

SA Farmer

TAYLOR
GROUP MEDIA

SUMMER 2024



**Water returns
to Banrock**
Page 10

**Mel's Arabian
therapy herd**
Page 26

**Record
Flows**
Page 36

DEUTZ FAHR **CABIN DEAL**

- | 40KM/H FOUR CYLINDER TURBOCHARGED ENGINE
- | WET CLUTCH POWERSHUTTLE
- | 30/30 FORWARD/REVERSE GEARS
- | FOUR WHEEL INDEPENDENT BRAKING

2.99%^{P.A}
FINANCE

AGROFARM G 115GS TRACTOR

INCLUDES AGROLIFT 3640 LOADER 110HP

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

NOW
\$89,900 EX GST*

\$98,890 INC GST*



DEUTZ FAHR **DEALER**

SEE US IN STORE TODAY PH: 8586 6136



Riverland
AGRI SERVICES

MARIA: 0429 699 167
MECHANIC: 0455 038 686

57 Renmark Ave, Renmark | admin@riverlandagri.com



Plan / Grow / Prosper

PRP Group - PRP Accounting Services and PRP Wealth Management.



Brett Miegel

CPA, BCom
Director / Senior Tax Accountant

Brett is a Certified Practising Accountant with over seventeen years of experience in accounting and taxation, holding a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of South Australia. His family's entrepreneurial background fuels his passion for helping clients achieve financial goals and optimise tax strategies. Brett and his team are committed to achieving the best outcomes for each client.



**SEE HOW WE
CAN HELP
YOU TODAY.**



Steve Jaensch

Steve Jaensch CFP® Dip FP
Director, Senior Financial Adviser

Authorised Representative Number
000245996



Garry Pinnington

Garry Pinnington CFP® Dip FP
Director, Senior Financial Adviser

Authorised Representative Number
000246110

08 8586 6644 | 172 Fourteenth Street, Renmark

Profit & Retirement Planning Pty Ltd is a Corporate
Authorised Representative of Matrix Planning Solutions
Limited no 000432447 | AFSL No 238256 |
centrepoinalliance.com.au/fsg



Shearwell Data

Livestock Systems



Scan me

Not *just* a sheep tag.

The Shearwell eID tag is the first step towards
**better traceability & easier
livestock management.**



NLIS
accredited



Lightweight,
one-piece
design



Our tags stay in!



FREE postage when
you order 1500+ tags



Use the same
applicator for both
EID & visual tags!

Stephen & Alison Rutledge

using Shearwell eID tags for 5 years...

"We have found the retention rate to be excellent. Their performance has been faultless, with all tags scanning correctly."

Available from your local rural retailer | 1800 998 934    shearwell.com.au

Welcome to SA Farmer, Summer 2024 edition

Welcome to the Summer 2024 edition of the SA Farmer publication.

SA Farmer is produced by the hard-working team at Taylor Group Media, with Riverland, Mallee and Lower North-based journalists dedicated to finding stories worth telling about the regions' primary producers, business owners and industry experts.

This edition has been produced against the unfortunate backdrop of challenges throughout the South Australian primary production sector. Frost events experienced in September had a devastating effect on vineyards – particularly in the Riverland, and on broadacre farms. This only compounded upon troubles caused by ongoing below-average rainfall. The challenges are tough, but they must be highlighted.

However, as always SA Farmer showcases the stories of innovation and dedication that keep agriculture going. Featured in this issue is a Barossa-based family operation producing premium olive oil, the return of water to an iconic Riverland wetland area, and the career development of a young irrigation technician.

The regular ag news section showcases what is happening in the agricultural industry at a state and national level.

A select few include in-depth looks at the current tomato virus outbreaks in South Australia, and the increase of South Australian exports to China. Research into the development of pathogen-resistant crops is also examined.

A number of industry experts once again give their updates on wine grapes, almonds and citrus at this time of year.

The popular SA Farmer growing guide once again provides readers with information needed to grow the best summer fruit and vegetables, while the regular rainfall report gives an insight into how rain levels are comparing at this time of year compared to 2023.

The publication would not be what it is without the added support of advertisers, and the production team behind the scenes.

We hope you enjoy the summer 2024 edition of SA Farmer and, until next time, keep updated online by visiting the free-to-read website (www.safarmer.com.au).

- The SA Farmer team

INSIDE



9



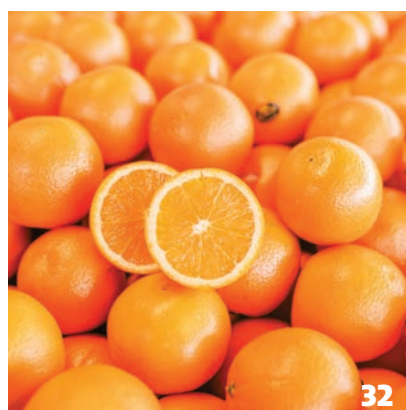
10



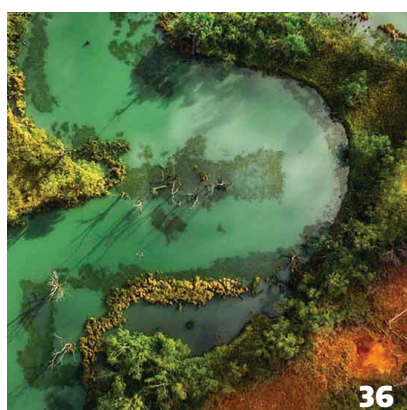
16



26



32



36

9 The frost that impacts everyone

10 Diving into a new era at Banrock Station

16 AG News

26 Mel's Arabian therapy herd

32 Industry expert update

36 Record environmental flows



Miracle Park Stables has a team of 28 ponies and horses, with 13 part of an Arabian herd Ms Sargent has spent a life-time researching, tracing the bloodlines, and breeding herself.

**COVER PHOTO:
MADISON EASTMOND**

SA Farmer

EDITOR

Hugh Schuitemaker

DESIGN

Tilly Cullen

ADVERTISING

08 8586 8000

ads@murraypioneer.com.au

Tony Swan

Paul Miles

Claire Abbott

Glenda Malinovski

Caitlin Bruce

Donna Mahoney

Rino Lanzilli

Paul McCormick

DISCLAIMER: All information contained in this publication was correct at the time of printing. All advertisements are accepted on the basis that their content is true and accurate and that they are in no way misleading. Taylor Group Media do not accept any liability to any person claiming they have been misled by material contained herein. Copyright Taylor Group Media.

PUBLISHER

**TAYLOR
GROUP MEDIA**



Using ‘white noise’ to stimulate soil and ecosystem recovery

WORDS SEBASTIAN CALDERON

HUMANS have studied soundwaves for centuries and the idea that themselves move in waves goes back to the first century B.C, with the Roman engineer Vitruvius and Roman Philosopher Boethius theorising that sound moved in waves.

Fifteen centuries later, modern study of sound, the way it travels through air and different materials is attributed to Galileo Galilei (1564-1642).

Fast forward to 2024, its use in animals and human behaviour for medicine purposes, has been well documented and it has proven to provide positive benefits in terms of health and wellbeing.

Based on human studies, experts started to question themselves if there were any potential benefits of using specific soundwaves in farming and agriculture, given that the soil we use to

harvest our foods, and its plants, are an immense living ecosystem.

Flinders University scientists, led by microbial ecologist Dr Jake Robinson, demonstrated in their latest study the proven benefits of acoustic stimulation on the growth rate and sporulation within a plant growth-promoting fungus.

“In our experiments, we show that

the acoustic stimulation resulted in increased fungal biomass and enhanced *Trichoderma harzianum* spore activity compared to controls,” said Dr Robinson in a new article in *Biology Letters*.

“These results indicate that acoustic stimulation influences plant growth-promoting fungal growth and potentially facilitates their functioning (e.g. stimulating sporulation).

Take control of your business’ future.

Our team of specialists can assist you with the following services:

- Strategic Planning
- Succession Planning
- Periodic Business Performance Reviews
- Business & Financial Health Checks
- Business & Equipment Finance

Contact Mark Fielke 0488 988 994
Adelaide | Berri | Loxton | Mildura
www.rls.net.au

ACL 391835



"We strive to find novel ways to speed up and improve levels of beneficial fungi and other microbes in degraded soils. It could have wide-ranging benefits for restoring degraded landscapes and farming land to feed the world."

During their research, experts found that specific sounds or 'white noise', set at 80 dB, created and increased a stimulated response in soil bacteria *E. coli*.

It has been well documented that sound has an impact on ecosystems and their natural behaviours, according to the 2021 study 'The Effects of Anthropogenic Sound and Artificial Light Exposure on Microbiomes: Ecological and Public Health Implications' made by Dr Robinson alongside researchers Ross Cameron and Brenda Parker.

"Think of the monotone sound an old-school radio makes in between channels," Dr Robinson explained.

The selected bacteria for the current study was fungus *T. harzianum*, known for its beneficial purposes and positive effects on plants, disease protection or plant growth and enhanced nutrient purposes, which translated to agriculture, it has demonstrated to parasite other fungi, known to be harmful plant pathogens.

According to Dr Robinson, one of the next steps in the study is to find out real-life benefits of microbial growth on plants and their health improvements, with the objective of scaling up the experiments outside the laboratories and begin experiments on actual crops.

"While still in its early stages, the next steps will involve studying the microbiome response mechanisms, the flow-on effect on plants and how to work out how to scale it up in the field," Dr Robinson said.

"We also need to understand whether this approach could have any potential cascading or unintended consequences," he added.

"Our novel study highlights the potential of acoustic stimulation to alter important fungal attributes,

which could, with further development, be harnessed to aid ecosystem restoration and sustainable agriculture".

Real life applications for soundwave utilisation in crops and farms across Australia are among the objectives of the study, including benefits such as mitigating seasonal disadvantages or weather disruptions, protection against pest diseases and the possibility of reducing harvest time between crops, which could lead to an extensive farming season across all Australian states and an improved solution to find and fix soil degradation.

New soundwave technologies are also being put into trial scenarios where its advantages can aid the restoration of different types of soil used in large harvesting areas.

According to the United Nations global initiative – the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, there is an absence of large-scale ecosystem restoration projects alongside a lack of effective monitoring strategies, leading to a estimated 90 per cent of the Earth's land to be degraded by 2050.

Among the most common causes are urbanisation, deforestation, overgrazing and other harmful practices, which is now affecting human health and undermining food production and natural ecosystems, researchers say.

Co-author of the new article, Associate Professor Martin Breed from the Restoration Ecology lab at Flinders University's College of Science and Engineering, says the potential for this kind of approach is vital in a bid to head off biodiversity loss and speed up ecosystem restoration.



Microbial ecologist Dr Jake Robinson, demonstrated in their latest study the proven benefits of acoustic stimulation on the growth rate and sporulation within a plant growth-promoting fungus.



Rural people helping rural people

Are you concerned about cashflow?
Or do you have questions about mining,
quarrying or exploration in your area?

Free, independent and confidential support.



Rural Financial Counselling Service

Support for eligible farming families and rural related businesses, who are experiencing financial difficulties.



Landowner Information Service

An impartial service for landowners, farmers and community members who have queries on resources exploration, mining and quarrying.

Free, independent and confidential
FREE CALL 1800 836 211
www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au



LOCAL MP FROST DAMAGE UPDATE



What is frost in crops?
Frost damage occurs when ice forms inside the plant tissue and injures the plant cells.



What causes frost damage?
Frost damage is caused by exposure to freezing temperatures.



Tony PASIN
Barker MP

Keep Aussie farmers farming

AUSTRALIA'S primary producers are among the finest in the world.

Generations of farmers have built our nation's reputation as a clean and reliable producer of the best food and fibre there is on offer.

Since our very first farmers tilled the soil, we've faced challenges, but farmers continue to succeed because they are resilient, efficient and innovative, despite Australia's challenging climate and in the face of competitive international markets.

Much of South Australia is in drought and it's shaping up to be the worst on record. To make matters worse, our Riverland and Mallee primary producers have also been hit by an unprecedented frost event while desperately trying to absorb increased input costs due to Labor's failure to manage inflation, and of course, for wine grape growers, the major re-adjustment of the sector as global wine markets recalibrate to changing consumer behaviour.

The issues facing our primary producers don't stop at the farm gate. This is also about the mechanics who fix their tractors, the schools that educate their children and the local businesses that are so vital to regional communities.

Unfortunately, two years of Labor Government has seen Australia's primary producers contend with a failed energy policy, a ban on live sheep exports, removal of productive water from the consumptive pool and a complete disregard for primary producers experiencing drought, frost and major commodity shocks.

Without the right policy settings implemented by a sympathetic government, we will start seeing more farming families leaving the agricultural sector and more imported food on our supermarket shelves.

I for one, want to support our farming communities through the tough times like we did in 2018 to ensure a future made and grown in Australia by our Aussie farming families.

TONY PASIN MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BARKER



Tim WHETSTONE
Chaffey MP

Unforgiving time for primary producers

IN September we experienced severe frost across the Riverland and South Australia. Temperatures dipped below -5C, bringing the worst frost that South Australia has encountered since 1982.

It wreaked havoc in the Riverland, Mallee, Clare Valley, Barossa, Mid North, Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula.

Every corner of the industry has been hit in some way, shape or form. The initial frost was very visual, yet we are still looking to see what the longer-term damage will be.

Some crops – grain crops, legumes, wine grapes, citrus, almonds and many other horticulture crops – saw losses between 25 and 100 per cent. Many growers will not harvest anything this season. The economic impact will add further pressure on growers that are already struggling through industry challenges.

Many livestock farmers are unsure whether they will be able to feed their herds. Farmers are reporting difficulty in buying due to cost and availability. On the back of flooding, drought, China's trade tariffs, record-high electricity prices, the cost of doing business and the lack of export initiatives, it is an unforgiving time for many of those primary producers and small businesses.

First and foremost, the concern is that of the mental health of our primary producers, with stress affecting the health and wellbeing of farmers, their families and the local community.

To our regional communities, I ask all of you to look after your neighbour. Look after your family and your grower friends.

My call is to every South Australian: if you have a relative on a farm, or friends out there as a primary producer, give them a call and ask them if they are okay. I believe our farmers can gain strength from our communities and in the face of a tough season our farmers will find ways to be even more resilient and stronger.

Despite the challenges, these industries are resilient and extremely important. The government has a role to play, and I want to see this state government get on the front foot, speak to their federal colleagues and make sure that South Australia is still on the map for another season.

Despite the profound resilience of our regions and our farmers, we must come together as a community and give them our support.

TIM WHETSTONE MP
MEMBER FOR CHAFFEY



Nicola CENTOFANTI
Riverland-based MLC

2024's hard toll on farmers

AS a resident of the Riverland, I have seen the emotional toll recent frosts and the dry winter have taken on our community.

I am regularly out speaking with growers, and this season people appear stunned and deeply affected.

Beyond the economic loss, which is significant, this is an urgent mental health issue for our regions, which are the economic lifeblood of our state.

These farmers and all the related businesses impacted by a severe season, who support our economy in prosperous times, need support now more than ever.

I urge anyone in our beloved Riverland and Murraylands communities – if you need help, do not be afraid to reach out and ask.

The frosts come on the heels of challenges for South Australia's primary industries sector, which is grappling with prolonged dry spells, low grape prices, rising energy costs, employment expenses, and uncertainties surrounding water buy-backs. While South Australian growers are familiar with the risks of seasonal agriculture, the combined weight of these market pressures, poor policy and extreme frost and dry conditions are unprecedented.

The South Australian Government must prioritise action in our regional communities. There is a need for a comprehensive disaster response to help our farmers and growers overcome this extraordinary setback. Swift, effective support is essential to mitigate the economic and personal consequences facing our communities.

I will continue to advocate for our Riverland community – both from my home in Winkie and in the South Australian Parliament.

My office is always contactable on the details below, and if anyone needs support right now, I recommend reaching out to:

Rural Business Support: 1800 836 211
Rural Alive and Well: 1300 4357 6283
Rural Health Connect: 0427 692 377
Lifeline: 13 11 14
ReachOut: au.reachout.com

Dr Nicola Centofanti MLC
Parliament House, North Tce, Adelaide 5000
Centofanti.Office@parliament.sa.gov.au

THE HON.
NICOLA CENTOFANTI
MLC

LOCAL MP FROST DAMAGE UPDATE



What is frost in crops?

Frost damage occurs when ice forms inside the plant tissue and injures the plant cells.



What causes frost damage?

Frost damage is caused by exposure to freezing temperatures.

Advertisement



Matt BURNELL MP
Federal Member for Spence

Supporting the North's Growers and Producers

As someone who grew up in a farming family, I know how much time, effort and hard work goes into running a successful farm.

And how heartbreaking it can be when primary producers experience extreme weather outside their control.

This can result in significant damage or loss, creating flow-on effects that not everyone can overcome.

And these severe weather conditions have meant local growers and producers in my community are experiencing a wide range of unprecedented challenges, including natural disasters.

When visiting producers in my Electorate, I've heard about these experiences first-hand, and these growers are concerned about the impact adverse weather will have on their future.

Their input has meant I've been able to raise these matters in Canberra, from the ground in the North to Capital Hill, to make sure the action we take as a Government will have an effect back home.

That's why we created the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program, providing \$302 million through the Natural Heritage Trust to facilitate industry adoption of climate-smart practices, and ensure Australian agriculture remains economically secure, and sustainable going forward.

The Federal Government has also committed \$519.1 million over eight years to deliver the second phase of the Future Drought Fund (FDF), as well as \$36 million delivered to enhance agricultural resilience, both to drought and other adverse weather.

I will continue to listen to and work with farmers, both in my electorate and beyond, to raise their concerns where it matters most, and help deliver genuine outcomes on the ground.



Matt Burnell MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR SPENCE

Authorised by M. Burnell MP, ALP,
8/2-10 James St, Salisbury SA 5108.



The frost that impacts everyone

SOUTH Australian primary producers are still assessing the full impacts of the frost event seen in September on their upcoming harvests.

Large areas of vineyards and dryland crops across the Riverland, Mallee and Barossa Valley were devastated in a short period, with -2.2C recorded in Renmark on the morning of Tuesday 17 September.

For our dryland famers, the frost event was another brutal punch

from nature in a year that has seen well below-average rainfall figures.

Mallee farmer Jamie Evans in September told the ABC "the paddocks are pretty much turning brown – what was possibly coming out got frosted off".

However, the worst effects were seen on local vineyards, with 919 Wines operator Eric Semmler estimating 98 per cent of his Glossop vines were destroyed.

"All this part of the vineyard was just burnt off... we've lost all the crop on that," Mr Semmler had previously told The Murray Pioneer.

"The aim will be just to grow out new shoots and canes on those vines now for next year."

Recent meetings have been held by industry representative group Riverland Wine in an ongoing effort to assess the frost's impacts on next year's vintage.



The aim will be just to grow out new shoots and canes on those vines now for next year.



An overlooking shot of water reflowing through the wetlands of Banrock Station.



Diving into a new era at Banrock Station

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY LACHLAN DAND

DESPITE the fact that the Riverland flooding event of 2022-23 finished nearly two years ago, its devastation is still being felt around the region.

Banrock Station, located just 20km northwest of Barmera, has been no different, but with water returning to the wetlands, things are back on track.

Boasting quality food options, guided walking tours, tasting experiences and more, Banrock is always a popular tourist destination.

However, central to its operation is its commitment to the environment and natural growth, and Station ranger Elizabeth Warnock said while it was a difficult period, things are now looking up.

"We've recently had water come back into the main lagoon, and that's the first time we've had water flow since the natural flooding event," she said.

"The tourism side of things is very exciting, because a lot of people that come here are expecting to see water in the wetlands, and people don't always understand wetlands are naturally meant to be dry at certain times in this part of the world.

"Anyone drawing water out of the Murray River would know that it is highly regulated, so there's a planning process in place at least six months prior to the event.

"There's quite a bit of administration that has to happen around getting

permission, and because we don't have a water meter it makes it more complicated because the water is calculated through an expensive model.

"The planning has to be done, and the application for planning to be done to put water back into the lagoon has to be done months in advance."

Utilising Commonwealth water resources is a key part of the water returning operation, with the more natural resources used the better.

"One of the things identified during the concerns around wetland health was trying to reinstate the drying cycle," Ms Warnock said.

"The irrigation pump was moved

for the vineyard to the main river, so that the water would be drawn for the vineyard out of the main channel itself and not the lagoon.

"After the pump infrastructure moved, we've been reinstating the drying cycle, and we have an allocation we can use to fill it.

"Normally we hold water in for at least a year, so in order to keep it topped up, we do need commonwealth environmental water."

Ongoing environmental management of the Banrock Station's wetlands is crucial to its flow going forward, as the regrowth from the flood continues.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

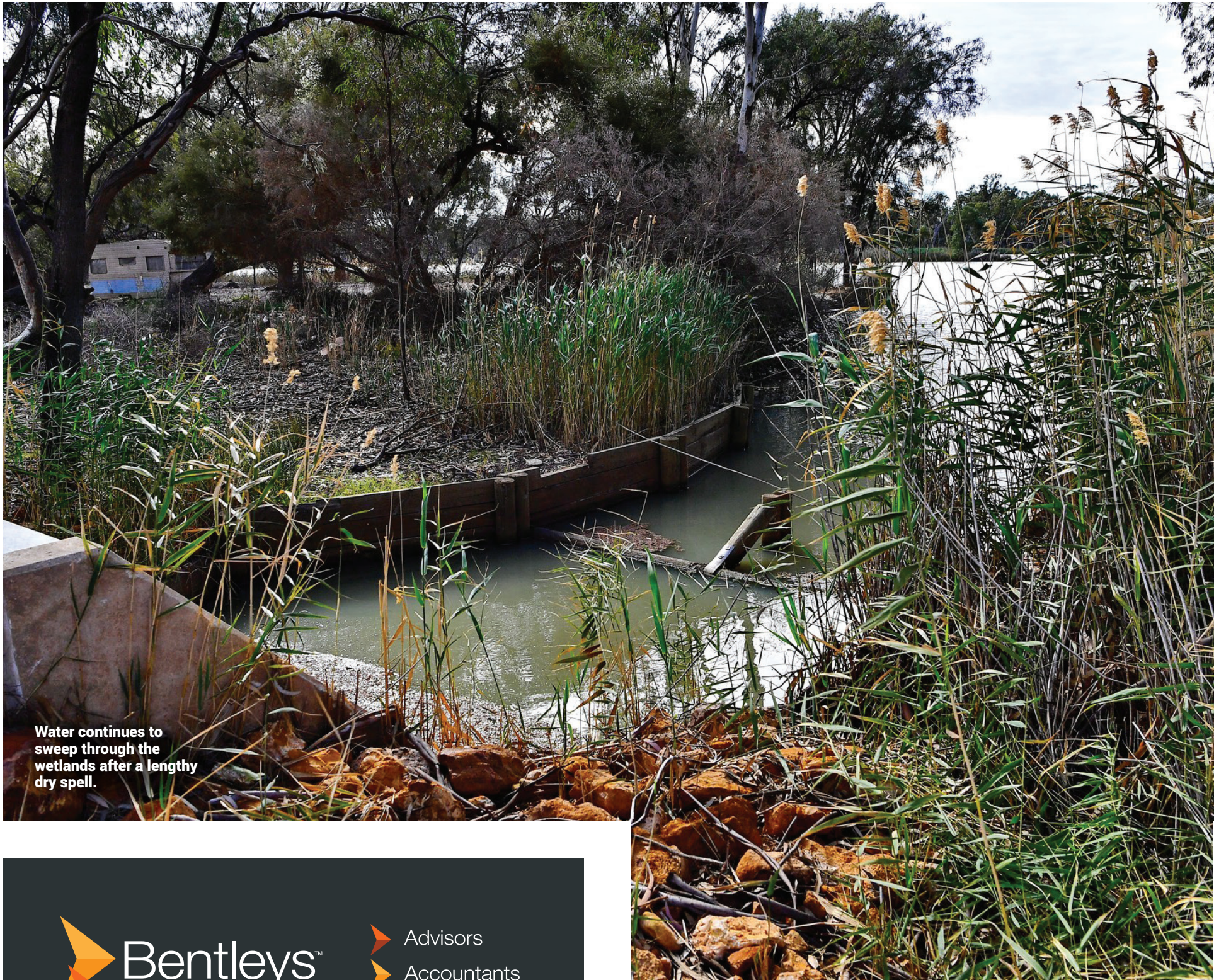
- Soften hard water for decades on \$10 power yearly
- Clear out scaled pipes, increase flows
- More effective than magnets by design
- Grow healthy plants using saline water
- Healthy stock using hard water
- No waste streams or decreases in flow
- Used by farmers, stations, councils, mining companies
- Scientifically tested and proven technology
- Australian Made and Owned for 23 years

Activate Your
Soil to Activate
Your Fertiliser!

HYDROSMART®

Call 1300 138 223
www.hydrosmart.com.au





Water continues to sweep through the wetlands after a lengthy dry spell.





Advisors
Accountants
Auditors

**We have your back.
Whatever the season.**

**As specialists in Agribusiness,
talk to us about**

- Restructuring your business -
- Family succession & wealth planning -
- Carbon accounting & ESG -



advice@adel.bentleys.com.au | 08 8372 7900 | bentleys.com.au

Ms Warnock said the Banrock brand is built around environmental sustainability, and keeping a strong brand name is at the forefront of minds, as the station looks towards the future.

"It's a wetland of international importance, and in order for us to continue to have that status, it needs to be managed in an ecologically positive way," she said.

"It also links back to people wanting to buy Banrock products because they want to support this work moving forward.

"One of the things that needs to happen next is rebuilding of the boardwalks, because they were taken out due to the floods.

"A lot of visitors who come here enjoy that, and it's listed as one of the great walks in South Australia, and at the moment it's shorter without the boardwalks in place.

"From an ecological perspective,

one of the inlet's regulators is out of action at the moment, so we're only using one inlet.

"I would really like to get a regulator on the other inlet so we can start watering from there as well."

For visitors, there is still plenty to see and do at Banrock Station including a dining area, but Ms Warnock said there is something for everyone.

"We're trying to mimic the natural flooding, but it happens very slowly because that's the way it is in this part of the river system," she said.

"We're in a very different situation to flash flooding places up in Queensland, so people who are coming here have to accept that flooding happens slowly so they won't always see it at the maximum fill.

"It's a very slow process to fill it in, and everyone who's lived in this part of the river area knows how slow it can be."

It's a wetland of international importance...





Boost nursery productivity with
AUTOMATION



ASSET FINANCE AVAILABLE

URBINATI
Nursery Technology

VEUGEN
TECHNOLOGY

POTTING MACHINE
IM1800



VIEW PRODUCT





CAPACITY
1,000 L
hopper



ELEVATOR
100 l/min
max. capacity



POT HEIGHT
300 mm
max. size



POWER
1.5 kW
installed



WEIGHT
360kg
unit weight

SOIL MIXER
MC2120



VIEW PRODUCT





CAPACITY
1,150 L
hopper



CYCLE
900 L
per cycle



ROTOR
23 rpm
speed



WATERING
86 l/min
max. capacity



POWER
4.8 kW
installed

POWERFOGGER
TB10



VIEW PRODUCT





CAPACITY
12 liters
per hour



AIR
50 meter
throw



DROPLET
32-48 µm
size



TANK
10 liter
agent tank



POWER
400v pump
1.5kW



Hit play in the paddock for GPSA's Harvest 100 playlist

Grain Producers SA (GPSA) is turning up the volume for harvest with the release of its third and much-anticipated Harvest 100 playlist.

Packed with iconic anthems, country hits, and rock classics, this year's playlist is the ultimate soundtrack to keep South Australia's grain producers energised and entertained as they power through the busiest time of the year.

Whether it's long hours in the paddock or late-night hauls, these tunes are guaranteed to set the perfect rhythm for those out harvesting.

Voted on by grain producers and community, the timeless classic by Creedence Clearwater Revival – Have You Ever Seen the Rain? has been voted as the number one song for the 2024 Harvest 100.

GPSA chief executive officer Brad Perry said this year's playlist celebrates the spirit of hard work,

resilience, and passion that drives South Australian grain producers.

"The 2024 Harvest 100 songs are nominated by grain producers for grain producers and there is no doubt the song choices reflect the challenging season and lack of rain in South Australia," he said.

"Music has always been a big part of harvest time for our growers. Whether they're in the header, the ute, or delivering to a silo site, the right track can lift the mood, keep growers focused, and even help them push through the toughest days.

"Our Harvest 100 initiative plays a role in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of South Australia's grain producers and is about acknowledging the important role music plays in the day-to-day life of grain producers during harvest. It's something we can all relate to, no matter where we are or what we're doing.

"There's something for everyone, whether you're looking for something upbeat, nostalgic, or even a bit of fun to lift the energy when the going gets tough."

To see the full Harvest 100 playlist visit the website (www.harvest100.com.au) or (www.grainproducerssa.com.au).

The playlist can be found on Grain Producers SA's Spotify account (<https://tinyurl.com/47fcvcpu>).

The right track can lift the mood...

The Top 10 tracks from GPSA's 2024 HARVEST 100 are:

- 1. **Have You Ever Seen the Rain**
Creedence Clearwater Revival
- 2. **Chicken Fried**
Zac Brown Band
- 3. **Harvest Time**
Luke Bryan
- 4. **Smooth Operator**
Sade
- 5. **Where the Wild Things Are**
Luke Combs
- 6. **The Gambler**
Kenny Rogers
- 7. **Danger Zone**
Kenny Loggins
- 8. **Thunderstruck**
AC/DC
- 9. **Here Comes the Rain Again**
Eurythmics
- 10. **Animals**
Nickelback

Experience | Knowledge | Service

LIKE BEING IN CONTROL?



WE CAN HELP YOU

Stress less
Save time
Increase profits
Precision irrigation

Riverland Irrigation Services

Are leaders in irrigation automation and control, and experts in the exciting Talgil Dream 2 control system

FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

CALL US OR DROP IN to discuss your control, design and all irrigation needs
29 Smith Drive, Waikerie | Phone 0885412540

www.riverlandirrigationservices.com.au



New crop varieties released for 2025

Australia's largest plant breeding company, Australian Grain Technologies (AGT), have recently announced the release of a range of new field crop varieties in South Australia for the 2025 season.

At recent field days around the state, AGT Variety Support Manager Brad Koster proudly presented new varieties to growers. One of the varieties he is most excited about is AGT's first Clearfield barley, Bigfoot CL.

"Bigfoot CL is closely related to the varieties that offer good early vigour such as Compass and Commodus CL, however Bigfoot CL has reduced overall height and we have observed less lodging than other 'Compass-style' varieties," Brad said.

"Bigfoot CL offers very high yields, particularly in low-to-medium rainfall environments.

"Like other varieties in its family, Bigfoot CL offers a very good physical grain quality package, producing low levels of screenings, high retentions, and high test weights.

"We believe Bigfoot CL has the potential to become a very important variety for many SA growers"

Other new releases in SA include;

Shotgun wheat – Setting a new main season yield benchmark

- A clear Scepter replacement, with a significant yield advantage.
- The next yield jump on from.

Calibre.

- Mid-season maturity, similar to Scepter.
- Agronomically very similar to Scepter.
- AH quality classification.

Avoca wheat – A slow-maturing spring wheat with AH quality

- Ideally suited to high-rainfall zones.
- Slow to very-slow maturity, over a week slower than Rockstar.
- AH quality classification in VIC/SA.
- Very high top-end yield potential.
- Relatively compact plant canopy.
- Good physical grain quality characteristics.
- Improved stripe rust resistance over Rockstar and LRPB Trojan.
- Good powdery mildew resistance and useful level of septoria tritici blotch resistance.

Brighton wheat – higher-yielding replacement for Illabo wheat

- Dual-purpose winter wheat, suitable for grazing and grain production.
- A higher-yielding alternative to Illabo, EGA Wedgetail and LRPB Kittyhawk.
- Quick-mid winter maturity, slightly quicker than Illabo.

- Improved test weight compared with Illabo and EGA Wedgetail.
- Improved yellow leaf spot resistance over Illabo and EGA Wedgetail.
- More susceptible to powdery mildew than Illabo.
- AH quality classification in SA.

Pegasus AX barley– A new CoAxiom barley (after the release two years ago of Titan AX) but with a shorter 'Hindmarsh' plant type

- Carries CoAxiom® herbicide tolerance (Aggressor® herbicide).
- A derivative of Rosalind with a similar plant type, offering a shorter plant structure and lower risk of lodging than the 'Compass' plant types like Titan AX.
- Wide adaptation.
- Quick-mid maturity, similar to Maximus CL and Rosalind.
- Similar grain size as some other high yielding feed varieties including Rosalind.

Seed of new AGT varieties is now available through the AGT Affiliate network and local retailers.

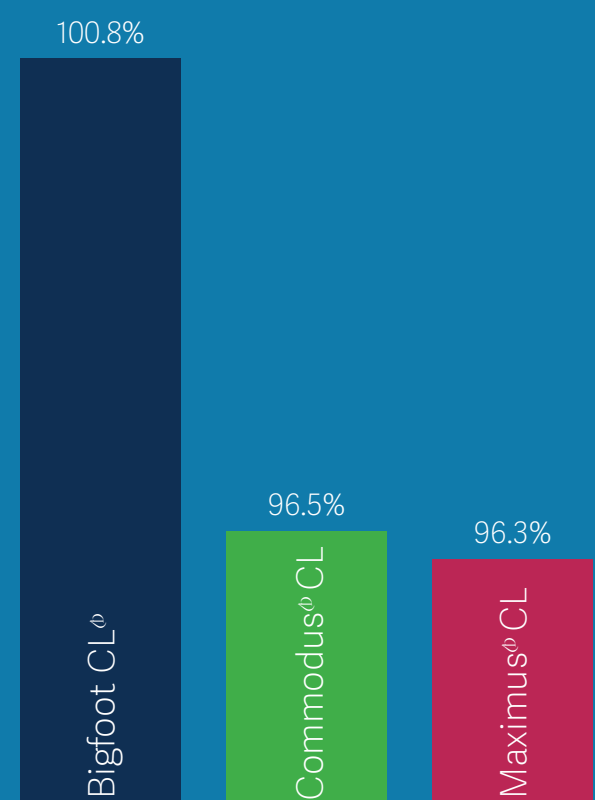


AGT SA Variety Support Manager, Brad Koster

Bigfoot CL^Φ barley



- A higher yielding alternative to Maximus^Φ CL and Commodus^Φ CL, with better standability than Commodus^Φ CL
- Tolerant to Clearfield® Intervix® herbicide
- Good grain size and test weight
- A Compass^Φ style plant type, but shorter and lower risk of lodging
- FEED quality



Grain yield expressed as % Yield of trial mean (4.7t/ha)

Source: AGT main season trial series 2021-2023 (21 trials across SA/VIC/southern NSW)

agtbreeding.com.au for more information.

SA Farmer



Wild weather affects harvest forecast

AUSTRALIA could see a slight increase in its winter crop harvest this year despite significant weather challenges in key grain-growing regions, according to Rabobank.

Rabobank recently released its 2024/25 Australian Winter Crop Forecast report, which predicted a one per cent increase in the nation's total winter crop for this year.

While the organisation predicted the slight uptick, with a total yield of 47.1 million tonnes for the season, it noted the five-year average has fallen 13 per cent.

The report highlighted Queensland as the heavy lifter in terms of production

tallies, whereas South Australia and Victoria had taken massive hits.

It said South Australia's grain and oilseed production was predicted to be down 43 per cent on the previous season and down 35 per cent in Victoria, with a lack of timely rainfall and late frosts the contributing factors.

Report author and Rabobank research analyst Vitor Pistoia said the projected national increase of one per cent was likely to come mainly from wheat, with contributions from pulses and oats.

"While the wheat harvest is expected to be an improvement on last year, canola and barley production look set to be down year-on-year due to the

combination of low rainfall and late frost which struck many crops at a critical period," he said.

"While Queensland, the majority of New South Wales and one particular region in Western Australia (around Corrigin in the Central Wheatbelt) got going early on, large swathes of WA, Victoria and South Australia had to wait until early June to see seed germination.

"Similarly, rainfall through the growing season was patchy and this was coupled with a widespread warmer winter.

"Higher winter temperatures – of up to two degrees Celsius above average depending on the region – boosted

water evaporation at the same time it prompted faster crop development."

The report predicted grains and oilseeds to trade in a relatively range-bound market in terms of prices, but canola looked like it would go for higher prices.

"The worldwide grain and oilseeds outlook has changed in recent months from a potential glut to a patchier stocks picture," Mr Pistoia said.

"An uncertain outlook for Black Sea wheat production due to dry weather is supporting wheat prices, although this is being buffered by notable increases in US wheat and corn stocks."



SALE

Located at Australian Motors Riverland
1378 Old Sturt Hwy BERRI 5343

25% Off Suspension Kits
15% Off Bullbars
15% Off Oricom

Valued over \$2000

CHANCE TO WIN*
Spend over \$500 this month and you'll go in the draw for the a 40L IRONMAN FRIDGE and a MSA DROPDOWN FRIDGE SLIDE!

VISIT US OR SHOP ONLINE NOW!
WWW.RIVERLAND4X4ANDOUTDOOR.COM.AU





AG NEWS



Rural Business Support's new board members Daniel Casement, Christine Hahn and Kevin Reid. PHOTO: Supplied

New members bolster RBS board

RURAL Business Support (RBS) added three new members to its board of directors to further its goal of supporting rural communities across South Australia and the Northern Territory.

The new board members, Daniel Casement, Kevin Reid and Christine Hahn, have backgrounds across agribusiness, finance and community leadership.

Mr Casement currently serves as chief executive of the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association and spent nearly 20 years with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA.

Mr Reid is the chair and president of Meals on Wheels SA and brings with him extensive financial knowledge through his experience as a chartered accountant.

For Ms Hahn, her time as chief executive of Barossa Valley Estate and her family's multi-generational

vineyard and livestock enterprise has built her knowledge of agribusiness and governance.

"With the addition of Daniel, Kevin, and Christine, we are building a board with exceptional breadth and depth," RBS board chair Peter Treloar said.

"Their combined expertise in agribusiness, health and community services, as well as governance brings fresh perspectives and invaluable insights that align perfectly with our Strategy 2030 goals.

"This diversity strengthens our ability to respond to the complex challenges facing rural communities and ensures that RBS remains a trusted partner for farmers and small and family-owned business owners and the communities they serve across South Australia and the Northern Territory."

Survey shows significant concerns on chemical restrictions

A SURVEY of more than 600 growers has found South Australian producers are struggling with access to key chemicals paraquat and diquat, with many highlighting proposed changes which could adversely affect the grain industry.

Recent recommendations from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) pushed for reduced paraquat and diquat application rates, but many growers believe no suitable alternatives yet exist to help manage resistant weed species.

The survey, conducted through Grain Producers SA (GPSA) found many growers were confident restricting the use of paraquat and diquat would essentially render them ineffective.

"Grain producers in South Australia rely on paraquat and diquat for weed control, and there simply aren't viable alternatives right now," GPSA chief executive Brad Perry said.

"Our survey shows that these chemicals are critical to keeping our farms productive and sustainable.

"Without them, the impact on grain production will be immense, with significant knock-on effects for the broader agricultural sector."

Mr Perry said the survey showed

96 per cent of respondents believed paraquat restrictions would have a substantial negative impact on their farming operations, with 88 per cent believing the same of diquat restrictions.

"Comments from grain producers show that under the proposed restrictions, there will need to be more cultivation of the soil through tillage – a practice largely phased out decades ago, more erosion and loss of precious topsoil, reduced crop yields and profitability, greater risk of regular dust storms from paddocks and an increase in burn-offs for weed control," he said.

"South Australian grain producers have invested significantly in sustainable farming practices over many decades, and it's highly concerning that proposed restrictions to the use of paraquat and diquat will be make these herbicides no longer viable and undo much of that progress."

Despite the concerns, Mr Perry said APVMA's mandate prevents it from considering the economic consequences or whether alternatives are viable.

He said GPSA would continue to work with Grain Producers Australia and other key stakeholders for a balanced solution.



SA Farmer



The CCDM research team including Dr Callum Verdonk, Leon Lenzo, Associate Professor Kar-Chun Tan, Dr Evan John, Dr Jordi Muria Gonzalez and Shota Morikawa.
Photo: CCDM

Research discovers key to crop pathogens

CENTRE for Crop and Disease Management (CCDM) researchers have discovered a key factor in how pathogens infect crops, which could lead to new strategies to develop pathogen-resistant crops.

The research, recently published in PLOS Pathogens, identified and validated a specific DNA sequence linked to genes which cause damage on wheat.

Through studying the genetic mechanism in the fungus which causes septoria nodorum blotch (SNB) of wheat, researchers confirmed a transcription factor called Pf2 binds to a specific DNA consensus sequence.

Through the binding, Pf2 then activates adjacent genes to produces the molecules responsible for causing damage to wheat.

CCDM researchers said they are hoping to transfer the knowledge to other crop diseases to improve the identification of necrotrophic effectors and other virulence-associated genes.

"This discovery of the DNA consensus sequence is a big deal for disease resistance breeding research, as it means we now know how the pathogen's effectors are activated to attack a plant," former CCDM PhD student Evan John said.

"What's exciting about this research, is that it can be used as a regulatory model, because the same Pf2 transcription factor is found in other fungal pathogens that cause diseases such as yellow spot of wheat, blackleg and black spot of canola.

"Based on our current knowledge, it looks like Pf2 is operating by the same

mechanism there."

CCDM associate professor Kar-Chun Tan said researchers had spent many years searching for effectors in pathogen genomes, but they were hard to narrow down.

"Now, knowing the genetic code of the DNA sequence targeted by Pf2, we can narrow down potential effector genes that are associated with the specific DNA consensus sequence, and prioritise these genes for effector discovery," Ass Prof Tan said.

"Finding effectors is a big win, because it means we can then find the corresponding susceptible gene within the crop, and help breeders by using effector-assisted selection on crops, providing growers with varieties with improved disease resistance."

CCDM director Mark Gibberd said the discovery was eight years in the making and an important scientific outcome.

"A few years ago the team had discovered the transcription factor and knew that it regulated effectors, but were unsure how it regulated them," Professor Gibberd said.

"By persisting through countless challenges, they have gotten to the bottom of the scientific mystery, and have reached a conclusion that will help improve disease resistance not only in wheat, but potentially against canola diseases too.

"This research is an example of CCDM's ability to work deeply and collaboratively on blue-sky research to ensure Australian agriculture is a global leader in research and innovation when it comes to grain production."

CELEBRATING

40

YEARS

1984 - 2024

Commercialisation, IP Protection and Propagation

ANFIC

orcharding for the future

Ph: 07 3491 9905

www.anfic.com.au

A&C Routley

JFT NURSERIES

Balhamah Nurseries

SATTVA NURSERY

LEA NURSERIES

narromine transplants

CherryHill ORCHARDS

TAHUNE NURSERIES

Tahune Fields Nursery

Mount View Orchards Batlow

QR CODE

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

AG NEWS



Campaign aims to spark fire safety during harvest season

PRIMARY producers are urged to maintain their preventative measures to minimise the risk of sparking fires during this year's harvest season.

Grain Producers SA (GPSA) once again launched its "Don't Be a Bright Spark" campaign to promote fire safety on farms.

Through the campaign, the importance of preparation, equipment maintenance and adherence to fire safety protocols during the grain harvest period come to the fore.

GPSA chief executive Brad Perry said grain producers have a strong commitment to safety, but it was important to remain vigilant.

"Grain producers understand the increased fire risks posed by dry conditions and the movement of headers and other machinery during harvest, but this is exactly why we can't afford any complacency," he said.

"The goal of this campaign is to reinforce that everyone plays a critical role in fire prevention. Even small, proactive steps can make a significant difference.

"Staying alert and making informed

decisions is the key to safety.

"The Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI) of 35 measured at two metres gives us a reliable and proven threshold to stop harvesting before weather conditions become too dangerous.

"Familiarity with this index is essential for making safe, responsible choices on-farm."

The campaign offers growers a range of resources to help them boost fire safety on their farms, including education materials and safety checklists.

"Preparation is everything. We urge producers to take time to review their fire safety plans, carry out thorough equipment checks, and ensure they have enough water resources on hand and are ready to respond if a fire threat arises," Mr Perry said.

"By working together, we can make this harvest season safe for everyone.

"Staying proactive and well-informed will go a long way in reducing fire risk, protecting crops, and safeguarding livelihoods."

For more information, visit the GPSA website.

Monitoring best for early intervention during calving season

REGULARLY monitoring cows is one of the best ways to reduce "unavoidable" tricky births during calving season, according to Agriculture Victoria (AgVic).

AgVic livestock development officer Hannah Manning said monitoring can help farmers pick up which cows are having trouble calving as early as possible.

"Once a farmer has found a problem and brought the cow in to help, I work on a 20-minute intervention rule," Dr Manning said.

"A farmer's strength, a calving jack or a calving pulley are the only acceptable methods to pull a calf, even then you need to be a competent operator.

"There is no point having the equipment if you haven't had training on how to use it, and if a calf is stuck or not lined up properly then more force isn't the answer.

"Don't forget if you're helping with a calving, wearing gloves is a great

way to reduce your exposure to any diseases that can affect humans, and it keeps things cleaner for the cow.

"If significant progress in pulling the calf hasn't been made in 20 minutes, it's time to stop and come up with an alternative plan."

She advised farmers to get in contact with their vet early on in the piece to ensure the best results for both the cow and the calf.

"Good facilities that are safe for you and anyone else helping is vital," she said.

"It's amazing how effective a vet can be with drugs in improving the whole situation.

"If calling your local vet isn't an option is there someone else you can call or do you need to make some tough decisions?

"Tough calvings can result in calving paralysis and down cows are a poor result and require a lot of skill and time to care for properly."



\$0 FIELD SERVICE CALL OUT FEE*

northeast
KOBELCO

DURABILITY

EFFICIENCY

TECHNOLOGY

NETRACTORS.COM.AU | (08) 8280 9899

*T&Cs apply

SA Farmer

Grain industry awards nominations open

NOMINATIONS are now open for the inaugural SA Grain Industry Awards, which aim to recognise those who exemplify excellence, innovation and leadership within the grain industry.

The awards come as an initiative of Grain Producers SA (GPSA), with chief executive Brad Perry highlighting the contributions of the grain industry to South Australia.

“These awards will celebrate the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations within the South Australian grain industry, across six award categories, as well as induct the first ever members into the South Australian Grain Industry Hall of Fame,” he said.

“The inaugural South Australian Grain Industry Awards will allow us to celebrate the incredible dedication, innovation, and success of the people who drive our industry forward.

“Whether it’s in sustainability, innovation, or leadership, this is an opportunity to shine a light on the

exceptional individuals and businesses that are leading the way.”

Categories include Grain Producer of the Year, Young Grain Producer of the Year, the Innovation Award, the Sustainability Award, the Women in Grain Award and the Industry Impact Award.

“We encourage everyone involved in the grain industry, whether as a producer, researcher, or advocate, to consider nominating themselves or someone else for these prestigious awards,” Mr Perry said.

“This is our chance to celebrate the future of South Australia’s grains industry and the people making a lasting difference.”

Nominations close on 9 December, 2024, with finalists to be announced on 16 December, 2024.

Award winners will be revealed at a gala dinner at Adelaide Oval on 4 February.

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit the SA Grain Industry Awards website.



Crop rotation study yields important results

LONG-TERM research across Victoria’s Mallee region is highlighting the impacts different crop managements on soil carbon and nitrogen.

Agriculture Victoria (AgVic) has been conducting a research trial, dubbed MC14, at Walpeup since 1985 to determine how crop management can affect soil carbon and nitrogen stocks.

AgVic senior researcher scientist Roger Armstrong said three crop rotation treatments have been tested.

Professor Armstrong said the three were; legume and wheat; legume, fallow and wheat; and fallow and wheat.

“The standout treatment was the legume/fallow/wheat in terms of the significant productivity benefits of additional moisture and nitrogen added to the subsequent crop,” he said.

“However, this needs to be balanced with the finding of nitrate leaching, as well as a reduction in

the accumulation of soil carbon compared to the other continuous rotations.”

Prof Armstrong said the initial stages of the trial had medic as the legume in rotation, but it had been swapped out for vetch to keep with modern farming practices.

“Cropping farmers know that adding a legume into the rotation increases nitrogen in the soil,” he said.

“When an annual legume phase is included in the rotation, we have recorded not only good grain yield responses but also large amounts of soil nitrate, a valuable commodity in low rainfall Mallee cropping zone.

“Most notably the amount of soil nitrate is greater in the crop rotations that exclude a fallow period.”

He said the results also found following reduced the amount of organic carbon in the soil.

For more information, visit the AgVic website.



CROP CONSULTING SERVICES PTY LTD – *Independent Agronomy*

Crop Consulting Services has extensive experience in Broadacre Agronomy, covering the full range of dryland production environments within SA. Principal Agronomy Consultant Craig Davis, together with an expanded agronomy team, is available to discuss your independent agronomy requirements.

Providing advice and support in:

- regular in-paddock monitoring • integrated pest management • nutrition & fertiliser • livestock integration • farm business analysis
- farm planning & expansion analysis • grid sampled soil testing • pH mapping • site specific plant tissue analysis & interpretation
- machinery knowledge & experience • personalised farm business support • precision farming techniques
- personalised farm business support • precision farming techniques

P: 0447 541 654 E: craig@cropconsulting.com.au

AG NEWS

Water research seeks to boost grain yields

RESEARCH is underway in South Australia to push the limits of water productivity in cereal yield potential across low (LRZ) and medium rainfall zones (MRZ).

National science agency CSIRO and Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) have teamed up to research how to boost water productivity to boost grain yields in regions which typically see reduced rainfall.

The research project, dubbed "Profitable Yield Frontiers in the Southern LRZ and MRZ", aims to bring together researchers, farming systems groups, agronomists and communicators to investigate raising yield potential in areas where water is a limiting factor.

CSIRO Farming Systems researcher and project leader Kenton Porker said previous research into high rainfall zones had MRZ and LRZ growers questioning what was possible in their environments.

"Agronomic systems in the LRZ and MRZ differ from high-rainfall areas mainly due to water limitations and greater variability in supply," Dr Porker said.

"For example, during the 2024 season we have seen conditions deteriorate in many parts of the southern region, which contrasts with previous spring conditions.

"So, the question becomes, how do we manage this seasonal variability where crop conditions transition between high and low water supply?"

Dr Porker said key tactical decisions which drive yield happen early on in the process, which leaves less wriggle

room to adjust crop management during the season.

"This demands a fresh approach to managing the yield-determining period before flowering," he said.

"Growers understand water use efficiency (WUE), but this is usually assessed after the season.

"Traditional agronomy relies on predictable outcomes, often with hindsight, like post-season WUE analyses.

"Our research focuses on tactical agronomy, emphasising real-time decisions at critical points, such as sowing, tillering, and stem elongation.

"Growers need a better grasp of how to set crops up for success, capturing yield potential in good seasons and managing resources if conditions worsen."

GRDC sustainable cropping systems manager Courtney Peirce said the research will provide valuable knowledge on better tactical agronomic practices during critical periods in variable climates.

"GRDC's investment in this initiative reflects our plan to propel growers and industry forward by hitting and exceeding yield and profit targets across every paddock and every season," Dr Peirce said.

"It will give growers confidence to either continue to adapt or to shift from conservative low-input approaches to more ambitious strategies when conditions are favourable, and it will help provide benchmarks to guide tactical decision making, linking agronomy to critical periods and yield changes."



Mallee Sustainable Farming launched its Dry Saline Land Decision Tree to help farmers address the growing risks of dry saline land. PHOTO: Supplied

Resource launched to support farmers facing saline land

A SUSTAINABLE farming group launched a new "decision tree" to support farmers and advisers in managing the growing risks of drought.

According to Mallee Sustainable Farming (MSF), worsening drought conditions across southern Victoria boost the risk of dry, saline land.

To help mitigate risks, MSF launched its Dry Saline Land Decision

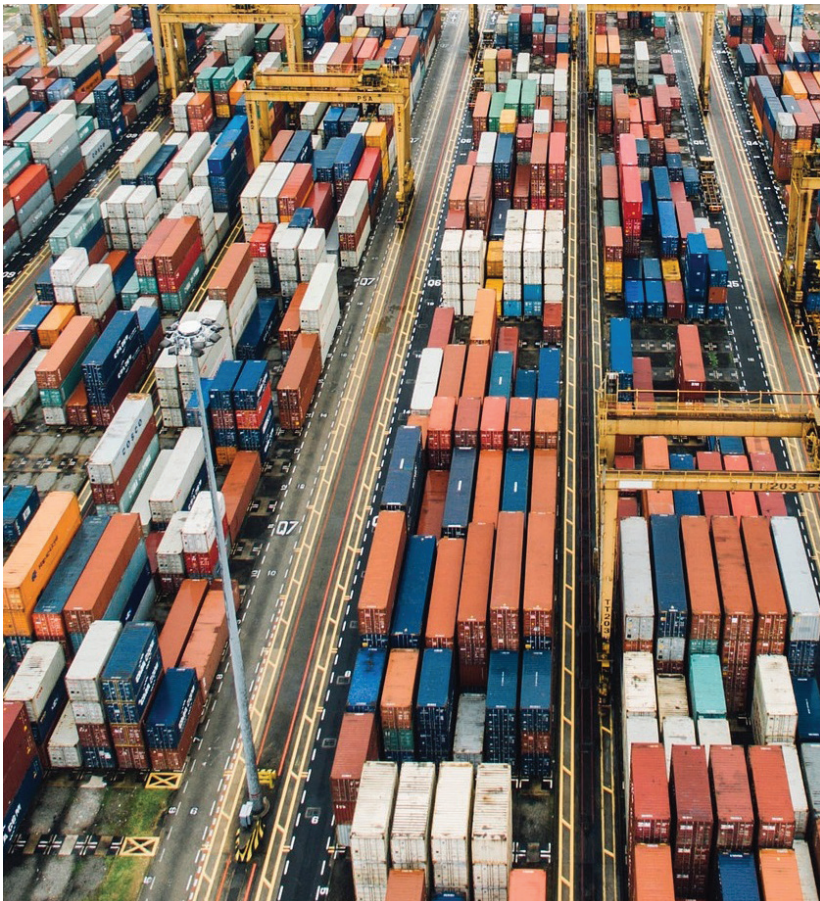
Tree, which aims to offer practical, farmer-tested strategies to prevent the spread of saline land.

Solutions include establishing and maintaining soil cover, covering topsoil with sand to improve germinating conditions, better management of seasonal rainfall and growing salt-tolerant crops.

For more information, visit the MSF website.



CSIRO Farming Systems researcher and project leader Kenton Porker. PHOTO: Alistair Lawson, AgCommunicators



Export market reaches record high

SOUTH Australian exports to China reached an all-time high in the year to August 2024, up 46 per cent in the past 12 months to reach \$4.27 billion, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Included in that figure is the \$680 million worth of South Australian barley and \$395 million in wine exported to China since trade restrictions were removed five months ago.

Minister for Trade Joe Szakacs said he expects exports to continue trending upwards.

"China continues to be South Australia's largest two-way trading partner with our state's merchandise goods exports to the market reaching a record \$4.27 billion, up 46 per cent on the previous year to August 2024," he said.

"Building on this growth, South Australia is sending 26 representatives from local companies to exhibit at the upcoming China International Import Expo, one of China's largest multi-sector trade shows, from November

5 in Shanghai.

"With the resumption of China Southern Airlines in December, I expect exports to continue to rise to China, particularly our fresh food products.

"Producers have not had direct freight access to the China market since flights were suspended in 2020, due to the global pandemic."

Australia China Business Council SA president Sean Keenihan added the result reflected the focus on collaboration between government and industry in the past 12 to 18 months.

"This rapid and substantial bounce back in exports further diversifies our relationship with our largest export market across a wider range of goods and services with the resultant benefits felt by a wider range of South Australian households," he said.

South Australia's top three export markets are China, worth \$4.27 billion, the United States, worth \$2.13 billion, and India at \$1.09 billion.

Need for Feed travels to South Australia

A large convoy of trucks carrying emergency fodder from Victoria to Murray Bridge passed through Lamerook recently, stopping for a poignant moment in front of the main street's silo artwork, featuring a depiction of a farmer warming his hands, or "praying for rain", as some have interpreted it.

The Lions initiative Need for Feed organised for more than 20 vehicles loaded with donated new season hay to travel to Murray Bridge to support farmers in the Murray Mallee area who are struggling to feed livestock in the extended drought conditions.

The trucks, hay and drivers all hailed from Victoria and New South Wales, where Need for Feed began in the drought of 2006/7, and the initiative still completely volunteer run.

Kelly Laffan, leading the convoy in an escort vehicle, said the organisation

had had well over 100 requests for assistance from South Australia.

"This weekend we've been able to help approximately 80 farmers and their families. And it's fantastic that we've been able to help them in their time of need, and we will continue to support these guys and anyone else that needs help," she said.

"This is our fifth run into South Australia for drought, and it certainly doesn't look like it's easing anytime soon, unfortunately."

Need for Feed is planning on organising another fodder drive into South Australia in early December. For anyone who is in a position to donate feed, funds, vehicles, or their time, or for anyone who requires assistance, the organisation can be contacted through the website (www.needforfeed.org).



Trinity College Roseworthy Now Open



2026 Scholarship Applications Now Open



Offering a College bus route:
Angaston, Tanunda, Nuriootpa, Roseworthy & Evanston South



Visit our website for details.
www.trinity.sa.edu.au

Follow us on   @TrinityCollegeSouthAustralia



TRINITY COLLEGE

Celebrating 40 Years

1984-2024



James Shannon in his winning Calibre Wheat Crop.
PHOTOS: supplied

‘Great day for all’ at 2024 Brown’s Well Crop Comp

DESPITE the extremely dry 2024 season, about 40 farmers and industry representatives enjoyed an amazing day at the recent Brown’s Well Crop Competition.

Numerous crops were judged to be exceeding 2t/ha despite receiving less than 90mm of growing season rainfall.

The winning crop of Calibre wheat was presented by James Shannon at Malpas, and was estimated to yield 2.12t/ha and a score of 93.6/100 by those in attendance, based on yield,

weed and disease management, agronomy, crop achievement and workmanship.

It was grown on a sand-over-clay loam soil that had been chemically fallowed in the previous season, showing active crop roots growing at 70cm depth.

Significantly, James had also used a Tatu Square Moldboard Plough at this site, that had helped break hardened subsoil layers and mix clay from deeper layers. This had clearly improved the

soil profile and allowed the roots to access the deeper-stored moisture.

The Water Use Efficiency Award was won by first-time entrants Kathleen and Daniel Obst, who grew an estimated 1.63t/ha of Calibre on just 58mm of growing season rainfall at their Caliph property. This was calculated to be achieving 25kg/mm of plant-available water, when 33 per cent of summer rainfall was taken into account.

The day included an informative visit to the Nangari NVT wheat and

barley trials, a deep soil amelioration trial at Jock McNeil’s, showing the results of a variety of implements, as well as numerous lunchtime guest speakers including presentations on the Fat Farmers wellbeing initiative, frost recognition technologies, carbon accounting developments and grain marketing.

The day concluded with a dinner at the Paruna Tavern, where prizes were awarded and organisers thanked all participants and sponsors for what proved to be a highly successful day.

Blueprint SHEEP 50 NATURAL

The next step forward in high-performing animal nutrition.



ANTIBIOTIC FREE
does not contain Lasalocid



FEED EFFICIENCY
faster liveweight gains



IMMUNE HEALTH
100% organic trace minerals



SUSTAINABILITY
supports sustainability goals



Altech LIENERT



THE TRUCK FACTORY

24HR VEHICLE RECOVERY

- Truck Towing
- Truck Repairs
- Accident Recoveries

**SMASH
REPAIR
SPECIALIST**

**24/7
ANYTIME,
ANYWHERE!**



PHONE 8280 8231

Lot 6 Angle Vale Crescent, Burton

www.thetruckfactory.com.au | admin@thetruckfactory.com.au





Miracle Park Stables has a team of 28 ponies and horses, with 13 part of an Arabian herd Ms Sargent has spent a life-time researching, tracing the bloodlines, and breeding herself.

Mel's Arabian therapy herd

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY MADISON EASTMOND

With access to a wide range of specialist covers, MGA takes the confusion out of sourcing and comparing policies.

Farm • Crop • Viticulture • Horticulture • Orchard + many more

Gawler: 8526 9800 Loxton: 8584 3200 Pinnaroo: 0411 389 524



MGA Branches
Australia wide
www.mga.com
MGA Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd
ABN: 29 008 096 277 AFSL: 244601



STANDING BY YOU



PROVIDING quality therapy services for the wider Riverland community, Mel Sargent's breeding of an Arabian herd is hoping to make lasting change for those struggling with mental health and disability.

Born from a childhood love of horses and a deep passion for helping others, Ms Sargent said that Berri therapy service of Miracle Park Stables had been her "dream for 20 years".

With extensive experience as a registered nurse, Ms Sargent and her husband began the initiative in 2021, the Berri charity now a stable equine team that helps build self-esteem, resilience, and emotional regulation skills for those struggling with their mental health and/or have a disability.

Built from a team of 28 ponies and horses, 13 are part of an Arabian herd Ms Sargent has spent a life-time researching, tracing the bloodlines, and breeding herself.

"I have loved Arabian horses since I was quite young, maybe since I was 12 or so," she said.

"When I was old enough, I bought an Anglo-Arabian and learnt a lot with

him.

"However, it was when I was married with my first child that I was finally able to buy my first pure-bred Arabian, Tunamara Tysheen, also known as Sheena.

"From there, I have methodically collected Arabian horse news magazines that date back to the 1970s, and, focused on temperament and type, and built my herd around my favourites."

Ms Sargent said that horses operate in the present, respond immediately and honestly to what is happening in the moment, and are experts at reading non-verbal signals and body language, making them the perfect assistant to therapeutic programs.

"Horses have a really similar social structure to people – they experience the same emotions as people," Ms Sargent said.

"They are amazing mirrors... and will reflect back what the person is feeling. Even if someone is saying they're calm, if they're in the herd and dysregulated, the horses will be very wary because they can feel that incongruence.

"So, when we do breath and grounding work the horses will come back because you become a safe space – ultimately you learn to self-regulate, because if you want the horses near you, you have to do the work."

With an inherent, gentle nature, curiosity, and a drive to work in a herd which causes horses to seek connection, even with people, Ms Sargent said such feedback enables a deepening in awareness of self and

can encourage confidence and improve personal strengths.

"You can just imagine how healing it can be when a horse is choosing to interact with someone," she said.

"Of course, being around the horses can help the person regulate, but healing can also come from the interaction with the horse and the connection that can be built."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Horses have a really similar social structure to people...

Mel Sargent's Arabian herd is hoping to make lasting change for those struggling with mental health and disability.



Ms Sargent said she has chosen to continue breeding from Arabian bloodlines because they are the “smartest kind of horse”, and the “most intuitive”.

“I have used a few different stallions over the years, but my mares have remained and they all trace back the Arabian bloodline Silver Fire. However, we also have other lines in the herd such as Royal Domino, Spindrift, Crystal Fire, and Chip Chase Sadaqa,” she said.

“I look for thinkers, a calm demeanour, and a horse that understands what is going on around them,” she said.

“They can't be reactive when dealing with dysregulated children.

“I also look for a certain physical type — solid bone, strong back, short back, and has a weight carrying capacity.

“Essentially, a big body with a quiet mind that will work and partner which definitely shows with the bloodlines I have.

“Our current Stallion, Kalody Park Phayte, also known as Freckles, is not only one of the calmest stallions I've encountered, but horses in general — he even engages in the therapy team.”

“I don't line breed, so I don't use the same bloodlines together to enhance a particular trait, I will use an out-cross bloodline to instead improve a characteristic.

“So, Freckles compliments and produces to the mares — we replicate the (appearance of) the mother while still getting his calm temperament coming through.”

Breeding more than 30 foals over her lifetime, Ms Sargent said the task can be fraught with complications.

“The (pregnancies) take up to twelve months, or occasionally longer,” she said.

“They can miscarry early, and even have phantom pregnancies which happened to one of our mares once — it's not very common, but extremely disappointing.

“The births themselves can also be tricky.

“We have had a couple touch-and-go experiences where the bag hasn't broken on presentation, or a foal has been stuck, in which I have had to come to the rescue and do some resuscitation and revival work when they have been born.”

Ms Sargent said she is currently breeding two mares, with one foal due in November. Breeding four foals last year, she said the schedule operates to produce a foal from an individual mare every second year at the most, while also accounting for the horse's status in the Miracle Park Stables therapy team.

Looking forward, Ms Sargent said she was looking to provide the Riverland with “quality bloodlines, which are also affordable”.

“One of Sheena's first foals I bred was exported to the United Arab Emirates to compete in desert racing,” she said.

“I have also had another foal that I bred complete Australia's national endurance ride, Tom Quilty, which many of the horses in their pedigree have also achieved.

“These blood-lines are world-class.”

For more information on Miracle Parks and their programs, visit the website (www.miraclepark.com.au).

“

I look for thinkers, a calm demeanour, and a horse that understands what is going on around them...

BeUTE DEALS

Amarok Core

From only

\$56,990

driveaway~



Barossa Volkswagen

30 Murray Street, Tanunda 5352

www.barossavolkswagen.com.au

(08) 8563 2045



Brackish groundwater can be used to irrigate crops in the Riverland

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY SEBASTIAN CALDERON

A NEW chapter in groundwater treatment and resource allocation started a couple of months ago, aiming to improve the potential use and benefits of groundwater.

A small reverse-osmosis (RO) plant was installed on September, in a small plot of land at Century Orchards, in Loxton, with the objective of identifying different pathways to diversify water sources and relieve resource pressure on the River Murray.

Researchers from Adelaide University have conducted different projects in which they were able to determine that the Murray-Darling Basin has at least 80,000GL of underground water contained in aquifers, with 2000GL of that reserve having the potential to be sustainably extracted on a yearly basis.

The project at Century Orchards has developed an environmental potential for the Riverland due to its unique treatment of leftover brine, which is

being injected back into an existing underground saline aquifer, storing it safely underground and reducing maintenance and environmental costs.

Project Leader Michael Leonard said “the unique potential of the project is that unlike most inland RO plants, which treat leftover brine in a series of evaporation ponds that keep salt on the surface, this project injects it into an already saline aquifer that stores it safely underground.”

“The importance of brackish groundwater for the Riverland is enormous because farmers can reduce their dependence on the River Murray, alleviating the pressure on the most important water source in the state,” Mr Leonard said.

“In the medium term, helping business being more resilient is a key thing with this project and protecting them from a drought with the transformation of water sources.”

TAKE COMMAND
OF YOUR FARMING
OPERATIONS

with our trusted farming equipment

1800 566 033
WWW.COMMANDERAG.AU

COMMANDER
AGRICULTURE

Reverse-osmosis desalination has proved to be a trustworthy source of water supply, with desalination plants topping up reserves in coastal cities, but when it comes to the aquifers of the Murray-Darling Basin, reverse osmosis – which pushes saline water through polymeric membranes at extremely high pressure – has long been considered too expensive in energy-efficiency terms.

"There has been relatively not too much investment in understanding the actual opportunities and challenges associated with this water source from different economic, social and environmental viewpoints," Mr Leonard said.

Century Orchards CEO Brendan Sidhu said "the trial will provide a gamechanger for us, which would not have been possible without One Basin's multidisciplinary connections – linking some of the country's leading groundwater hydrologists with regulators and the Adelaide-based desalination pioneer, Osmoflo.

"Bringing all these leaders together has produced something with significant implications for the greater good, with all our partners in this project committed to the same goal, which is protecting the precious fresh water that we have to share," he said.

During the first month of the project, more than 30 farmers and water managers started visiting the site, with the Loxton trial having a big impact, locals were interested in learning about

the process and its future implications of small-scale desalination used to water almonds, vines and essential crops, with most of the focus going into the details of the technology and how it can reduce operating costs.

The project has defined four main objectives:

- Develop a working prototype of an online resource and cost calculator for a range of water-user profiles to assess the viability of using marginal quality groundwater for irrigation and other consumptive purposes.
- Identify and scope a pilot case study that investigated the technical feasibility, economic viability, and the environmental sustainability of using brackish groundwater.
- Synthesise information on brine disposal options associated with enhanced use of brackish groundwater.
- Identify future research, training, and commercialisation priorities to support the sustainable use of marginal groundwater in the Murray-Darling Basin, including the utilisation of brackish groundwater, and other alternative water sources such as municipal and industrial wastewater.

These leaders together has produced something with significant implications for the greater good...



ENTRY LEVEL OVER PERFORMER

BORN FROM BIG DNA

THE MF GC1700 SERIES. 23 - 24 HP

The perfect all-round machine for tackling your everyday jobs. The MF GC1700 Series tractors are a small, yet mighty package when it comes to getting the job done on your smaller farm or lifestyle block. With one pedal, easy back and forward operation and an easy to engage 4WD, the MF GC1700 Series effortlessly handles a range of tasks including mowing, mulching, lifting small hay bales and pallets, bucket work, excavator tasks, and fencing. It's part of the Massey Ferguson compact tractor range that just got bigger.

TUNDARRI
SALES & SERVICE PTY LTD

338 Barossa Valley Way,
Gawler East | (08) 8522 2188
www.tundarra.com.au

See your local Massey Ferguson Dealer today.

MASSEY FERGUSON

BORN TO FARM



The Murray Pioneer editor Hugh Schuitemaker and The Bunyip journalist Jeremy Nash have spoken with well-known agriculture industry figures for this instalment of SA Farmer's expert Q and A.

While primary production always comes with seasonal challenges, this year particularly has seen frost events devastate wine grape vines, while low rainfall, the beginning of water buyback programs, and the continuing battle against fruit fly, have added pressure on the South Australian agriculture sector.

Input costs for fertilisers and other necessary chemicals also still remain at challenging levels.

However, through innovation and commitment to the best farming practices, the high quality of South Australian produce means export levels are favourable.



Tim Jackson
Almond Board of Australia chief executive officer

Are growers confident in the health of trees and quality of nuts so far heading into the harvest?

Damage caused by the frosts in September is now becoming visible. The ABA surveyed growers and more than 1600 hectares in the Riverland, Sunraysia, Riverina and Adelaide Plains has been affected. However, the level of damage varies significantly between orchards. Growers who participated in the survey also reported that quantifying the level of damage on-farm has been challenging. Growers are also observing issues with floral and vegetative bud development. The varieties most affected are Carmel and Shasta. Industry development officer Josh Fielke suspects weather conditions in spring 2023 could have contributed to what is being observed in orchards this season. On a positive note, almond kernel quality is looking promising based on sampling that has occurred in all growing regions.

What kind of overall tonnages are expected from the Riverland region next harvest?

Nationally it's estimated that 175,000 tonnes of almonds will be harvested in 2025. South Australia is likely to produce 35,000 tonnes and the vast majority of that volume will come from the Riverland. A more accurate yield estimate will be provided by the ABA in December.

Are there concerns regarding the opening of water buyback tenders for the Riverland?

The ABA is concerned about water buybacks and the impact this will have on the water market for existing irrigators. While there is recognition that there will be a number of willing sellers who are pinning their hopes on buybacks to exit their operation and provide some security in retirement, the removal of water from the consumptive pool means the challenge on producing more with less becomes even more pronounced. The socio-economic impact that water buybacks has on communities in the Murray Darling Basin must be monitored to ensure there isn't a negative impact.

Are local growers still benefitting from increasing demand in China and other key export destinations?

China and India demand continues to

drive Australian almonds sales to new heights six months into the 2024-25 selling season. The ABA's August Position Report has confirmed that global demand for Australian almonds remains strong, despite increased pricing. Record volumes for August mark the third consecutive all-time monthly best for the industry, and the fourth out of six as processors and marketers clear stock at an unprecedented speed. Exports into China are 93 per cent up on the same time last year, while after a slow start, Indian volumes are almost back on par with last year's record season. This further confirms the value of the Australia-India Economic Co-operative Trade Agreement, which reduced almond tariffs by 50 per cent on January 1, last year. It is clear from the figures that the dry season has led to higher quality pack-outs, as the volumes into recycling and manufacturing grade strongholds like Turkey, Spain and the US are well down on the previous season, when poor weather during harvest impacted nut quality and grower returns. Overall, exports season-to-date are up 21 per cent and the total sales volume of 88,090 kernel weight equivalent tonnes is just over 17 per cent ahead of the previous best first half to a selling season. Inshell sales continue at record levels with more than 47,000 tonnes shipped, compared to just over 27,000 for the same period last year.

Are there any concerns regarding a possible upcoming dry period?

With any dry period, the cost of water will play a major role in the viability of irrigated crops, both annuals and permanently planted. Water was a key topic at the Australian Almond Conference in October. Speakers at the event indicated water storages are looking adequate for the next few years. However, irrigators are always mindful that dry conditions will return again at some point. Initiatives like the OneBasin CRC, investigating whether it's feasible to desalinate groundwater for use as a supplementary source when allocations from the river are limited because of drought and a changing climate, are keenly supported by the ABA.

What are the keys for tree health leading into summer?

Adequate fertilisation and irrigation are critical in the months before harvest. Growers will also be keeping a close eye out for any disease to ensure kernel quality and yield isn't impacted.



Adrian Hoffmann

Wine Grape Council of SA Region Two chair

How are vines looking heading out of dormancy?

The vines were looking quite fruitful this year with an average to above average cropping levels.

How was this impacted by the frost?

Many vineyards have been impacted by the frost some is quite visual with blackened shoots and severe damage others with little visible damage but there will be a high possibility that flowering will be impacted by the cold spring.

What varieties suffered the most damage in the Barossa?

Frost is not selective on variety, it is more about site. The frost events that have impacted the Barossa region were quite different this year with damage being done in blocks never being hit before. The later varieties Grenache and Mataro fared better but there are a lot of variables.

How do you expect this to impact next year's vintage?

Crops are going to be well down but hard to stay at this stage until fruit set. My early estimates was down by 40 to 45 per cent on my damage but the second push is looking quite promising so I'm hoping only 25 to 30 per cent down.

Has the Barossa been benefitting from the return of trade to China?

The Chinese market loved Australian wines and this has not changed. There had been an early flurry of exports while shelves are getting filled so it will take a while to get a true idea for what the Chinese market will look like going forward. The China market was softening when the tariffs were brought in so I don't believe it will get back to the highs it was but undoubtedly they are still a very important market. China's love for premium wine has definitely helped the Barossa wine market.



Mark Doecke

Citrus SA chair

What varieties of citrus are currently being harvested in the region?

The last of the Navel varieties are being harvested and the first of the seedless Valencias have started.

Is there confidence around the volume and quality of fruit at this stage?

The volume of fruit picked this season has grown compared to the last few years, because we have had favourable weather conditions for quality fruit and more young plantings coming into production.

How will the expected drier and hotter conditions this summer impact the development of citrus?

Firstly let's see how accurate the forecast is before we start worrying. Citrus does enjoy hot conditions to grow next year's fruit to a good standard.

Are there any concerns surrounding the opening of water buyback tenders for Riverland growers?

This is a very big problem for growers in all Basin states. The volume of water left for growers after the last round of recouping water for the environment is now fully utilised. Any amount of water leaving productive horticulture reduces the pool available for growers. This will drive the lease

price up and once again the grower bears the brunt of any changes made.

Have input costs continued to be a challenge for growers?

All input costs rose significantly during the Covid years. Some prices have eased, but many inputs remain at a high cost.

Are we still seeing increased demand for SA citrus in Asian countries?

Most of our export markets are located in Asia. Once again this year demand from Asia has been good with some orders unable to be filled due to tight supply. Our product is appreciated in our export destinations.

Are growers optimistic we are getting closer to fruit fly eradication?

Absolutely. The Riverland is well on the way to eradicating fruit fly. Several areas have been free for over a year now, with the sterile flies doing a really good job of eradicating the final few wild flies. The message to all Riverlanders is be vigilant, don't share backyard fruit and don't be afraid to report any affected fruit to PIRSA

What are the keys for healthy trees heading into the summer?

Water is always the most important input for healthy citrus trees. Make sure your trees have adequate moisture then focus on fertiliser and other inputs.





Haifa Group is investing \$700 million into the expansion of its manufacturing facilities and sustainable development capability, including \$300 million into a new ammonia plant producing blue ammonia, the major raw material used in the production of nitrogen fertilisers. PHOTO: supplied.

Precision agriculture can benefit citrus and almond growers

WORDS: SEBASTIAN CALDERON

SUSTAINABLE harvesting is amongst the ideal situation for any farmer in Australia, but with recent climate disruptions, new pests and rising costs, the use of new technologies and the responsible but effective limitation of fertilisers are among recommended steps suggested by the CEO of HAIFA, Motti Levin, a mayor agriculture company that visited the Riverland in October.

Mr Levin alongside a group of local journalists visited a local citrus orchard in a bid to highlight the need

for precision agriculture methods, including using smart fertilisers which are part of recent developments created to improve nutrient use and efficiency.

Mr Levin, who opened the 2024 Australian Almond Conference at the Adelaide Convention Centre, spoke about the steps needed to implement precision agriculture and sustainable industry practices, without affecting base costs and aiming to improve productivity in a fierce local environment.

“Australia has made good gains with precision agriculture and adopting more sustainable practices that, ultimately, also help mitigate climate change, but various other regions have a way to go,” Mr Levin said.

“To grow higher-yielding crops, the natural tendency has been to apply more, but we have over-fertilised and, ironically, contributed to the climate crisis.

“We need to increase precision agriculture methods, including using

smart fertilisers and feeding crops through their roots or leaves, rather than by enriching the soils.

“Smart fertilisers better optimise crop nutrient usage for higher yields, they reduce costs for growers and they help protect the environment.”

Development of digital agricultural solutions may help in assisting local growers in the design of new fertiliser programs, enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of crops within the region.

Smart fertilisers better optimise crop nutrient usage for higher yields, they reduce costs for growers and they help protect the environment...

Their latest digital developments is an app called Cromptune, which can utilise leaf photos taken on-site with smartphone cameras, can identify the level of nitrogen in crops and aid farmers in real-time agronomic decisions.

"In the future, this platform will integrate more modules such as irrigation and plant protection, as well as predict carbon emissions," Mr Motti said.

"These technological advancements not only increase productivity, but also contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing the environmental footprint of agricultural operations."

"Now when it comes to farming capabilities in the Riverland, Potassium Nitrate has been an integral part of most tree crop fertiliser programs, but with new technologies like Haifa Cromptune App, the efficient use of specific fertilisers can protect new crops and create an efficient environment to grow the best crops and ensure no actual harm to the environment," he said.

"By embracing innovative precision practices and leveraging cutting-edge technologies, the industry could create a resilient agricultural framework that served the needs of the population and preserved the planet for future generations."

During the latest weather

changes, unexpected frosts that impacted hundreds of farmers and crops, creating millions of dollars in damages to the farming industry, but with new farming technologies, some of those potential damages and unexpected risks can be mitigated.

"While we at Haifa cannot change the weather, we can help limit risk by ensuring farmers do not over use products with technology being a key element to guarantee that every drop of irrigation water has nutrients for the plants and ensuring both water and fertiliser are used efficiently.

"As a collective industry, we all know the quite alarming targets we need to achieve to feed the world as we move towards 2050. The UN says the population will increase by about 40 per cent and food consumption by around 70pc, and the FAO says arable land will decrease by 13 points per capita and irrigation will need to increase 50 points to meet the food demand – as well as draw from reduced water resources," Mr Levin said.

Mr Levin also made emphasis into "embracing innovative precision practices and leveraging cutting-edge technologies, the industry could create a resilient agricultural framework that served the needs of the population and preserved the planet for future generations".

Motti Levin, CEO of Motti Levin, CEO of Haifa Group, says Australia has made good gains with precision agriculture and adopting more sustainable practices.
PHOTO: Sebastian Calderon



SAILUN
TYRE

1300 SAILUN
WWW.SAILUNTYRES.COM.AU

STATEWIDE TYRES

Distributed by

Statewide Tyre Distribution - 265 Hanson Road Wingfield 5013
Phone [08] 8347 2999 | Email: andrew@statewidetyres.com.au

OR

Contact your local tyre dealer in your area

Record environmental flows for SA show Murray-Darling Basin Plan back on track

THE environment, irrigators and other River Murray water users are benefiting from record environmental water releases being delivered under the reinvigorated Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

More than 1650GL of water for the environment was provided to South Australia in the 2023-24 financial year, the largest volume since the introduction of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan in November 2012.

This amount significantly eclipses the previous record of 1227GL delivered in 2022-23 before and after the River Murray flood, which provided much-needed water to parts of floodplains and wetlands for the first time in more than 60 years.

The increased environmental flows come as River Murray irrigators received 100 per cent of their allocations for the third-consecutive year. In addition to receiving full allocations, all River Murray water users are benefitting from access to good quality river water, which is good news for river communities.

Monitoring by the Department for Environment and Water found the water releases continued the positive environmental effects of the River Murray flood, particularly for fish species, including:

- Helping a number of native river fish species to breed, including golden perch and silver perch in the river channel and black bream in the northern Coorong.
- Supporting juvenile congolli – an important fish in the Coorong and Lower Lakes food chain – to migrate from the Coorong to Lake Alexandrina through summer, resulting in a significant increase in their numbers.
- Ensuring the survival of young Murray cod that spawned in the floods.

The releases also helped top up low-lying floodplains, wetlands and other land directly adjacent the river, which is known as its 'riparian zone'.

River monitoring also found vast improvement in the condition of trees in the floodplains, including river red gums and black box, following the flood and the 2023 spring water releases. This was more noticeable at areas where water was delivered before the flood, such as Chowilla.

Waterbirds also benefitted from the flood and the following releases – more than half which were delivered between October and December 2023. Spring bird surveys detected dozens of native species – including rare birds such as hooded robins, little friarbirds and Gilbert's whistlers – revelling in the conditions at the Chowilla, Pike and Katarapko floodplains.

These positive results continued into January 2024, with the annual Coorong waterbird census detecting

an increase in the amount of mature fairy terns on the previous year. The species was found to be breeding across multiple colonies.

Spring is a critical time for the delivery of water to SA's stretch of the River Murray because a number of species respond well to the combination of improved river conditions and warmer temperatures.

The environmental water releases were sourced from upstream storages in both the River Murray and its tributaries, including the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee rivers.

The water was provided by a range of water holders, most notably the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and The Living Murray program.

Minister for Environment, and SA deputy premier, Susan Close said "deliveries of water for the environment to our stretch of the River Murray are vital to ensure the health of the system, which also includes the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth".

"The outcomes of water releases are clear, they deliver wide-spread benefits to our environment and our native wildlife," Dr Close said.

"A healthy river system is good news for everyone, including primary producers that rely on the River Murray for their livelihoods.

"All of this work highlights the importance of recovering the final 450GL of environmental water under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan to ensure we deliver better outcomes for the River Murray."

Planning for the remainder of 2024-25 is well advanced and the department will work to maximise all opportunities to deliver water for the environment.



All of this work highlights the importance of recovering the final 450GL...



THE CHEAPER & MORE CONSISTENT WAY OF KEEPING YOUR ANIMALS HEALTHY!

Makers of Animal Supplement Blocks & Loose Mix /// 'Tailor-made' Blocks & Loose Mixes are our specialty
Ask your stock agent or buy direct



SALT DISTRIBUTORS PTY LTD

SNOWTOWN, SA



TS6793

PHONE 0428 339 923 /// SALTDISTRIBUTORS.COM.AU

ALPHA INDUSTRIES

Your Local Outdoor Solution Specialist

✓ GARAGES

✓ CARPORTS

✓ VERANDAHs

✓ FENCING

✓ STABLES

✓ HAY SHEDS

✓ RURAL SHEDS

✓ INDUSTRIAL SHEDS

✓ MACHINERY SHEDS

WWW.ALPHAINDUSTRIES.COM.AU

BLD: 255973

AUSTRALIAN MADE AND OWNED

STEEL SUPPLIED BY

Zincalume® Colorbond®

FACTORY & OFFICE: 12 STOCK ROAD, CAVAN SA, 5094

DISPLACE VILLAGE: 712 SOUTH ROAD, GLANDORE SA, 5037

08 7088 7446

08 7200 5474

37



NO.1 IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

As Australia's trusted leader in rural infrastructure, Ahrens delivers high-quality solutions designed to meet the demands of Australian conditions. With a variety of options made locally and a commitment to customer satisfaction, Ahrens provides industry-leading, turnkey systems for farms of all sizes.



Talk to a friendly member
of our team today!

📞 1800 810 420

🔍 ahrensrural.com.au



Silo health crucial as harvest nears

Mallee grain growers are being encouraged to ensure storage silos have a 'clean bill of health' as attention turns to winter crop harvest.

The advice comes from the Grains Research and Development Corporation's (GRDC) Grain Storage Extension team.

GRDC has a long-standing investment in on-farm grain storage and extension to support best practice management to growers.

GRDC Grain Storage Extension team project lead Chris Warrick said the biggest challenge of storing grain is dealing with insects – and prevention is always better than cure.

"Controlling insects once they infest grain requires fumigation or controlled atmosphere, both of which require gas-tight, sealable storage. For un-sealable storage, prevention is our only option (short of transferring grain into gas-tight sealable storage for batch fumigation)," he said.

"Hygiene is the first line of defence and goes beyond just the storage area and its surroundings. Whole-farm hygiene includes cleaning any equipment that handles or holds grain, such as stock feeding equipment.

"Waste grain should be disposed of by feeding it to stock, burying it, or spreading it out thinly over the ground to decompose. A pile or drum of waste grain creates the perfect breeding ground for insects, undoing all our hard work in cleaning up."

Once the clean-up is complete, Mr Warrick said storage and equipment can be treated with diatomaceous earth (DE) to ensure there are no surviving insects left to reinfest newly harvested grain.

"Recent testing revealed that an 18-volt battery or petrol-powered leaf blower can effectively distribute the DE throughout a cone or flat-bottom silo from ground level," he said.

"A venturi gun on a standard air compressor can also be used, though it was less effective in the tests."

The next step is to use protectants as an additional insect prevention tool for cereal grain. Mr Warrick said because some markets, especially international buyers, require Pesticide Residue Free (PRF) grain, protectants are best suited to domestic, feed cereals in un-sealable storage, where fumigation is not an option.

"A registered grain storage protectant with the active ingredients Spinosad and S-methoprene or Deltamethrin and Piperonyl butoxide should be rotated every year or two," Mr Warrick said.

"However, if the lesser grain borer is present on the property, Spinosad offers higher efficacy – highlighting the importance of accurate insect identification."

Mr Warrick said the second decision is to select a mixing partner with an active ingredient of Fenitrothion or Chlorpyrifos-methyl, provided neither one is already included with the Spinosad or Deltamethrin.

"The mixing partner offers protection against rice weevil and growers should consider the type of grain being stored, the withholding period, and market acceptance when making this choice," he said.

"Fenitrothion is registered for a broader range of cereals but requires a 90-day withholding period when applied at the nine-month protection rate. Chlorpyrifos-methyl has no

withholding period, however it is not registered for malt barley or rice, and is accepted by fewer markets.

"Always read and follow label directions."

Mr Warrick said aeration cooling is the other key component of insect prevention.

"By cooling grain, insect activity can be slowed or even stopped if low enough grain temperatures are achieved," he said.

"Additional benefits of aeration cooling include preventing mould growth, temporarily holding over moisture grain until it can be dried, blended, or fed to stock, and reducing the vent time needed to clear gas after fumigation."

Aeration cooling can be retrofitted relatively easily to cone bottom silos and operates most efficiently with an automatic controller. Aeration systems should be selected with the goal of delivering 2L to 3L of air per second per tonne, tailored to the type of grain being stored.

"Recent testing showed that it is beneficial to inform aeration equipment suppliers about the specific grains being stored to ensure the fan can handle the backpressure caused by the grain type," he said.

"Suppliers should also be asked whether their quoted airflow rates are based on calculations or actual field tests, as instances have shown that aeration system performance in real-world conditions can be significantly lower than the supplier's calculated estimates."

Mr Warrick said that monitoring grain temperature and regularly checking for insects are also essential steps in

preventing issues in stored grain.

"This can be done with simple probe traps and thermometers inserted into the top of the grain stack," he said.

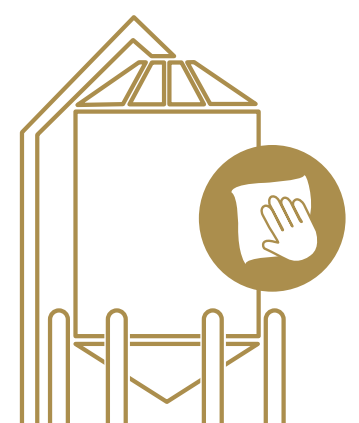
"Access ports can be installed on the sides of storages to obtain readings throughout the stack, and remote monitoring equipment can be added to provide real-time readings directly to a dashboard or mobile device."

Pre-harvest health check top tips:

Hygiene is the first defence and extends beyond the storage and surrounds, including all equipment that handles grain

- Post cleaning, apply DE to address any remaining insects.
- Consider protectants as an additional insect prevention tool.
- Make use of aeration cooling for multiple benefits.
- Monitor regularly for pests.

An online GRDC Grains Research Update webinar was recently held on the topic. The recording can be viewed via the GRDC website.





Rain levels

Storages (as at 6 November)

RENMARK

1 August to 6 November 2024: 43.6mm
Rainfall to 6 November 2024: 154mm
Rainfall to 6 November 2023: 133.8mm

LOXTON

1 August to 6 November 2024: 16.6mm
Rainfall to 6 November 2024: 127.5mm
Rainfall to 6 November 2023: 150.8mm

WAIKERIE

1 August to 6 November 2024: 56.2mm
Rainfall to 6 November 2024: 160.6mm
Rainfall to 6 November 2023: 113mm

LAMEROO

1 August to 6 November 2024: 62.6mm
Rainfall to 6 November 2024: 156.4mm
Rainfall to 6 November 2023: 275.8mm

GAWLER

1 August to 6 November 2024: 51.8mm
Rainfall to 6 November 2024: 174.4mm
Rainfall to 6 November 2023: 233.2mm

MENINDEE LAKES: 53 per cent full

DARTMOUTH: 92 per cent full

HUME: 60 per cent full

LAKE VICTORIA: 90 per cent full

FLOWS INTO SA: 17,500ML/day

SA's agriculture research and innovation to drive net zero by 2050

RESEARCH into lowering greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural practices will be spearheaded by South Australia through an \$8.4m commitment alongside partnerships between the State and Federal Governments and industry.

Led by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), the research will be essential to help the state reach Net Zero by 2050, which will help to preserve SA's environment for generations to come, and to support producers to maintain market access and establish new markets.

The South Australian Government has committed to reduce greenhouse

gas emissions by at least 60 per cent from 2005 levels, by 2030, and to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

In South Australia, the agricultural sector was estimated to account for 37 per cent of our greenhouse gas emissions in 2022.

There are a number of sources of greenhouse gas emissions generated in the agricultural sector and on farms in South Australia. Fertiliser production and use make up a large proportion of the emissions challenge for South Australian grain farmers, producers, and growers, followed by methane released by livestock.



This methane is produced by cows, sheep, and goats in their stomach, which is then released into the atmosphere, mostly when burping or through flatulence.

The June state budget committed \$8.4m over five years and will leverage Commonwealth and industry contributions of \$16m over five years, to a total of \$24.4m.

This will establish the essential industry partnerships and collaborations necessary to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

South Australia's \$18.5bn agriculture sector will benefit from this next generation research and development that will build on the active initiatives in emissions reduction and sustainability that SARDI is undertaking, including;

Methane mitigation:

- Testing existing products or identifying novel bioactive molecules for livestock that result in less methane production while not impacting reproduction success, the quality of wool, milk, and meat products for producers.
- Plant breeding and selection: Plant breeding and trials to determine new feed base options which roaming

livestock could eat, which naturally decrease the amount of methane produced. This is a key consideration required to address methane produced from pasture-based ruminant systems in South Australia.

- Agronomy and soils: Undertaking research aimed at improving soils to increase the opportunity for atmospheric carbon storage, or the expansion of legume crop production to reduce synthetic nitrogen use.
- Management for mitigation: Supporting SA producers to ensure they have access to the emission reduction solutions they need, as well as the new information and technology as quickly as possible as it is developed. Much of this research will be undertaken at SARDI innovation farms, or in partnership with farming systems groups and growers, located across a range of the key rainfall and climate zones throughout South Australia, where new innovations will be trialled as they become available, and new research will be conducted to investigate

new solutions. This will ensure that farmers have early access to new solutions which are designed to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases from our unique SA farming systems and regions.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Clare Scriven said "the global agricultural market is demanding that producers demonstrate their commitment to reducing emissions and using sustainable agricultural practices to maintain market access and competitiveness".

"This pressure will only increase in the years to come," Ms Scriven said.

"We have already reached a 50 per cent reduction from 2005 levels. But to reach net zero by 2050 we really need to act now across all sectors, and this commitment is the first step towards our agriculture sector – which employs so many South Australians across our regions – to reach this target

"SARDI is already doing great work in this space, including undertaking research and development in greenhouse gas emissions reduction and sustainability, such as methane mitigation in livestock and agronomic practices to reduce inputs and improve carbon sequestration.

"It is important to note this funding isn't just to implement products into farms now, but it is also about the investment into the necessary research so the right solutions for our unique and beautiful environment can be developed into the future. I look forward to seeing the innovative research and development that will be achieved through this commitment to help us get to net zero and preserve our state for generations to come."

McCabe AgCo owner and manager Adrian McCabe said "as multi-generational farmers, embracing net zero targets for South Australia aligns with our long-standing commitment to 'doing more with less' by optimising resource use and minimising waste, which has always been a core principle of our farming practices".

"By focusing on improving natural capital, including enhancing soil health, and maximising water and nitrogen use efficiency, we can leave the land in better condition for future generations while producing food for a growing global population," Mr McCabe said.

"South Australia's distinct soils and climate enable us to grow legumes, leading to a production system with the lowest emissions intensity globally, positioning us perfectly for the journey of South Australia towards net zero."

Explore the latest in Fruit and Vegetable machinery at edp.com.au



edp Australia is a leading supplier of fresh fruit and vegetable packaging solutions including machinery and consumable.

(03) 5820 5337
sales@edp.com.au





St Mark's College ADELAIDE

ABOUT US

St Mark's is a world class residential college in the parklands of North Adelaide for students of the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia, and Flinders University.

MORE THAN STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Fees cover a private and furnished room, as well as...

- Meals, utilities, and Wi-Fi
- Academic support
- 24/7 wellbeing support
- Proximity to city campuses
- Gym and library access
- Training and workshops
- Sport, cultural, service, and social activities

LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE
stmarkscollege.com.au

Farmers continue to recover after historic frost damage

WORDS JEM NASH

Much of the South Australia's farming community is still recovering from a devastating frost in September that saw heavily reduced crops right across the state.

The Barossa Valley's vineyards were hit particularly hard, with many wineries experiencing losses of at least 50 per cent of their crops, with some even as high as 80 to 90 per cent.

The combination of the extreme cold weather and a near-record low rainfall created a perfect storm for growers, with parts of the lower Mid North seeing temperatures drop below zero through the middle of September.

Wine Grape Council SA chair Adrian Hoffmann said last month that the frost impact was widespread.

"The vines have been slightly weakened due to the fact they wouldn't be fully hydrated... so vine health would have an impact as well," he said.

"I think growers that have been dealing with frost for a number of years have done all they could do from a management point of view.

"I know I did and I keep on telling myself I did, but it's a case of unfortunately when you're dealing with the extremes of weather, sometimes your best isn't good enough."

It was not just vineyards that were hit either, with a wide range of crops affected.

NTS Rural senior agronomist Richard Noll labelled the event as "a bit of a disaster", with yields well below average.

"We were talking down to -7 [degrees Celsius] in some areas, and five to six hours below zero, and not too many crops survive that," he said.

"The pulse crops, especially field peas, are really susceptible to

frost. Wheat if it's flowering is quite susceptible.

"This year I've seen canola has been hit very hard and barley has been hit pretty hard when barley is usually pretty resilient to frost. It was just that cold it didn't really matter what crop it was."

Mr Noll anticipated a flow-on economic impact from the event.

"A lot of farmers are down, you've just got to support them a bit. That's all you can do," he said.

"It affects everything, it affects resellers, everyone's incomes are going to be knocked around a fair bit.

"It has a flow-on effect right through the whole economy."

Kies Family Wines, based at Lyndoch, took to social media in September immediately after the frost to share its experience.

The frost resulted in the loss of 80 per cent of its crop, with vigneron Michael Kies saying it was the worst he had seen in his 55 vintages.

Like many other vineyards, Kies Family Wines had frost fans set up, but in this particular event the temperatures were too low for the fans to work.

Multiple seminars and workshops were held in the weeks after the frost event, including a Frost Management and Recovery Workshop on 10 October.

Growers were able to hear scientific insights and other growers' experiences with practical methods for recovery.

Speakers include Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) general manager Dr Mardi Longbottom and Workplace Wellbeing SA's Rebecca Weatherill who spoke about strengthening wellbeing for good mental health in challenging times.

There was a panel discussion and Q and A with local viticulturists, and a meteorologist also discussed recent changes in inversion behaviour.

In early October, the State Government announced it was assisting grape growers with future planning and preparedness by using satellite imagery to map the extent of frost damage caused to vineyards.

Experts in satellite image analytics use date sensitive imagery to capture the impacts from recent frost events to conduct an assessment of the damage caused.

Viticulturalists from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) conducted on-ground assessments to confirm the satellite imagery correctly identified the locations of frost impact.

The mapping provides an indication of where frost damage occurred and how many hectares of vineyard was affected.

The information assists producers with future decision making and preparedness and allows them to consider frost minimisation strategies around vineyard floor management, pruning method and timing, trellis height, variety choice and investment in wind machines and sprinklers.

An initial snapshot of the extent of frost damage on grapevines was expected to be available this month.

"The satellite mapping is an innovative tool that will significantly help grape growers with their future planning and decision making," Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Clare Scriven said.

While the frost damage is quite devastating across the state, Mr Hoffmann said it might provide an opportunity for some growers to sell their fruit that otherwise might have gone to waste.

"I'm hoping that it will increase demand for those that haven't found an opportunity to sell some fruit this year," he said.

"Hopefully wineries support that growers that have been hit and still take their fruit, but hopefully it opens up opportunities for other growers."

Mr Hoffmann said it was important for growers to look after their own health and wellbeing in the aftermath of a tough season.

"If growers are struggling, make sure that they talk to their fellow growers," he said.

"There's help out there... make sure that they do talk to people around them.

"They're not in any unique situation and as much as it seems hopeless, or you feel helpless, there is help out there and there are people that are willing to listen."

A lot of farmers are down, you've just got to support them a bit. That's all you can do...

A revolutionary breakthrough for No Till, Zero Till & Pasture Cropping Farmers

Your solution to improved productivity, profit and soils



PRODUCTS

Retrofit Double Discs
Retrofit Discs - Small Seeders & Pasture Drills
Single Disc Guage Wheel
Double Disc Guage Wheel
Spring Coil Press Wheel
Single Disc Closing Wheel
Double Disc Closing Wheel
Ryan Tyne
Retrofit Trashcutter
RFM Servicing

RYANNT
PAUL RYAN NOTILL TECHNOLOGY

HEAD OFFICE
134 Golf Course Road, Horsham VIC

PHONE
1800 792 668

WEB
www.ryannt.com.au

EMAIL
paul@ryannt.com.au

TS6867



Riverland Lending Services senior manager Jeff McDonald speaking at the recent Australian Almond Conference, held at the Adelaide Convention Centre. PHOTOS: supplied

Highlights from the 2024 Australian Almond Conference

A RECORD crowd of 600 delegates attended the Australian Almond Conference at the Adelaide Convention Centre in October.

The event is held every two years and again provided a great opportunity for those in the industry to network and learn.

International guests from California and Spain provided great insights into almond production, focusing on the growing techniques, pest and disease

management, and varieties being produced.

The newcomers panel was also well attended, with speakers from WA, Victoria, NSW and SA sharing their learnings about building processing facilities and large new almond orchards from greenfield sites.

With 40 per cent of Australia's almond orchards nearing 20 years old, the need to make key decisions on redevelopment sparked wide-spread

interest in a number of the sessions during the conference.

Key researchers from Spain, California and Australia discussed varietal preference, rootstock choices, as well as tree-planting densities. While there was no standout answer, it was clear growers are looking for a high-yielding tree.

The Almond Board of Australia's (ABA) new marketing manager Mel Wyness outlined how Australian

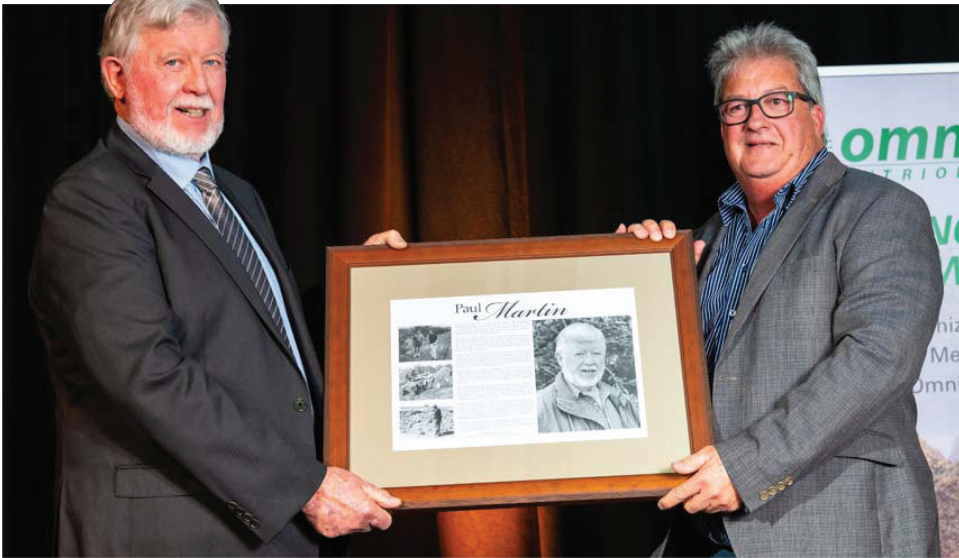
almonds would be promoted domestically and internationally.

The marketing team also revealed their new branding, with the slogan "Love almonds, they'll love you back".

An almond chair, shaped like a kernel, was also unveiled. It symbolises a comfortable, nurturing space and will be used for consumer events across Australia, while Murray, the new almond kangaroo, will be used as a global mascot.



Tim Jackson presenting an Industry Service Award for Almondco managing director Brenton Woolston, accepted by Andrew Lacey.



Long-time Riverland almond industry figure Paul Martin, pictured with Australian Nut Industry Council chairman Brendan Sidhu, was inducted to the Almond Board of Australia Hall of Fame.

Sumit Saran from SS Associates, in Delhi, has been contracted to be the ABA's eyes and ears on the ground in India, as work ramps up to raise the profile of Australian almonds in this traditional market.

His presentation outlined why understanding India is challenging, with rich and poor, modern and traditional elements all co-existing in a chaotic setting that is changing rapidly.

Sumit explained that cricket, Bollywood and the power of aspiration binds the population, which speaks 22 major languages.

Attendees at the gala dinner had the opportunity to hear from chef and TV personality Poh Ling Yeow, who is the latest Australian almonds ambassador.

The Masterchef judge is a big fan of almonds and their versatility for use in both sweet and savory dishes.

Also at the gala dinner, Larry Cavallaro and Paul Martin were inducted into the Almond Board of Australia Hall of Fame.

Larry was a pioneering almond grower in Angle Vale, but also was the deputy chairman and later managing director of the Almond Co-operative and oversaw the co-op's move from Edwardstown to Berri in the mid-80s.

Paul grew up in Willunga, where

his family owned an almond orchard, before moving to the Riverland where he played a key role in the development of Lindsay Point and other key developments, including Jubilee and Century Orchards.

Industry Service Awards were also presented to retiring ABA marketing manager Joseph Ebbage, Almondco's managing director Brenton Woolston, and Sunraysia bee broker Trevor Monson.

The conference also provided an opportunity to launch new initiatives set to take place in 2025 and beyond, including study tours to Spain/Portugal and California, as well as a new leadership program.

The ABA's incoming chairman Alan Hoppe was in attendance and introduced himself to delegates.

Mr Hoppe will take over from Peter Hayes at the beginning of 2025. Mt Hayes was the ABA's first independent chair and has been at the helm for the past five years.

Mr Hoppe has extensive agribusiness experience and was involved in the Macquarie almond investments earlier in his career.



ABA ceo Tim Jackson with Australian almonds ambassador Poh Ling Yeow, sitting on a specially designed almond kernel chair.

**Love almonds,
they'll love you
back...**

Looking after your land is easy with **drumMUSTER**

drumMUSTER® provides Australian agricultural and veterinary chemical users with a recycling pathway for eligible empty AgVet chemical containers.

Simply visit the **drumMUSTER** website to find the nearest collection site to you. Remember, every container counts.



drummuster.org.au

**RINSE THEM OUT
ROUND THEM UP
RUN THEM IN**



Connect with us

AgSafe's **drumMUSTER®** program is a national product stewardship program that is supported by AgVet chemical manufacturers, industry stakeholders including member and farming associations as well as state and local governments.



drumMUSTER
rinse them out, round them up and run them in.

PLATINUM AG SERVICES OFFERING EXPERT ADVICE ON ALL YOUR RURAL NEEDS



Throughout South Australia
and Mildura

KIMBA
Karen Eatts
T 0400 227 570

CLARE
Nic Jones
T 0428 574 718

RENMARK
Stephen Flaherty
T 0439 014 810

COORONG
Michael Camac
T 0457 794 330

BALAKLAVA
Martin Bond
T 0409 632 185

LOXTON
Damien Hunt
T 0400 181 878

MALLALA
Bev Eckert
T 08 8527 2166

MURRAYLANDS
Shane Sullivan
T 0438 904 751

MILDURA
Mark Johnson
T 0400 701 168

CRYSTAL BROOK
Ben Hook
T 0457 408 900

VIRGINIA
Richard Knowles
T 0458 799 803

WE SPECIALISE IN



**AG-CHEM
FERTILISER**



SEED



**ANIMAL
HEALTH**



FENCING



**WATER &
IRRIGATION**



LIVESTOCK



FINANCE



INSURANCE



**WATER
BROKING**



**RURAL
MERCHANDISE**



Next steps in preparing SA for varroa mite

SOUTH Australia's preparedness for the possible incursion of varroa mite and its future management has taken the next step as the SA Varroa Detection Response and Transition to Management Plan has been approved by industry and is now available.

The SA Varroa Detection Response and Transition to Management Plan (the Plan) was developed with industry to prepare beekeepers for Varroa and respond to its detection within South Australia or within another State/Territory that has previously been considered free from varroa.

Varroa destructor is a distinctive small mite and parasite of the European honeybee and Asian honeybee. It is regarded as the most serious global pest of honeybees with death often occurring to bees in infested hives left untreated.

Since its detection in June last year, at Newcastle, varroa has now spread within New South Wales to a point that eradication is considered no longer possible at the national level.

While it has yet to be detected in South Australia, it is estimated that the establishment of varroa mite in Australia could result in losses of over \$70m a year to pollination dependent industries across the country. It is why preparing our South Australia's beekeeping industry is paramount. The aim of the plan is to assist the apiary industry, including both commercial

and recreational beekeepers and pollination industries, to prepare for the eventual establishment of Varroa in SA in order to:

- Maintain freedom from varroa for as long as is achievable, while balancing business continuity.
- Once detected in SA, minimise the impact of varroa.
- Provide business continuity through a risk-based approach.

The SA Varroa Industry Advisory Committee (SAVIAC) provided advice to the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) in the development of the plan.

The committee recently endorsed a final draft plan following public consultation. The chief executive of PIRSA has now endorsed the SA Varroa Detection Response and Transition to Management Plan.

In addition, three varroa development officers and a co-ordinator have commenced at PIRSA, dedicated to assisting beekeepers to develop skills and knowledge necessary to prepare for and manage varroa in accordance with the plan.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Clare Scriven said "while in a perfect world we do not want to see varroa mite in our

state, unfortunately it is not considered eradicable at the national level".

"As a result, it is a matter of when, not if, it comes to South Australia," Ms Scriven said.

"That is why it was critical a plan was developed in close consultation with industry, and I am pleased to see the plan has been approved and will be adopted.

"It aims to ensure all participants within SA's beekeeping community are prepared with information on how to manage varroa which results in the

growth and sustainability of both apiary and pollination dependent industries.

"The Varroa Development Officer team will be working closely with industry in metropolitan Adelaide and the regions. Their services are available to all apiarists, regardless of registration."

Apiarists are reminded about the importance of being registered and ensuring that their details associated with their registration are kept up to date to receive important biosecurity information.



• Locally owned and operated • Friendly customer service • Fast turn around time

INDUSTRIAL DYNAMIC BALANCING

1kg - 7 tonne

• Flail Rotors • Slashers • Header Rotors • Feeders • Pump Impellers • Fans • Straw Thrashers

GENERAL MACHINING

• Lathe • Milling • Drilling • Welding • Robotic Plasma Cutting

TRUSTED NAME IN THE INDUSTRY FOR OVER 50 YEARS

Servicing all areas Ph. 08 8262 4545 • Fx. 08 8262 4453
Email: admin@litchfieldbalancing.com.au • Dry Creek SA 5094 • ABN 83 613 360 099



Farmer summer growing guide

GOOD preparation is critical for your garden to survive the wilting effects of the South Australian summer.

For all of us, summer brings common challenges, such as dividing time and effort between keeping our gardens in good shape, and enjoying them during the summer holidays.

The first and most important tip would be to know when to water your garden in summer. This is very crucial because watering in the full sun means much of the water will evaporate before reaching the roots,

hence it's not water-efficient or effective.

The best time to water the garden is in the morning or evening during the cooler parts of the day (ideally before 10 am and after 4 pm).

Summer vegetables are often planted in late spring when the soil temperatures has increased to allow germination and consistent growing.

Gardeners around the country dread summertime, but we're here to help you understand what to plant in summer so you can make the most of this difficult period.



TOMATOES

The heroes of the home vegetable garden, rich in nutrients and antioxidants, a home-grown tomato surpasses store-bought fruit in terms of flavour. There are hundreds of tomato varieties with different uses and slightly different flavours. After a few attempts at trial and error, you'll discover some delicious varieties that appeal to your tastebuds.

				
POSITION	SOW DEPTH	GERMINATION	PLANT SPACE	HARVEST
Full sun	25cm	1-2 wks	60-90cm	3 mths



APRICOTS

Fresh fruit from the tree simply can't be compared to what you can buy at the supermarket, and the varieties that you can grow are vast. Plant your apricot tree in full sun in free-draining soil/potting mix with plenty of space around it. Apricot trees do not tolerate prolonged wet conditions so good drainage is essential. To achieve a good soil structure for planted trees, you should improve your soil at least six weeks prior to planting.

				
POSITION	SOW DEPTH	GERMINATION	PLANT SPACE	HARVEST
Full sun	30cm	4-6 wks	5 metres	2 years



ROSEMARY

Rosemary is a hardy and handsome shrub that is originally from the Mediterranean region. It has excellent textural form, with a slender upright branching habit on elegantly long stems that are cloaked with tiny leaves. You'll find a range of forms available, including groundcover varieties, although some of these aren't as good when used in cooking. When in flower, rosemary can look quite stunning, and the nectar-rich flowers are a favourite of many pollinators, including honey bees and a range of native bees. Rosemary has the ability to survive incredibly harsh conditions. It's often the last plant standing in a neglected herb or veggie patch, looking as happy as the day it was planted.

				
POSITION	SOW DEPTH	GERMINATION	PLANT SPACE	HARVEST
Full sun	3mm	15-25 days	45cm	17-25 wks



CARROTS

Avoid planting in extremely hot weather, which can affect germination and growth. Carrot plants are best grown in full sun, so choose a location that will receive at least six hours of full sun each day. Carrot plants need a loose, well-drained soil enriched with organic matter. Prepare soil by weeding it thoroughly, digging it over to at least a spade's depth to loosen the soil, and adding aged animal manure or compost.

				
POSITION	SOW DEPTH	GERMINATION	PLANT SPACE	HARVEST
Full sun	.5cm	7-21 days	3-8cm	12-16 wks



PLUMS

Plum trees require full sun to thrive and produce a good number of delicious fruit. Afternoon shade is ok, provided your plum tree receives sun for the rest of the day. Avoid gullies and other sites exposed to spring frosts that may damage flowers. In warmer climates, select a site where your plum can be protected from harsh afternoon sun in summer, this will also be a good spot to maximise the chill hours then received in winter.

				
POSITION	SOW DEPTH	GERMINATION	PLANT SPACE	HARVEST
Full sun	1ft	1-2 wks	3 metres	3-5 yrs



THYME

Thyme can be grown in dry or difficult areas of the garden as a ground cover to inhibit weed growth. It can also be grown in the herb and kitchen garden as a fresh ingredient for your pantry, or grown in pots in small gardens or on balconies for ease of harvest. In the kitchen thyme has many uses, and is suited to a range of cuisines, from Italian to French dishes. A culinary staple, thyme is a must-have for the home cook or kitchen gardener.

				
POSITION	SOW DEPTH	GERMINATION	PLANT SPACE	HARVEST
Full sun	5mm	14-21 days	30cm	10-12 wks



BEETROOT

Garden-fresh beetroot has more flavour and is packed with healthy nutrients. As a root vegetable, beetroot comes in different shapes, sizes and colours with edible leaves that taste great in a salad. It's also easy to grow at most times of the year and you don't even need a lot of space. Whether you're planting in pots or the garden, soil preparation is a must. Use a medium rich, well-drained soil that's been loosened with a garden fork. Mix in some compost and manure with a bit of blood and bone.

				
POSITION	SOW DEPTH	GERMINATION	PLANT SPACE	HARVEST
Full sun	2cm	10-14 days	25cm	10-12 wks



FIGS

Perfect eaten straight off the tree, with your morning yoghurt, or for desert – fig trees are ideal to have a stone's throw away from your back door. Planting your fig tree in an area where they get sun all day is vital. Placing your fig tree on the northern side of your house to maximise the amount of sunshine acquired is a good way to ensure it. If you are planting your fig in the ground, ensure the soil is very well-draining to avoid root diseases. Creating a mound, raised garden bed, or planting your fig tree on a slope are all good ways to ensure drainage around the roots is adequate.

				
POSITION	SOW DEPTH	GERMINATION	PLANT SPACE	HARVEST
Full sun	1.5 ft	12-14 days	10 ft	2-3 yrs



OREGANO

An aromatic evergreen groundcover, oregano is a naturally spreading herb that thrives in most dry summer gardens. Mediterranean oregano prefers dry soils and achieves maximum flavour in full sun, even though it does grow well in part shade. Perfect for pots, containers or windowsills, especially in tropical and sub-tropical climates, where it may become too wet in summer, oregano is a versatile and useful herb.

				
POSITION	SOW DEPTH	GERMINATION	PLANT SPACE	HARVEST
Full sun	1-2mm	7-14 days	20cm	11-12 wks

safarmer.com.au

SA Farmer

BUSINESS

CARDS



WOOLSTONENGINEERING

AGRICULTURAL REPAIRS METAL FABRICATION MACHINING STEEL SALES



GREGOIRE / VINESTAR

URM GRAPE HARVESTERS

- Genuine & after market parts
- Full Servicing, 24 hour call out
- Machining & Welding Services
- Hydraulic & General Engineering Services
- Supplying Shell Oil & Lubricants
- B.S.C Bearings and Power Transmission
- Steel Sales • Fasteners

487 Old Sturt Highway, Glossop

David: 0408 837 370 / Kyle 0415 651 686

BZ13492



B. S. & L. D. Venning

Licensed Cash Buyers for Wool

For Clip Wools - Quality Wools for Private Buying or Auction

Loxton Wed, 9am - 2pm - Pinnaroo by appointment only

Phone 08 8584 5327 or 0428 778 124

LZ15605

DIRECT SEEDING



DARRYL DRILL

www.directseeding.com.au




Wanna Advertise right here?

We can provide your business with the exposure it deserves.

SA Farmer

  P: 8586 8000 | E: ads@murraypioneer.com.au

AG NEWS



Rebate to assist eID equipment costs

THE State Government will see reduced costs in transitioning to electronic identification (eID) tags for sheep and farmed goats under a recent rebate announcement.

Livestock agents could receive a 75 per cent rebate on eligible essential equipment which help record and report sheep and farmed goats to the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).

Eligible equipment includes wand readers or pocket readers to a value of \$7000 – applicable to purchases incurred since June 8, 2023.

Minister for Primary Industries

and Regional Development Clare Scriven said the rebate would boost reporting crucial to protecting South Australia's livestock industry.

"We recognise that livestock agents are facing upfront costs to transition to electronic recording of the movement of sheep and goats," Ms Scriven said.

"This funding is the latest in a series of rebates the State Government has made available to assist eligible producers, saleyards, processors, and livestock agents with the upfront costs of essential equipment and infrastructure.

"Electronic identification for

sheep and farmed goats will ensure we have the best possible traceability system, which is crucial to protecting our \$2.96 billion livestock industry in the event of an outbreak of an emergency animal disease such as foot and mouth disease."

The rebate will be open until 5pm on Monday 30 June 2025.

Livestock agents must be based in South Australia with an active livestock agent property identification code to be eligible for the rebate.

For more information on the rebate and eligibility, visit the PIRSA website.

YOUR COMPLETE SHED SOLUTION



Where strength meets customisation and style!!



03 5022 1062 | 0407 092 350



6 Adelong Crt Nichols Point, VIC 3501



amanda@leversconceptconstructions.com.au



www.leversconceptconstructions.com.au

KINCROME



A family owned Australian business

CHECK THE LATEST CATALOGUE AT RIVERLANDSTEEL.COM.AU



VISIT RIVERLAND STEEL ON THE 5th & 6th DECEMBER
PURCHASE KINCROME PRODUCTS TO GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN A 116 PIECE KINCROME PORTABLE TOOL KIT!



\$265

NEW!



KINCROME
Standard & Deep Impact
Socket Set

30 Piece

- > 15 Metric 1/2" Impact Sockets: 10-32mm
 - > 15 Metric 1/2" Deep Impact Sockets: 10-32mm
- K2097

METRIC

\$240



KINCROME
Punch & Chisel Set

25 Piece

- Cold Chisels: 6, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25mm
Centre punches: 2, 3, 5, 6mm
Starter punches: 2, 3, 5, 6, 8mm
Taper punches: 3, 5, 6mm
Long pin punches: 2.5, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8mm
- K9512

FROM

\$41⁹⁵



KINCROME
Aluminium Pipe Wrenches

250mm - 900mm

250mm (10")	K040130	\$41.95
300mm (12")	K040131	\$52.95
350mm (14")	K040132	\$61.95
450mm (18")	K040133	\$82.95
600mm (24")	K040134	\$125
900mm (36")	K040135	\$209

\$49⁹⁵



KINCROME
Adventure Knife

100mm

- Durable 8CR13 blade retains edge for longer
Heavy-Duty frame lock for added strength
G10 handle offers improved durability and grip
Ball-bearing pivot allows smooth opening action
- K6190

\$559



Scan for more info

KINCROME
Portable Tool Kit

150 Piece

METRIC



LIFETIME GUARANTEE

- > Measurements: L 450 x W 432 x H 134mm
- K1870



AVAILABLE IN 2 COLOURS

BLACK - K1280 WHITE - K1280W

\$3599
EACH



Scan for more info

KINCROME OFF-ROAD
Field Service Tool Kit

426 Piece 6 Drawer (39")

METRIC & IMPERIAL



Measurements: L 1000 x W 500 x H 670mm



Riverland STEEL

It's good to go to someone you know!

Old Sturt Highway, Berri | (08) 8582 2144

