

**In This Issue: Toxic Elements, Trial Results, New Warehouse opening at Wakool, June 30 Options and more.....**

## Welcome to our June Newsletter

One of the top three starts to our season for 100 years has produced some great early growth.

Above average soil temperatures through till late May have also produced other problems. Some Manganese toxicity has been noted through the region in susceptible crops like Lucerne and canola. It's more common under acid soil conditions, and symptoms can appear like sulphur deficiencies, so a tissue test may well be worthwhile if you notice any yellowing. Even sowing MAP in close contact with the seed can induce manganese toxicity symptoms.

The response to nitrogen is also potentially greater this year. We did see some higher soil nitrate levels during pre sowing deep soil N testing, but of course higher potential yields will see larger nitrogen demands. Long term trends from Incitec Pivot's national data have seen soil N reserves declining over the last 5 years.

If you want to monitor nitrogen levels we have purchased new Nit Rate sensors for our meters and are happy to test cereals and canola. Ask us what plant parts you need to bring in if unsure.

## **New Wakool Warehouse Opening**

Don't forget our new Wakool Warehouse will be officially opened on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Call in for a BBQ lunch, chat with our friendly staff, get special deals on Fertiliser, Chemicals & Merchandise. You might even win the lucky door prize. If we haven't got what you want we have the logistics to get it for you yesterday!

## **June 30**

We are already receiving enquiries about paying for product before the end of June. We generally only sell what we have in store, so please talk to us as soon as you can so we can make sure we have stock of what you want. As we saw with a national shortage of Urea last year, the advantage of buying early is not just tax related, but it guarantees supply and may also apply to our Rural Merchandise products.

## **Trial Results at Brenton's**

We ran a trial with Incitec Pivot at Beauchamp as part of IPL's national trial program.

Even with the dry finish we found some statistically significant results:

Banding some or all nitrogen at sowing was more effective than top dressing alone.

Key factors were low starting soil nitrogen (11 kg N/ha), low organic carbon (0.53%) and limited winter rainfall for topdressing.

- Nitrogen applied at 92 kg/ha produced the highest wheat yield (2.47 t/ha) and quality (AH grade).
- Nitrogen applied at 46 kg/ha achieved 95% maximum yield, though only ASW quality.
- There was a linear increase in grain protein with increasing N applied from 8.8% (control) to 11.6% (92 kgN/ha).

For the complete results and discussion, go to our website or call us for a copy.

Nationally, Incitec Pivot's trials reinforced the strong correlation between applying nitrogen and yield and protein benefits in responsive situations. Identifying responsive situations also should include assessments of soil moisture, weed and disease levels and crop rotations. Deep Soil sampling also helps identify nitrogen levels. As we noted before though, many areas are seeing a decline in soil N levels in recent years. If your protein levels are declining with time, that can also be an indicator of reducing N levels.

## **Still worried about N loss?**

We can coat your Urea with a chemical that will provide up to 14 days protection from loss of N to the atmosphere (volatilisation). The cost? It adds \$50/t to the cost of Urea, so if you are spreading at 50 kg/ha, that's \$2.50 per hectare, or a dollar an acre. It represents a cost of about 10% to the Urea. If you are worried you are going to lose more than 10% of the Urea, **we can coat it with Agrotain**. Another way of looking at it: If you get us to spread well in front of the rain, and we coat it, you are guaranteed the Urea is on the paddock. Waiting for the last hour before the rain and not getting it out is even more costly... Rain events don't come along every day!

## **Foliar Zinc**

One of the basics of feeding plants of any type is for 'balanced nutrition'. Getting the balance correct, and doing it profitably is the key. We see many requests for blends from farmers with some obscure elements in them. We can usually create the blends, and if that's what you want we will happily blend them, but sometimes we wonder if a profitable return will ever be made. Elements like zinc has regularly shown to be

profitable on Mallee alkaline soils and lasered irrigated crops and pasture. If you just sowed with MAP/ Urea but neglected the zinc, you can spray it out now as a foliar. Zincsol, applied at 2 L/ha will cost about \$2/ha, and regularly returns 100% after cost.

### Grassboosta/Stimulus

We have already been spreading Urea/Gran Am blends onto canola crops and winter pasture. As the soils cool down the conversion of both sulphur and nitrogen into plant available forms slows down, so the addition of sulphate sulphur and ammonium nitrogen has been long proven to grow extra dry matter.

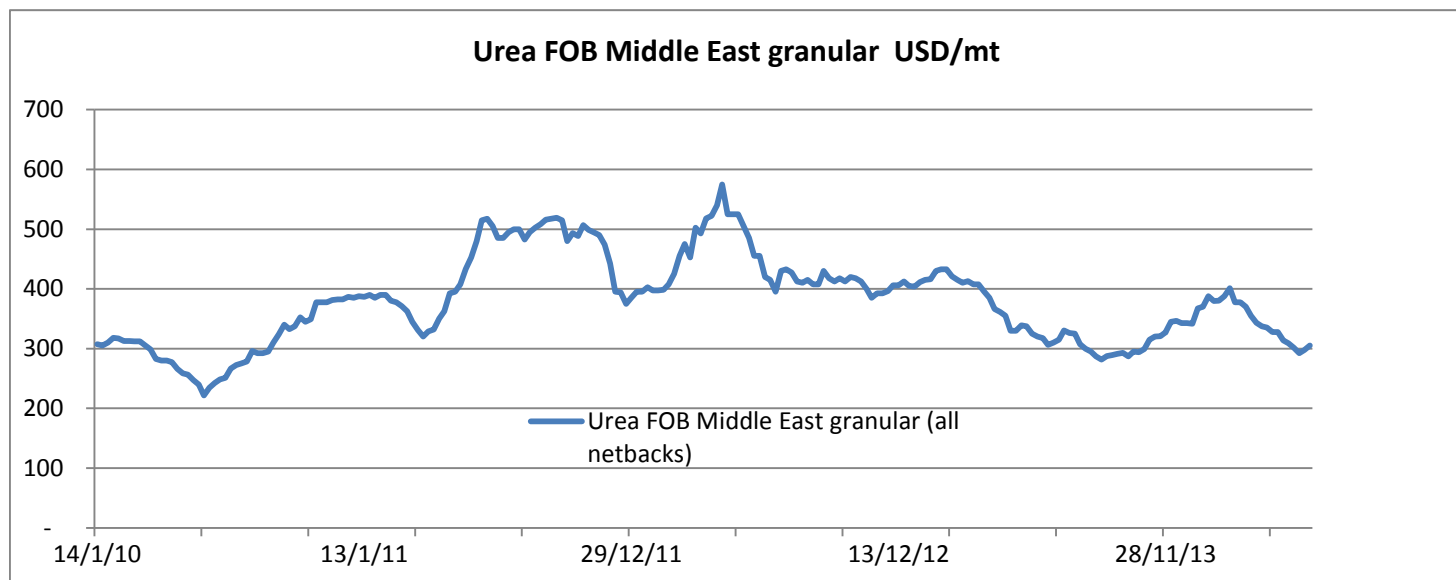
This also leads us into spraying pasture with a growth promotant based on Gibbarellic Acid, called "Ryzup" This is a natural plant hormone that the plant lacks during the colder months. Spraying this with a nitrogen based fertiliser program will generate extra feed (and weeds if you aren't on top of them!)

### Easy N

We have new stocks of Easy N, which is 42.5% N. It has some logistical advantages over urea, as well as containing some immediately available nitrate nitrogen. If you have bulk tanks we can deliver direct on farm with the convenience and flexibility of our own bulk tanker. We even have the ability to pump into your

### Fertiliser Pricing

We are often asked what fertiliser prices are doing. While we have access to world pricing information, and historical data, we are well aware that the world of fertiliser prices is as volatile as the weather, and you can imagine at regional levels they are linked. No rain means less Urea used to boost rain fed crops. This can then mean oversupply and excess stock can mean a price reduction. Pricing has reduced over the last few months on the world scene, but at some point the prices will bottom. We think they have, but who can always pick that. A graph follows for your information, but we will let you be the judge ☺



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1000 L containers if that suits.

Some farmers have been applying Easy N recently on ground that is recovering from waterlogging. Feeding the plant through the leaves will provide a quicker response to a struggling plant. You may also have the flexibility of mixing it with compatible Agricultural Chemicals and applying in the one pass.

### Gypsum

We have now started despatching Gypsum from our new Mallee pit at Chinkapook. More suited to our customers north of Swan Hill, it also despatches Gypsum at about 80% purity, and has the advantage of a faster despatch after rains than our Bael Bael pit.

### Agricultural Chemicals & Rural Merchandise

With this great start to the season for crops and pastures there is always a downside, weeds and insects. Lipp's have all the post emergent chemicals and insecticides available at all their depots. Plus our Agronomy team can give you advice on farm or in store. With Dairy dry off upon us Lipp's Sales team have everything from Drenches, Vaccines to Minerals, Stock blocks, Injectables and Calf supplies. Lamb marking and shearing requisites are all on hand along with a huge range of fencing products in concrete, steel and pine plus plain and prefabricated wire.