

# The PRODS

## NEWSLETTER

### SUMMER SPRAYING AWARENESS

Controlling summer weeds to improve the water use efficiency of cropping systems

### PREPARATION FOR JOINING

Your rams, ewes and the environment – aspects that will influence flock fertility

### REPORTS

Horticulture

Nuts

Livestock

Pasture

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## DEBTOR STATEMENTS WILL NOW BE SENT VIA EMAIL

Yenda Producers will commence sending debtor statements via email in the coming months. Please ensure that we have your correct email address. If you need to update your email address please call 02 6961 3300 or email [yenda@yendaprods.com.au](mailto:yenda@yendaprods.com.au)

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*"Your Partners in Farming"®*

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# Summer Spraying Awareness

Controlling summer weeds is the largest single contributor to improving the water use efficiency of cropping systems across southern Australia. A study completed in 2013 by GRDC under the 'Water Use initiative', found that for every dollar invested into summer weed control there was on average a \$5 return on investment. This is not only in stored moisture but also in nutrition and other system benefits.

Given recent rainfall events it is even more important to control summer weeds for a longer period to achieve conserved moisture through to winter crop planting. Fallow efficiency is driven by groundcover to prevent runoff and evaporation; however, this also includes other factors that remove moisture including predominantly summer weeds.

The GRDC study found:

- the highest return was seen when controlling summer weeds 10 days after rainfall;
- benefits to treatment up to three weeks after rainfall, compared to doing nothing.

Grazing systems always find it difficult to balance the use of weeds for fodder or feed prior to spraying, however the study found that the loss of grain production far outweighed the gain in meat or wool production provided under the circumstances.

With this in mind, growers and spray contractors need to take every step possible to avoid off target drift, especially onto sensitive crops such as grapes, cotton and horticulture crops.



Current application guidelines require:

- Applicators must keep accurate spray records for a minimum of 2 years – including nozzle brand, size, type, system pressure and boom height as well as current requirements such as location, weather conditions, product used, product rate, etc.
- Mandatory down-wind no spray zones.
- Use nozzles that produce Extremely Coarse (XC) to Ultra Coarse (UC) droplets, higher water rates, slower ground speeds and lower boom heights from 1st October to 15th April when using Phenoxy based herbicides.
- Apply during the day if possible – vertical mixing of the air makes surface inversions less likely to cause off target drift.
- Do not apply unless wind speeds are between 3 and 15km/hr.
- Do not apply if there are surface temperature inversion conditions present at the application site during the time of application. These conditions exist most evenings, one to two hours before and after sunset.

Remember that a lack of suitable weather conditions for spraying over extended periods is not an excuse for spraying in unsuitable conditions. With ever increasing pressure on herbicide use, especially 2, 4-D and other Phenoxy based herbicides, it is extremely important to make sure they are used correctly to enable them to be used into the future.

If you would like further assistance don't hesitate to call your YPC agronomist for advice on application and nozzle selection.

# Horticulture News

## PRUNES

Favourable winter chill hours were acquired early during the dormancy period. This later resulted in early bud movement of prunes this season, alongside many other horticultural crops. Good winter rains have given growers the opportunity to apply pre-emergent herbicides in their orchards prior to budbreak. With follow up rain events to lock these applications in the soil profile, less knockdown applications should be required during the growing season.

Fruit size and uniformity are two important factors needed for maximum return on produce when it comes to stone fruit. With positive results collected locally using the Bio-Stimulant range available to Yenda Producers, Prune growers looking at increasing fruit size and uniformity can discuss these results with their local Agronomist for more information.

*Kriss* is manufactured in Italy by *Biolchim*. *Biolchim* have a diverse range of other bio-stimulants and fertiliser products which can be utilised during key crop growth stages to improve and maximise crop quality. Feel free to contact your horticulturalist for further information in relation to *Kriss*, which plays an integral part for size and uniformity in the bio-stimulant range.

Prune grower fertiliser programs should be well underway, post flowering. Providing adequate amounts of fertiliser throughout cell division is required during this key growth stage, to meet the nutrient demands of prune trees.

## VEGETABLES

As to be expected, the onset of cold weather conditions slowed down the winter vegetable program. Between July and August vegetative growth was minimal as the soil temperatures continued to decline. With some very wet days between this period, harvest became difficult and stretched out; production was slow across all these crops.

At the back end of August warmer weather was experienced moving into Spring and this had an immediate impact on vegetative growth. Alliums, Brassicas, Root and Tuber vegetables showed a significant improvement on plant frame, which should set these crops up nicely for the remainder of their respective growing seasons.



## VINES

With new restrictions in place for *Mancozeb*, growers are reminded that a maximum of 3 sprays are allowed per season. This also includes any other product containing *Mancozeb* as its active constituent. A maximum of 3 sprays per season are also in place for any fungicide from the M3 and M5 mode of action group. *Mancozeb* is also restricted to be used no later than EL 31 (7mm berries) growth stage. Previously a 30-day withholding period applied to *Mancozeb*.

Throughout the postharvest period last season, grapevine moth larvae caused premature defoliation in some vineyards. By conducting regular monitoring throughout the spring period and following up with a range of appropriate management practices, numbers can be controlled early before significant damage occurs.



# Yenda Producers Co-operative Report

**Grapes** – If the expected wet spring does occur this season then good canopy growth is likely and will assist in preventing sunburn on bunches. Conversely, more growth and layers of leaves will increase humidity and retard spray penetration, thereby generally increasing mildew potential. Increased potential for latent infections of *Botrytis* arises, if rain occurs in late October/early November at flowering. Growers are encouraged to reduce the time between sprays if conditions do become wetter this spring.

Nearly all wine-grape fungicide sprays should be applied prior to rainfall events, as they are protectants – and prevention is easier and cheaper than trying to cure disease outbreaks. Similarly, people using sunscreen on sunny days, protectants work by preventing damage before it occurs and are ineffective after the event. *Ridomil/Axiom (Metalaxyl)*, is an example, of an eradicant fungicide allowed in grapes. *Mancozeb* has a new use restriction @ EL31 (7mm berry diameter or end of November for early varieties).

Yenda Producers Co-operative recommends growers only to use registered products on all crops, as listed by the APVMA, as unregistered products can be picked up by chemical auditors when checking spray diaries. It is a lawful requirement to submit an accurate spray diary annually to produce receivers, e.g. winery, packer, and wholesaler. Using off label products in a spray tank can void warranty claims for registered products, as well as claims for the unregistered products.

# Nut News

## GENERAL

- Winter 2020 has been cold with reasonable rainfall and around 540 Chill Hours (temperatures below 7C from 1st May till end of July) so dormancy breaking is not a problem this year.
- By the end of August 2020 almond flowering was well advanced with the earlier varieties already finished with leaf out. The Non Pareil variety has flowered a bit erratically with a cold, wet, windy spell occurring mid-flower.
- Some trees have a lighter flower and crop load, due to extreme conditions last summer and irrigation water was a bit short, just when the buds were forming.
- Most growers have finished flowering sprays. Important to have a protectant spray on by shuck fall.
- Walnuts have started to move with bud swell happening, and flowering will start during mid-September.



## FERTILISER

- Spring fertilising has commenced with some growers opting to spread solid fertiliser, gypsum or compost during the winter months.

## DISEASE

- Cloudy, foggy and rainy conditions were common during the spring flowering period, and there are some signs of blossom blight. If the predicted wetter than average spring occurs, it will be very important to apply preventative fungicide sprays regularly, as there are very few chemicals to cure disease once it is established.
- Be on the lookout for Bacterial Spot, fungal Shot-hole, Anthracnose & Rust.

## INSECTS

- There have been some infestations of Black Aphid in almond orchards – some growers have sprayed before flowering but there may be more outbreaks after flowering.
- A significant number of Carob Moth larvae have been found in mummy nuts left on the tree or on the ground. This could lead to significant pest levels in summer. Orchard hygiene is critical for Carob Moth control.

## CHEMICALS

- The Australian Almond Board have announced that the fungicide *Chlorothalonil* (*Bravo*, *Chlorothalonil*, *Echo*, etc.) can only be used before or during flowering to avoid any residue in the nuts.

## WEEDS

- Increasing infestations of *Glyphosate* resistant ryegrass and Fleabane are evident across the region. Some Fleabane is also proven to be resistant to *Paraquat (Gramoxone)*. Growers need to try and control these weeds early in the season while still small and vary the chemical group to reduce the likelihood of further resistance. It is also important to use the label rate of each product to ensure it works as well as it can.

*For any further information on nut production, please call Peter Reynolds on 0427 566 871 or visit him at the Yenda Prods Griffith store.*



## EVENTS

**The Australian Almond Board held a regional update on July 10th, 2020 as a webinar. Contact Peter Reynolds if you would like a summary of the presentations. Interesting to note that Riverina is now the second largest almond growing area in Australia with over 16,500 ha (2019).**

**The 2020 Australian Almond Conference, scheduled for Dec 2020 has been postponed until 2021.**

## Sponsorships

Yenda Prods regularly sponsors clubs, events and groups from Yenda, Griffith and surrounding towns and villages. This quarter we were pleased to support:

Griffith Jockey Club

Bullioh Football and Netball Club

Griffith Swans

WHS Country Hope Cancer

# Preparation for Joining

When looking back at last year's lambing and you're thinking how you could improve results, break it down simply. Did you have a low lambing percentage or a low scanning rate e.g. 80%? Was there a lot of ewe sickness? This may mean you need to look at your ram team, assess your nutritional plans for both ewes or rams and set a plan in place to overcome these issues. There are a lot of small aspects that will contribute to your success in this field. Your rams, ewes and the environment they are in at joining will all influence flock fertility.

## RAMS

Rams have been inactive for 10 months, so checking them over and making sure they are in good condition, well before joining, is an important operation.

It takes 7 weeks to produce mature sperm so prior management to joining is essential. When we look at rams, there are four key areas we assess (the 4 Ts); Teeth, Toes, Tossle and Testes (it is easiest to check these with the ram in a sitting position).

1. Teeth – should be sound and not broken, rams that cannot eat will not perform. While looking at the mouth assess the gums and the inside of the eyelid, any pale colouration here could indicate anaemia or parasitic burden.
2. Toes – the animal should walk evenly with no lameness. Any foot abscess or laminitis can inhibit the ram's ability to mount and therefore decrease lambing percentage. Trim any elongated hooves and try to ensure that rams are not put onto any country in the meantime that could cause damage (such as rocky/stoney country).
3. Tossle – or pizzle, should be clean and clear of any infection or obstruction. When felt along the back end of the belly it should feel straight with no lumps.
4. Testes – should feel firm and spring back readily. Starting at the top with the two tubes (vas deferens) that run from the top of the stones, feel downward, grasping either side with thumb and finger. Any lumps, bumps or spongy feeling of the testes are red flags (and could be a potential Ovine Brucellosis problem). The epididymis at the bottom should be even and firm – not hard. This is where sperm is stored.

It is also important to make sure that the health program for your ram flock is up to date. Drenching and vaccination are good practice to make sure the animals are performing to the highest ability. It is also important to avoid any shearing or crutching within the 8-10-week window before joining so any physical damage and stresses to the animal that may decrease semen quality can be avoided.

In terms of nutrition and supplementation there has been work in WA to show that supplementation of up to 750gm per head of lupins in the 8 weeks prior to joining has created larger firmer testes (lower rates if paddock feed is good). Selenium, vitamin E and zinc are all important minerals in terms of sperm production so a looselick or subcutaneous injection may help in ensuring balance levels.





## EWES

A general look over your ewes to assess the body structure is important. Any animals with bad feet, single sided and lumpy udders, cancerous vulvas or anything abnormal may need culling. A lot of this assessment can be achieved at weaning, especially if you 'WET AND DRY' assess your ewes.

Another important trait to look at is assessing the age of the animal. Ewes 7 years and older tend to come with a lot of health and productive issues – with higher incidence of lamb mortality. Older ewes do tend to also have trouble nutritionally. Mineral imbalances and pregnancy toxemia are often closely associated with older stock. Also broken teeth will not allow the ewe to put on condition as easily. So, we consider culling ewes that are over 7 years old.

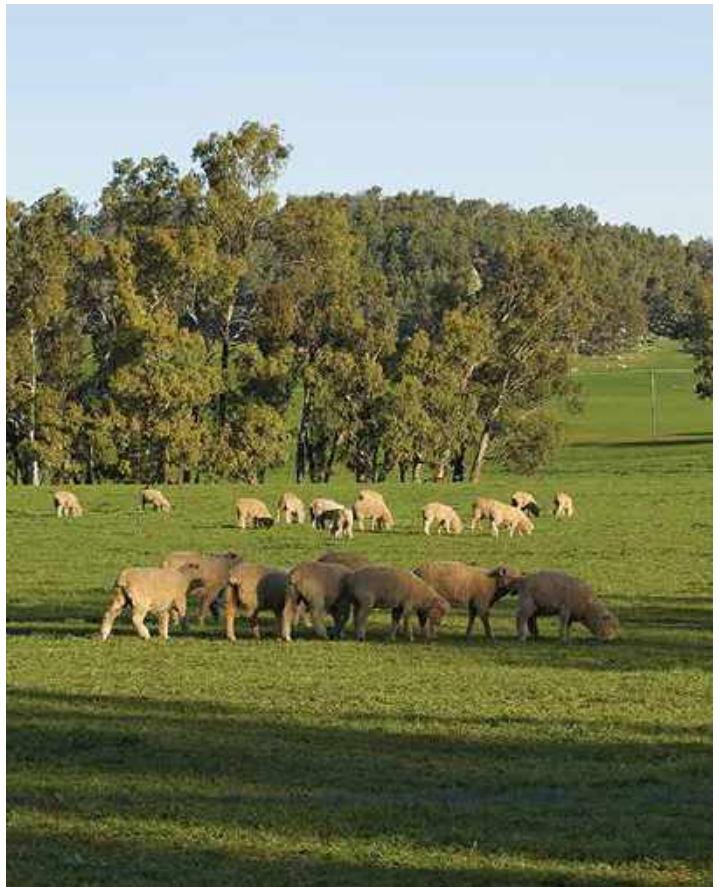
Ewes should be on a rising plane of nutrition and be joined at condition score 3 – fat or light ewes do run into fertility issues. From here they can be maintained in this score to lambing. A general rule of thumb is that it takes 6 weeks to go up one condition score and it takes 3 times as much feed to gain this, then to maintain it. Hence, when you wean will determine if your ewes are fit to join as the lamb will still hold the ewe back condition-wise. So, if you haven't weaned 10 weeks out from joining, we suggest you do and form a nutritional plan for your ewes.

Nutrition is key to embryo survival. Nutrition dictates body score, ovulation and embryo maintenance. Depending on the time you join, supplementary feeding may be necessary. It should be noted – you will often notice that scanning is fantastic in drought years. This is usually indicative of a good neutrino when drought feeding.

## FLUSHING EWES

By placing ewes from a lower quality feed onto a high quality one, such as a fresh lucerne pasture or lupins for 14 days, tricks them into thinking there is a seasonal nutritional change and hence increases ovulation rates, between 10 to 22%. Start 7 days before the rams go in and no-more than 7 days after the rams have been in with the ewes. By utilising flushing in your program there is the ability to achieve an extra 20-odd lambs per hundred ewes. Pasture or supplement too high in protein can cause embryo loss if ewes remain on them during joining.

Mineral and vitamin supplementation is important as there are several that will influence reproductive success. Inadequate phosphorus, copper, manganese, iodine, zinc, molybdenum and vitamins A, E and B have all been associated with lower fertility in animals.



# Preparation for Joining *continued*

When joining young ewes, and it can be done down to 7-8 months, ewe lambs need to be 80% of the standard reference weight of your ewes (standard reference is a dry ewe in CS 3). So, if your ewes are generally 60kgs a young ewe must be at least 48kg. This is to account for the growth she must still achieve on top of the lamb.

As always, health programs for the ewes should be up to date and parasitic burdens analysed and treated accordingly. Simply put, if mum is not healthy don't expect any lambs.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF JOINING

The environment the ewes are joined in plays a pivotal role in conception. There are many factors within this environment that you, as a producer, can have control over. Simple things such as clean, cool accessible water and shade will make a big difference to the outcome of your joining. In our climate we must deal with heat during and around our joining periods. Heat is detrimental to conception and sperm production as ewes and rams will go into survival mode. Providing clean cool water and shade can somewhat alleviate this.



Seasonality is a massive factor influenced by environment. Seasonality is a term used to describe when an animal is coming into its peak period of fertility. For sheep this is after the summer equinox on 22nd December, where the days tend to get shorter, hence sheep are called 'short-day breeders'. This is because light acts on the back of the eye and affects melatonin production which in turn influences sex hormones causing the animal to ovulate. So, the time of join will be influenced by this. The later the join the more ewes in lamb can be expected.

**Table 10.1 Conception rate of Merino and Border Leicester ewes at different joining times (source: Sheep CRC Report 1.2.6)**

Ewes	Lamb date	Joining date (day of year)	Reproductive rate (%)	Singles (%)	Twins (%)
Merino	April	1 Nov (300)	80	70	5
	May	1 Dec (330)	90	80	5
	June	1 Jan (1)	110	90	10
	July	1 Feb (32)	120	80	20
	Aug	1 Mar (60)	130	70	30
	Sep	1 April (90)	130	70	30
	Oct	1 May (120)	120	80	20

Another way to approach out of season joining is with teasers. Teasing ewes is a method that can be utilised solely or with use of other methods. Teasing uses the 'ram effect' in the longer days or out of season. The presence of rams often gets ewes cycling, due to the production of pheromones. There are a couple of methods that can be used; testosterone implanted wethers or ewes, vasectomised rams or a longer joining period (if you already have one longer than 8 weeks, you're taking advantage of this). Induction of teasers 14 days prior to rams entering at joining will ensure that ewes are cycling and in some primitive sort of synchronisation.

There are products which help stimulate ovulation by tricking the ewes into thinking that the days are becoming shorter or by using sex hormones to stimulate ovulation. These are usually injectable, implantable or inserting and quite often give great results.

*If you'd like to discuss joining and the lead up to it to formulate a plan, don't hesitate to give us a call.*

## Meet the Livestock Production Team

Yenda Producers has created a livestock production team to aid growers in getting the most out of their livestock operation, much in the same way that they have a team of skilled agronomists and horticulturists, providing support and knowledge in their respected fields to producers.

What can the livestock production team do for you?

The Yenda Producers Livestock Production Team role is to assist clients in increasing production through;

- Formulation of production plans.
- Condition scoring livestock throughout the season and assist in assessing feed on hand at different stages of the growing season.
- Grazing strategy and supplementation to help prevent metabolic issues throughout the grazing cycle and maximise production in different grazing scenarios.
- Weaning plans for maximising growth and minimising stress on sheep.
- Parasite control plans for fly, worms and lice to help minimise the effects of parasite and mange resistance issues through correct product selection.
- Effective vaccination programs for livestock to aid in stock survival and prevention and control of reproduction diseases, such as Pesti virus in cattle and campylobacter in sheep.
- Or just provide a sounding board for changes you want to make to your livestock operation.

*If you are looking for help or advice on taking your grazing operation to the next level, give the team a call.*



**Duncan Pixley**  
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Leeton Branch



**Casey Gilbert**  
**0437 566 646**  
Griffith Branch



**Peter Gordon**  
**0428 716 645**  
Normac Branch  
Baranduda and  
Wangaratta



# INSURANCE

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Navigating the complexities of your business, property and personal insurance takes the expertise of a qualified and experienced professional.

**So, what type of insurance are you after today?**

We are part of Australia's largest general insurance broker network, allowing us to access the best in the market to ensure we achieve the best insurance outcomes for our clients.

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Built-in bumper ensures freedom of movement around steps, ladders and other obstacles.

Patented seal design with slots and curved "fingers" navigate over and around pool obstacles for total coverage and uninterrupted performance.



For details please enquire instore.

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**YENDA PRODS IRRIGATION**

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# TEMPUS™ DC SERIES CONTROLLER



Take watering to the next level with Toro's innovative NEW Tempus™ DC Battery-Operated Controller. Ideal for managing irrigation in areas without mains power, the Tempus DC is enabled with Bluetooth providing full watering control from a phone or tablet.

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(e.g. 7 day Calendar, Day Interval, Odd/Even Days)



## NEW PRODUCT ALERT



RWE have noticed our clients trying to overcome problem soils that exhibit poor infiltration at different times, and we see areas of water pools and/or runs off.

To address these problems, we have formed a partnership with SNF to distribute and apply their product **Flobond**, a polyacrylamide (PAM).

PAM has been used in agriculture for 30 years and is recommended by the US Dept of Agriculture for improving water infiltration. We have done our own trials and have seen consistent results and are therefore confident to offer **Flobond**, and we have the equipment and personnel to apply Flobond through your irrigation system.

**Flobond** - the advanced technology leading irrigators are using, to improve water utilisation.

Call Ross Fallon 0428 224 134



CONTACT US TODAY

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Lot 1/1310 Kidman Way, Griffith NSW 2680

## DATE FOR THE DIARY

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Yenda Producers Co-operative Society Ltd will be held at the **Historic Hydro Motor Inn** (Chelmsford Place, Leeton NSW) on **Friday 16th October, 2020 commencing at 5.30pm.**

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, attendee numbers at this years AGM will be limited to 40 people. With numbers limited, it is requested that any shareholder wanting to attend the AGM register their intention to attend by email to [anehme@yendaprods.com.au](mailto:anehme@yendaprods.com.au) by **Friday 9th October 2020.**

Any shareholder who wishes to attend but are not able to due to COVID-19 number restrictions, who wishes to join the meeting remotely, will be provided with a link to view and participate in the AGM online. To be eligible for this, shareholders will need to RSVP by the due date.

Yenda Producers Co-operative requests that all attendees ensure they adhere to any COVID-19 requirements put in place by the Historic Hydro Motor Inn.

*Anthony Nehme* - Company Secretary

# Roast Chicken

*Shared by Edwina Blight*

Family Recipes  
from our Staff



*Hi, I'm Edwina Blight ...*

*I have been a proud employee of the Yenda Group for 18 months in human resources. This family recipe has been handed down to me from my mother and is a much loved recipe.*

## Ingredients

- 1.8kg whole chicken
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 6 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1 lemon, rind grated finely
- 3 sprigs flat leaf parsley
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme
- 500g baby carrots
- Lemon wedges, to serve

## Method

1. Preheat oven to 190°C.
2. Pat chicken completely dry inside and out with paper towel.
3. Combine garlic, oil, mustard and rind in a small bowl. Season well with salt. Spread the mixture all over the chicken and under the skin.
4. Cut the lemon in half and place in the chicken cavity with the parsley and thyme. Tie the legs together with string and place in a heavy based roasting pan. Place the carrots around the chicken with 1/3 cup of water.
5. Bake chicken for 1.5 hours, basting occasionally, or until chicken is cooked through. Rest for 15 minutes.
6. Serve roast chicken with carrots, seasonable vegetables and the pan juices.

## FOLLOW THE YENDA GROUP ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Yenda Producers, Spencer & Bennett  
and Breed & Hutchinson



Yenda Group