Dinner
Wednesday 27 July - Conference (Day II)

More details are coming soon! All information regarding the 2022 National Fodder Conference will be available on the AFIA website: <https://afia.org.au/events/#fodder-conference>, via email and on social media feeds.

NEW INSECTICIDE RESISTANCE DETECTED IN BLUEGREEN APHID



courtesy of Cesar Australia

Summary

- Resistance in bluegreen aphid is a rising concern in NSW and SA
- Following new investment from AgriFutures Australia, Cesar and Lucerne Australia are investigating the extent and evolution of resistance of bluegreen aphids to commonly used insecticides
- This research has confirmed emerging resistance to omethoate, chlorpyrifos and pirimicarb
- Testing for resistance to alpha-cypermethrin is underway

Bluegreen Aphids

Bluegreen aphids (*Acyrtosiphon kondoi*) are a major pest of lucerne and can also attack lupins, medics and clovers. These tiny pests feed directly on the foliage, damaging the plant and spreading harmful viruses through infected crops.

Bluegreen aphids are grey-green to blue-green coloured and can be distinguished from other aphids by their long legs, antennae and cornicles. They are widely distributed and found in all states of Australia. They are most common in spring but are also active in autumn and winter.

For more information see the PestNotes on bluegreen aphid.



Bluegreen Aphid. Photo by Andrew Weeks, Cesar Australia.

Insecticide Resistance

To date, growers have had access to a limited range of insecticides to control bluegreen aphid populations. During the past two years, several growers and agronomists in New South Wales and South Australia have reported that currently registered insecticide (group 1A & 1B) sprays no longer effectively control bluegreen aphid populations.

Dr Evatt Chirgwin, Cesar Australia is leading the Understanding bluegreen aphid resistance in the pasture seeds industry project; where he is testing bluegreen aphid populations collected from key lucerne-growing regions in New South Wales and South Australia for signs of evolutionary resistance.

Previous investigations through collaborative research with CSIRO, and funded by the Grains Research Development Corporation, suggest these field populations may have evolved resistance to insecticides.

Results from new research initiatives

So far, all three field-collected populations of bluegreen aphids have evolved resistance to organophosphates (omethoate and chlorpyrifos) and carbamates (pirimicarb). These field populations were collected in 2020 and 2021 after producer reported chemical control failures. Dr Chirgwin will now test for bluegreen aphid resistance to pyrethroids.

While the evolution of insecticide resistance is reasonably common in some species of crop pests, such as green peach aphids, the resistance reported in bluegreen aphids as part of this project appears to be the first of its kind in this species. The team will also be undertaking preliminary molecular work to determine how this resistance is evolving.

The project team is also keen to determine just how far resistance may have spread to get a clear understanding of the potential impact. A resistance map will be developed to understand which regions are most at risk during the coming season.

Growers experiencing issues with bluegreen aphid control are encouraged to Dr Chirgwin echirgwin@cesaraustralia.com

More Information

AgriFutures Pasture Seed Program, visit: www.agrifutures.com.au/rural-industries/pasture-seeds/

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Agrifutures and Lucerne Australia for supporting this research, and the growers and advisors who have provided samples for resistance testing. Our early insecticide baseline research on aphids, including on bluegreen aphid, has been undertaken in conjunction with CSIRO. GRDC has contributed funding for the preceding work on BGA run in conjunction with CSIRO.

continued...

Emergency Use Permit (PER91940)

In the face of these reports, Lucerne Australia has actively pursued an emergency use permit to meet the immediate crop protection needs of the lucerne seed industry.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has now issued an emergency use permit (PER91940) for the use of UPL's MainMan® 500 WG (active ingredient: 500g/kg Flonicamid) to control Bluegreen aphid in lucerne for seed production. The permit is valid from 7th January 2022 until 31st January 2024.

As with any chemical application, care should be taken to observe ALL the label recommendations. The permit has recommendations for use, rates and with-holding periods (WHP) that MUST be observed.

The permit can be accessed via the APVMA Permits portal <https://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER91940.PDF>



SYNERGY SEEDS UPDATE

by Craig Myall, Managing Director



Synergy Seeds welcomed Adam Davies to the business in February in the newly created role of National Forage Sales and Marketing Manager. Adam has over 30 years-experience in the small seed business here in Australia, having held significant positions during his career in Heritage Seeds, Pioneer Seeds and most recently Pasture Genetics (formerly Seed Distributors). We look forward to his knowledge and experience benefitting our business, and our grower and customer base.

To the numbers. Over 1700mt departed Australian ports in the final quarter of the 2021 calendar year which drove our full year number of Lucerne exports to 9,271mt. As is customary, Saudi Arabia was the largest destination of this seed receiving 3,711mt from Australia. It was 18% down on its 2020 imports, however it still equated to 40% of the total annual Lucerne seed exported, and in dollar value it would have been much higher given the increase in pricing over the period.

The USA received 1,732mt in 2021, 7% up year on year, and although a distant second to Saudi, it did still make up 19% of Australian Lucerne seed exports. South Africa increased its consumption by 5% on year previous by importing 1,156mt, whilst Argentina almost mirrored imports of year prior with 931mt. These four countries combined were responsible for 81% of the total exports of Lucerne in 2021.

Unfortunately, the current shipping crisis shows no sign of slowing with vessel shortages and massive increases in charges a continual challenge for all exporters. Some routes have quadrupled in price in a very short time, whilst others have significantly reduced the amount of availability for space, or in some cases, drastically lessened the activity to locations with "one-way" trade (i.e. import but no export). The shining light in all of this is that everyone across the globe is facing the same challenges thus we are not in this predicament alone.

Harvest is now upon us and although we have had some untimely weather events of late impact crops, in general the yields appear to be quite good. Whilst the final aggregated area of certified production will only be known in the coming weeks, I would expect an increase from last harvest of around 15%. Offsetting this is the fact that stocks of Australian Lucerne seed carried over from previous is at an all-time low, which bodes well for demand.

Best of luck to all seed producers for the coming harvest, and for those of you that will attend the Lucindale Field Days this year, please feel free to drop into our site 182 on the corner of Robinson St and Rayner Rd for a barista brewed cup of Synergy coffee!!

CONTACTS

Craig Myall
Nathan Smith
Wayne Heading

Managing Director 0409 392 320
Sales & Supply Manager 0487 655 220
Production & Procurement 0427 071 458

craig@synergysseeds.com.au
nathan@synergysseeds.com.au
wayne@synergysseeds.com.au

ACID SOILS SA

SOIL ACIDITY AND LIMING WORKSHOP

PLUS FARM TRIAL TOUR
23 MARCH 2022



GRDC

ACID SOILS SA



PHOTO: ANDREW HARDING, PIRSA

Growers and advisers are invited to the 2022 Acid Soils SA workshop and field trip which will explore the management of surface and subsurface acidity.

Hear from leading experts on the cause and effect of soil acidity, soil pH mapping and NDVI, lime sources and application rates, recent research results from current lime trials across SA and on-farm decision support models. The field trip component at Heinrich's Farm will look at their recent acid soils trial, and review the trial design and results. Presenters will also cover strategies for deep ripping sandy ground, pH mapping and liming and yield penalties from acid soils.

REGISTRATION

To register click here:

acidsoilsworkshopcoonalpyn.eventbrite.com.au

This is a free or charge workshop, but registration is essential for COVID management and catering purposes.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Belinda Cay

0423 295 576

belinda.cay@agcommunicators.com.au

LOCATION

COONALPYN

WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH

Venue: Borderdowns Tintinara
Football Club, Coonalpyn.

Followed by a site visit to view the acid soil trial at the Heinrich's farm (address provided upon registration, note you will need to drive your own vehicle here).



LUCERNE AGRONOMY REPORT

by Scott Hutchings, Senior Agronomist, Cox Rural

Irrigated Lucerne harvest is currently well underway and in general is 7-14 days earlier than usual due to generally good seed setting conditions from Christmas to late February. The hot humid but dry conditions experienced in the core lucerne seed growing areas during this period were favourable for bee activity and lucerne pollination resulting in a solid and compacted seed set period. Recent storm events resulting in isolated high rainfall has delayed harvest and been damaging to some crops. This has resulted in sprouted seed and damage has been magnified if crops were in windrows when the rainfall event hit due to the slow dry out period. The areas that were rain effected vary considerably due to the nature of storm events but I expect that clean out figures will be significantly higher from those crops effected. Yields prior to the rainfall event were above average and good samples. Conditions moving forward look favourable for getting the bulk of the harvest completed in good conditions but with some increased clean percentages.

Dryland harvest was for the majority complete when the rain was received in early March with only a minority of crops effected. Yields have been solid, ranging from 100kg - 400kg and overall averages hovering around the 150kg. The dry summer with minimal or no in crop rain generally resulted in a slightly smaller seed size in the dryland seed crop and limited some of the top end yield potential in dryer areas.

Pest issues this summer have been the usual spectrum but far less aphid numbers were observed possibly due an increased IPM approach for early season management based on last years issues. Now that resistant populations to the commonly used group 1A insecticides (Pirimicarb) & Group 1B (Chlorpyrifos, Omethoate) has been confirmed agronomists are urged to review current control strategies and introduce some of the new available insecticide groups to management plans and monitor more closely for thresholds and beneficial insect numbers and avoid prophylactic treatments.

Crop Mirids have once again been a persistent issue in seed crops and further research is required as they seem to be becoming more frequent and at higher numbers in recent years. There are gaps in data and information in relation to life cycle, damage levels, thresholds and control efficacy.

Seed wasp numbers increased late in the season and some effect on seed quality has been seen in later crops and seedling crops which often set later and over a longer period.

Generally speaking crops have set well and off header yields are expected to be above long term averages but weather events, seed wasp and mirids may effect clean out percentages adversely.

BARENBRUG REPORT



Domestic Lucerne Market

Demand for semi winter active and winter active varieties has again been strong in early autumn. Sheep and beef sectors remain buoyant with stock numbers growing, graziers are prepared to invest in new lucerne stands.

This has been evident in all key southern lucerne growing areas. We expect this demand to stay high moving through autumn and then into spring.

There are also part of the north which have experienced flood or extreme wet conditions which will also need to re-establish and hence we expect demand in these regions to be high when farmers can get back out on paddocks.

International Lucerne Market

The global lucerne market remains strong, amid business re-opening to improved global travel with international borders opening across the globe. Global inventory levels remain low and this is putting increased pressure on availability of new season Australian seed. The increases in the cost

of seed and sea freight is dampening the impact of some buyers but generally major buyers remain bullish and positive.

Seed Production Update

It is my pleasure to introduce Michael Birks to our Seed Production Team as the successor for Tom Botterill who has provided an excellent service to our growers and cleaning sheds over the past 4 years. Michael joins Barenbrug as our Seed Production Agronomist covering the Lower Southeast of South Australia and Tasmania regions.

Michael has a vast experience across many facets of the agriculture industry spending time as an agronomist and on the land in a mixed farming enterprise out of Esperance W.A. Over the past 5 years Michael was the South Australian Territory Manager for the agricultural chemical company - UPL/Arysta. With a strong background in agronomy and Ag Chem he will continue to build a valued service to our grower base.

Michael will commence his role on Monday 14th March. His contact phone number is 0456 437 976.

DAIRY MARKET UPDATE

by Eliza Redfern, Dairy Australia



Whether it is consumer goods, agricultural inputs or freight, costs seem to only be heading in one direction at the moment – up. Inflationary pressures are being noticed across the global economy, and Australia’s dairy industry is starting to feel the impact. Increasing costs for some inputs are starting to chip away at margins, while others remain difficult to access due to supply disruptions.

Despite these challenges, Australia’s dairy industry remain profitable. Strong demand and weak supply have continued to drive commodity values higher, with some flow-on impact on farmgate prices in southern export-focused regions.

Since the start of 2022, dairy commodity prices have jumped higher. A shrinking global milk pool has been a major driver behind these leaps. Due to weather challenges, New Zealand’s (NZ) production has taken a dive this summer, down by 6.1% in January on a tonnage basis, pulling the full season result towards what local analysts forecast will be around a 3% drop. In Europe, milk flows remain sluggish, despite rising farmgate milk prices. Declining cow numbers, poor quality feed, higher input costs and shortages of workers and fertiliser continue to weigh on growth opportunities. In the United States (US), high input costs and supply chain struggles are also affecting supply. While reports suggest some producers in the west of the country have expanded herds in recent months, overall national milk production fell marginally by 0.1% in December 2021.

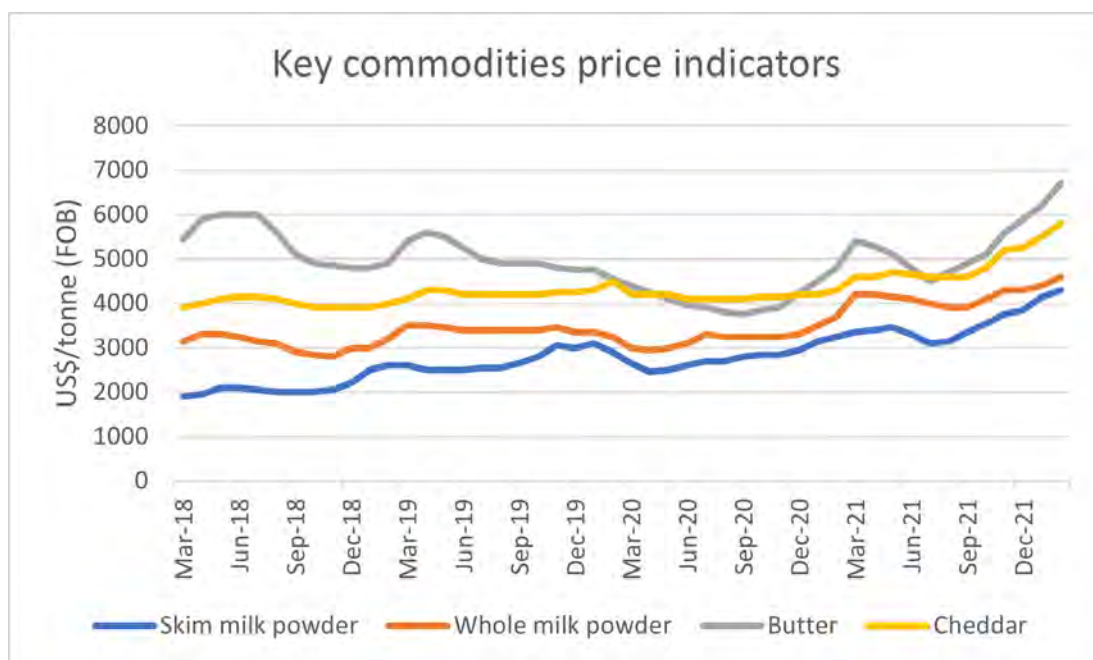
In Australia, labour shortages, farm exits and ongoing culling continue to affect the national milk pool. Milk flows slowed by 6.3% this January, and year-to-date volumes were down by 2.6%. Overall, a smaller national herd and subdued per-cow yields, due to weather challenges and poorer quality feed, are projected to result in a reduction in Australia’s national milk pool this season.

As such, Dairy Australia has revised its forecast to indicate a 1% to 3% drop in the national milk pool this season. This would equate to a 2021/22 full-year range of between 8.59 and 8.77 billion litres.

As slowing milk volumes support prices on a fundamental level, logistical issues continue to cause disruption and delay. Shipping congestion, a lack of containers (especially reefers), late departures and staffing shortages are constant pain points. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is also expected to make freight more challenging going forward. This all seems to have made some buyers more eager to stock up on product now, to avoid being left short in the event of further disruptions.

While logistical challenges and political tensions have played a part in boosting dairy trades, global demand has also firmed. In the 12 months to November 2021, global dairy exports increased by 6.5% on a tonnage basis, with strong demand from most corners of the world. Combined with the current lack of supply, dairy commodity prices look fundamentally well-supported, though most Australian manufacturers are unlikely to immediately benefit, being already sold out of product this season.

Looking ahead, inflationary pressures are unlikely to abate any time soon. Australia’s dairy industry is far from immune, with mounting cost pressures and margin impacts across the supply chain. As prices maintain their upwards trajectory, supportive market fundamentals continue to provide cause for optimism. Increasing demand and weaker supply underpin elevated commodity values, while a smaller national milk pool in Australia is likely to result in strong competition when new season prices are announced.



Building resilient businesses that tap into their strengths and support systems to overcome farming adversity and challenges.



Do you operate a South Australian grain or livestock business?
Do you want to learn how to manage and adapt to risk?
Do you want to improve your business' economic, environmental and social resilience?

Get subsidised access to leading advisers who will deliver both on-farm support and group workshop learning to prepare you and your business to bounce back in the face of adverse climate and other challenges through the new AgRi-Silience program, a joint project between Livestock SA and Grain Producers SA.

Participants will finish the program with a **Resilience Roadmap**, which will help you build resilience and boost productivity, profitability and sustainability over the long-term.

The training will be individually tailored to your business to ensure you get maximum value from the program.

Local facilitators will deliver facilitated learning, expert guidance and coaching, along with the support of subject matter experts with specialist skills in strategic farm business management and planning, farm risk management and decision making, natural resource management and personal and social resilience.

You will get one-on-one support from subject matter experts to help boost your business' resilience.

Each participating business is required to contribute \$500 (ex. GST) and, where there is a genuine need, may be able to access reimbursement for travel and childcare costs from PIRSA.

To maximise the benefits of the program, it is recommended two members of a farm business attend the training. Additional participants are welcome, subject to demand, and will need to pay for the full cost of the program.

AGRI-SILIENCE WILL HELP YOU AND YOUR STAFF:

- Improve your financial literacy and, in the process, learn new ways to build the financial viability of your business.
- Become more confident in decision-making by conducting risk assessments.
- Learn new skills and techniques to build your own personal resilience, helping you to concentrate on the business at hand rather than dwell on negatives.
- Become high-performing contributors regarding decision making and operations.

Apply now: bit.ly/Livestock-Agri-Silience



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



Future
Drought
Fund



Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries
and Regions



SCAN ME

MAKING SAFETY A PRIORITY DURING SEEDING

courtesy of Safe Ag Systems



As we approach the cooler weather here in Australia, Lucerne farmers are steadily preparing for seeding season. Farming is one of the most dangerous industries which comes as a surprise to most people outside of the industry. Whilst there is a desire to put in more hours, completing as much work with as little down time as possible, and increased yields, a strong seeding season shouldn't result in a broken farmer.

According to Safe Work Australia, the main causes of fatalities for crop farmers came from being hit by moving objects (27%), Rollover of non-road vehicle (18%) or being trapped by moving machinery (18%). With that in mind there are a few things you can implement this seeding season to stay safe.

In what feels like such a small time frame to complete seeding, preparation is one of the most important things you can do to support farm safety this season. Here is our list of areas we try to focus on, to identify and address hazards and any other potential risks.

A few things to consider:

Fatigue

One of the most common hazards on farm all year-round, fatigue is the most underrated risks for everyone. Associated with feeling tired, it can be so much more. Fatigue is that overall feeling of tiredness and lack of energy. It can interfere with normal daily activities and functions, impacting our alertness and reducing our reaction times. Did you know that it can even affect your ability to communicate as well as your mood too?

Although an organised roster can help, the amount and quality of sleep a person gets is more important. Research tell us the average person needs at least 6 hours of sleep a night, ideally 7 – 7.5hrs of uninterrupted, good quality sleep, depending on the individual.

So how do we manage this risk during seeding since you can't control how people sleep?

- Create realistic goals of what your team can complete in a day
- Ensure your team take adequate breaks
- Remember to eat and drink plenty of water
- Roster shift breaks – 14 hours or more is good, 10 or less is not ideal
- Consider how many days your workers get between rostered time off – if it's more than 12 days before a break, the risk is higher than a break after 6 days.

Tractor Safety

Farmers everywhere incorporate machinery equipment into their day-to-day tasks, but did you know tractors are the most common piece of farming equipment? It makes sense since they serve multiple purposes, they can handle different types of material including feed, they can tow loads and they can act as a remote power source. Presenting more than a handful of hazards for farmers, it is the responsibility of both the employer and worker to reduce the risks and mitigate the chance for injury.

So how can you control the risks associated with tractors and other farm machinery? Safe Work Procedures contribute to your risk management strategies. The role of your SWP is to help reduce risks to the health and safety in the workplace. They are documents that detail how your worker can complete their task/job in safe manner.

Your SWP should detail pre-operation safety checks. Does your tractor have suitable Roll Over Protection Structure (ROPS)? Have you checked the hydraulic hoses and fittings for leaks? Are entry and exit steps in good order with non slip surface and grab rails.

Below are five tips for tractor safety and how you can reduce the risks on your farm:

- As an operator, know your tractor. Fully understand your machinery's capabilities and hazards
- Complete the proper training. A worker who doesn't know how to safely operator a tractor can cause a potentially hazardous situation
- Take special care on rough terrain. Steep, rough, or slippery ground along with towing implements can increase the chance of the driver losing control.
- Reconsider passengers and keep children away during operation. The only time you should consider allowing passengers is if there is a second seat with the appropriate protection

Shared Roadways

Each year, especially around planting, harvest and other peak seasons, there are accidents involving public roadways, passenger vehicles and tractors around the world. These accidents are often associated with speed and vision since a tractor tends to travel much slower than a passenger vehicle.

Before taking your tractor on a public roadway you should ensure you have the correct license for your state, that your vehicle meets any regulatory requirements, you understand the road rules and the machinery is appropriately prepared.

Without alerting other road users with signs or hazard lights, a passenger vehicle can approach a tractor from behind at high speeds unaware of the danger ahead, ultimately resulting in a collision. Be aware of passenger vehicles, move out of the way if you can do so, and allow them to safely pass.

Keeping our roads safe is a shared responsibility:

- Ensure you have the correct license and permit for your state
- Confirm tractor drivers have completed specialised training for the particular farm needs
- Have a reversing cameras on equipment and ensure audible reversing alarms are fitted and operational
- Watch out for ditches, embankments and depressions – crumbling and slippery banks can cause overturns
- Observe road rules, rights of way and clearances from overhead electric lines

Inspect your space

In the lead up to seeding, and on the farm in general, we know there are a lot of risks due to various tasks including working with chemicals, confined spaces, access to machinery and equipment, the environment, working at heights and so much more. Identifying critical hazards before they cause an incident or injury requires a proactive approach.

As part of your hazard identification tool kit, a safety inspection gives you the ability to identify, and report on, potential hazards and dangers in your workplace so then they can be removed or avoided. Safety inspections allow you, and your workers to understand the jobs and tasks being performed then address any concerns. Ultimately, all of these activities assist in improving your health and safety performance as well as reducing the risk of damaged assets and lost revenue. Safety inspections can help you address the areas discussed earlier in this article as well as an machinery and equipment, structures, power tools, people safety, and electrical safety.

Things to consider after your safety inspection:

- How will your corrective actions be tracked, managed, and completed?
- Who will be responsible for ensuring findings are actioned in a timely manner?
- How will you document your communication and consultation?

Its important to remember that farm safety doesn't end when seeding does. Making small changes that gradually become everyday routine can help your team become more productive, reduce human error and provides your team with a framework to make better decisions, ensuring everyone goes home safe. Download a copy of our Farm Safety Checklist to refer to this seeding season.

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 Safe Ag Systems | Safety Management Software or contact their team on 08 8490 0939.



Prioritise Farm Safety During Seeding

Farming is one of the most dangerous industries which comes as a surprise to most people outside of the industry. Whilst there is a desire to put in more hours, completing as much work with as little down time as possible, and increased yields, a strong seeding season shouldn't result in a broken farmer.

Preparation is one of the most important things you can do to support farm safety. Here are a few examples to consider when identifying hazards and any other potential risks during seeding. Keep in mind this isn't an exhaustive list.



Fatigue Management

- Are your daily goals realistic?
- Schedule adequate breaks throughout the day
- Allow for sufficient breaks between rostered shifts
- Pack a reusable water bottle and set reminders on your phone

Traffic Management

- Certify you have the correct license and permit for your state
- Ensure reversing cameras and audible reversing alarms are fitted and operational
- Watch out for ditches, embankments and depressions
- Observe road rules, rights of way and clearances from overhead electric lines

Tractor Safety

- Complete the proper training and hold a valid licence
- Understand your machinery's capabilities and hazards
- Take special care on rough terrain
- Reconsider passengers and keep children away during operation

Inspect your space

- How will your corrective actions be tracked, managed, and completed?
- Who will be responsible for ensuring findings are actioned in a timely manner?
- How will you document your communication and consultation?



TATIARA SEEDS REPORT

by Graham Ramsdale

Welcome to another season of Lucerne seed harvesting, seed processing, seed treating and seed despatching either into shipping containers or into warehouses for distribution in Australia. The older I get the faster each season comes around.

For having virtually no rain in our Spring, most growers were amazed at the yields of dryland lucerne and from a processor's perspective the seed quality and colour were very good. Also some of the irrigated Lucerne is harvested earlier than other years. One grower commented that they had never harvested irrigated lucerne in February before, yet this year a sizable percentage of their crop was harvested in February. Any seed harvested before our recent thunderstorms had excellent colour with few brown seeds; however, those who got a reasonable amount of rain and where things stayed damp and humid for a while had more brown seed.

How fortunate we are to live in "The Good Country" compared with the rain along the Eastern seaboard. I remember that in 1982 we had a year of low rainfall. We had Ash Wednesday in February 1983; it started raining on the 1st March and we received 7 inches (175mls) in the following 6 weeks. There were no seed dryers in the South East. One of our growers delivered lucerne seed and we cleaned it. It came back with 70% germination, so we cleaned it again, took away about 30% and that came back at 70% germ. We recleaned it again, took away another 30% and it still came back at 70% germ. So, we gave up.

Tatiara Seeds has invested in 10 X 126 tonne silos to help us store larger lines of product. We are on track with our annual and perennial clover processing even though there is still clover being harvested. We are using our food processing plant to process pasture seeds, and it would be nice to have no more rain until the end of April to allow the lucerne seed to be harvested without weather damage. None of us has control over that. We are continuing to improve our processing efficiency with equipment to reduce our down time.

The challenge ahead is for our marketers to give our growers as good a price as possible, but also to export our seeds throughout the world, given the uncertainty of shipping container availability and world peace.

Another challenge this year that we hadn't encountered before is the lack of Chep pallets and pallets in general. We are asking for the freight companies to bring exchange Cheps so we can still place product on Chep pallets but not run out of them completely. We have resorted to lifting bulka bags on trucks without pallets underneath them; and are trying to order export pallets far enough in advance that we don't run out.

Covid is almost having more effect on people that when we were in and out of lockdown...just another challenge.

Hoping that all growers enjoy trouble free harvesting and that yields are higher than expected

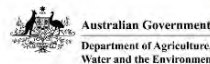
LIMESTONE COAST WOMEN IN AG NETWORK

courtesy of MacKillop Farm Management Group

The Limestone Coast Women in Ag Network (LCWiAN) is a network for women in the agriculture industry in the Limestone Coast to communicate with and support each other in both a social and a professional capacity, building strong connectedness in the region.

MacKillop Farm Management Group is coordinating the network and is excited to work with DairySA, Lucerne Australia, the Grassland Society of Southern Australia, Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan, Women in Business and Regional Development, WoTL (Women Together Learning) and the Limestone Coast Landscape Board to establish the network. This network is funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and their Networks to Build Drought Resilience program, which is administered by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal.

During 2022, the LCWiAN will offer four workshops focused on business management, communication, human resources and tertiary education and learning to build a skillset for financial stability. There will also be two events where you will meet other women involved in agriculture in the Limestone Coast and hear stories of success.



This project is supported by FRRR, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.



We'd love you to join and participate in our Network by signing up here: <https://bit.ly/3i4r5jT>. Becoming a member of our Network is free, and when you sign up you'll receive direct communication about all of our events and networking opportunities.

As part of our Network, we have established a private Facebook group. The purpose for this group is to share information, build connections, socialise and get to know each other! Once you have joined our Network, you'll be directed to Facebook to join our group. Join the Facebook group and introduce yourself before 30 April 2022 and we will put you into a draw to win one ticket to the Thriving Women 2022 conference, being held at the Adelaide Hills, Convention Centre, Hahndorf on 1 and 2 August.



LUCERNE EXPORT STATISTICS FROM AUSTRALIA

- January 2013 to January 2022

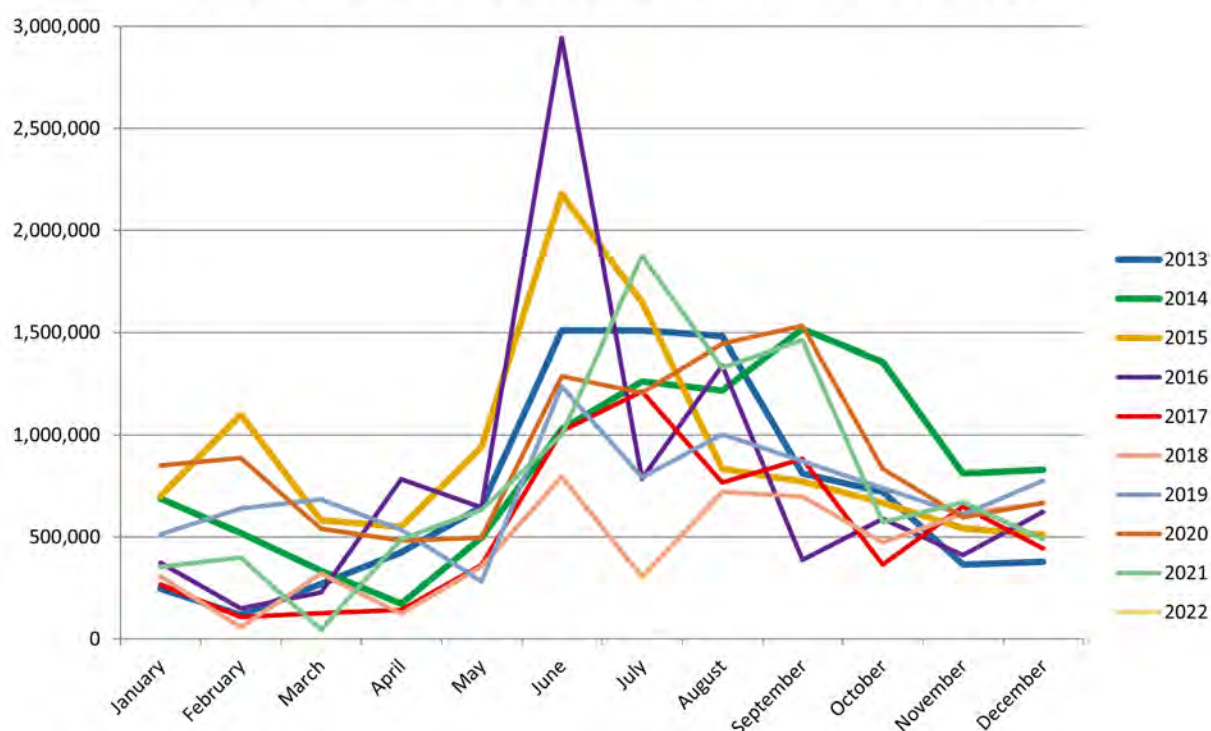
courtesy of Teague Australia

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		
Mar	269,091	334,033	582,929	227,050	127,000	321,205	684,044	539,525	44,500		
Apr	424,057	171,816	549,340	784,031	143,025	123,100	536,501	482,194	439,500		
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	515,246	

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



Photos from recent Trial Field Day - Courtesy of AgriFutures Australia.

INTRODUCING NEW LA EXECUTIVE MEMBER - GREG EXCELL

Lucerne Australia is pleased to advise members that Associate Member Greg Excell has joined the LA Executive to fill the casual vacancy left following Jess appointment to the AgriFutures Pasture Seeds Advisory Panel.

"Being the son of a local farmer I have grown up with sheep and cropping and live on a small farm in Mundulla with my wife and two young children.

I have more than twenty eight years experience in the seed industry. I have performed various roles including seed cleaning, grain drying and engineering, and have now purchase my own seed processing site called Limestone Coast Seeds.

In this time I have seen how different each season can be with factors such as high rainfall, seed wasp and low sales impacting on growers' confidence and industry outcomes. However, I have also seen strong demand for seed and high yielding years.

I work 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 me the many benefits that Lucerne Australia can offer the industry."

LUCERNE AUSTRALIA

Sponsors

Gold



Rabobank

Silver

Nutrien
Ag Solutions™

ROPE
PACKAGING

SEED SERVICES
AUSTRALIA



BENPARTS
IRRIGATION SPECIALISTS
Phone: (08) 8365 3855 sales@benparts.com.au
Adelaide/Bordertown www.benparts.com.au

MURRAY NANKIVELL
Your future...count on us

Associate/Bronze

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

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.



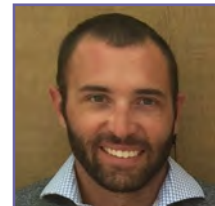
Rodney Lush, Grower Member
Contact: 0419 862 510

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 Proadvice.



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.