

Newsletter

EDITION 49, MAY 2016

Stock up on your winter drench today!

Coopers Trifecta 10L is now with a **BONUS 28L Coleman Esky**, while stocks last! Also, purchase one or more drums of Coopers Trifecta 10L and go into the draw to win a **Sidchrome 7-drawer toolbox** valued at \$700. Don't miss out!



**BUY THESE
TO GO INTO
THE DRAW
TO WIN!**

BOXER GOLD AND DRY SOWING

The active ingredients in Boxer Gold have very low volatility and do not readily photo degrade, meaning less product loss in the vapour phase and breakdown in sunlight. This is a major advantage over some other pre-emergent products including trifluralin, pendimethalin (Stomp) and triallate (Avadex).

Boxer Gold provides good flexibility and convenience by allowing up to seven days between application and the requirement for incorporation via the sowing operation. Mechanical incorporation of Boxer Gold minimises the reliance of rainfall to wash the product into the weed seed zone and increases the reliability of performance.

Some points to consider when using Boxer Gold in dry sowing situations:

- When applied under dry sowing conditions Boxer Gold will experience minimal breakdown, when incorporated, until activated by moisture. Any moisture in the soil will begin the degradation process and must be taken into account when applying Boxer Gold in this situation, as the length of residual control will be affected.
- Sufficient soil moisture and rainfall during weed emergence is the single most important climatic factor influencing Boxer Gold performance. As with most pre-emergent herbicides, if sufficient rainfall is not received to fully activate Boxer Gold the level of weed control may be reduced.
- Where Boxer Gold is being applied in a dry sowing situation and rain is not forecast within 3-4 weeks, it is recommended that a mix with Logran B-Power is applied to maximise ryegrass efficacy and to broaden the weed spectrum.

- Although Boxer Gold has a higher relative solubility than trifluralin, Boxer Gold is still likely to bind to organic matter, including existing crop residue. Areas with greater than 50% ground cover will reduce the level of weed control. In these situations a higher water rate is recommended.
- Consider the weed pressure likely in each paddock being treated, areas with high weed populations may be better treated after a germinating rain with a knockdown herbicide to reduce the weed pressure on the pre-emergent herbicide.
- If heavy rainfall occurs after Boxer Gold has been applied to dry soil there may be an increased risk of active ingredient washing into the crop seed zone and therefore increased risk of crop damage.

Whilst Boxer Gold can be used successfully in a dry sowing situation, the above key points need to be considered in consultation with your AgriWest Agronomist to make an appropriately informed decision.



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AgriWest

A RURALCO BUSINESS



RESISTANCE CONCERNS DRIVES WEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Herbicide resistance is a major consideration in the weed management program run by Parkes-based farm manager Matthew Burkitt.

Matthew manages a 3700-hectare cropping program on a property owned by Northparkes Mines in Central West New South Wales.

The company's farming properties operate alongside privately owned farms surrounding the mining lease and in the nearby town of Forbes.

The farm is a total cropping enterprise, comprising canola, wheat, barley and field peas for brown manure.

Matthew has a commercial agronomy background, which saw him providing advice to the farm for a number of years before stepping into the role of farm manager in November last year.

Subsequently, he has been involved in developing the farm's weed management program, including the introduction of new herbicides into the rotation and other practices to help manage any potential resistance issues.

"Ryegrass pressure and herbicide resistance have been increasing in the region, particularly over the last 5-10 years for those practicing continual cropping," Matthew said.

"So while the situation isn't as bad as it is in some areas, we are tapping in to a lot of the lessons learned by growers in Western Australian and South Australia."

For the last few seasons, Matthew has been using Factor, from Crop Care, to manage annual ryegrass in selected canola crops and pulses.

Factor is a Group A herbicide using butoxydim as its active ingredient to control grass weeds, including annual ryegrass.

It can also be mixed with other grass

selective herbicides for greater weed control in a wide range of broadleaf crops, including summer and winter pulses, oilseeds and pastures.

It's fast acting, so there is less competition from weeds during the early stages of crop development.

"Crop Care Territory Sales Manager Brett Mawbey is the main reason we use Factor with so much confidence. He was really pro-active in explaining what we can expect from the product and where the product fits," Matthew said.

"Factor lifts the robustness of our Group A herbicide option. We use it across the odd canola paddock, but its primary use is in our pulse seed crops.

"While we're doing a brown manure field pea phase, approximately a quarter of our field pea area is kept for seed.

"Factor is one small, albeit vital, tool in an overall diversified program we're implementing to manage the ryegrass."

Matthew has been applying a mixture of Factor and Havoc, also from Crop Care and which contains clethodim as its active ingredient.

He said last year they capitalised on the high price of chickpeas, taking the opportunity to sow the pulse phase to chickpeas.

The Factor and Havoc brew played an important role in controlling grass weeds in that rotation.

In pulse crops, Factor is applied at a rate of 150g/ha (with 1% ammonium sulphate and 1% Supercharge Elite) with 500mL/ha of Havoc and 70L/ha of water.

Chemical is sourced through the local AgriWest Parkes store, with the help of Agronomist Luke Wood, and they use contract sprayers with a self-propelled, 36-metre sprayer running nozzles every 25 centimetres.



Parkes-based farm manager Matthew Burkitt with Goodsell Group Contracting spray operator John Coster. Matthew has been using the Crop Care herbicide, Factor, to control annual ryegrass and says the result has been "outstanding".

"We hadn't been questioning our clethodim performance prior to introducing Factor, but we were getting to that stage where we were over-reliant on it and, with the development of ryegrass resistance in the district, we knew that we needed to change," Matthew said.

"Our use of Factor was part of our program evolving."

That program evolution started with the one-in-four-year brown manure phase and now also includes harvest weed seed management tools such as narrow windrow burning and the trialling of a chaff deck.

Matthew said their management of ryegrass had evolved towards the aim of using the Factor/Havoc mix as a clean-up spray, as opposed to being reliant on the Group A herbicides.

"We're trying to get to the point where we're exposing those herbicides to only 5-10% of the ryegrass population, as opposed to 90-95% of the population."

"So we've implemented other measures to reduce that pressure prior to having to use the Group A herbicides.

"That's why we're seeking the robustness of Factor. We're looking to minimise any weed seed returning to the seed bank. Our ryegrass control from the Factor and Havoc brew has been outstanding," he said.

Factor quickly controls grass weeds in broadleaf crops including pulses, canola, pasture, cotton and sunflowers.

- Factor in – management of resistant weeds
- Factor in – superior 'dim' chemistry
- Factor in – compatibility with Havoc (clethodim)
- Factor in – wide crop and pasture registrations
- Factor in – new formulation with better dispersion
- Factor in – 30 minutes rainfast



PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT BREAKTHROUGH

Amazing pastures using hard seeded legumes and granular inoculum.

Hard seeded legumes pastures such as Biserrula, Gland, Bladder and Arrowleaf clovers have been around for some time and are well recognised for their productivity and hard seeded persistence. Finding ways to make these pastures to be more productive, fix more nitrogen and to establish them more economically has been the focus for a number of researchers, including Forbes based LLS pasture agronomist, Belinda Hackney.

The results from this research has a number of local growers excited by the potential. With Belinda's expertise and support from the LLS, AgriWest has held workshops and set up paddock demonstrations around the district to assess the virtues of this new (to the district) system of pasture establishment.

In simple terms, the system has two main components:

1. Sowing a seed nursery area (a few hectares only) to build up seed supplies in the first year. This allows the grower to economically assess a few different hard seeded variety options in a nursery situation (to see what might work best in their soils). Importantly, this approach allows seed quantity to be bulked up very economically. This in turn allows for much higher seeding rates to be applied in the following year when scaled up into larger paddocks. A higher plant density means more biomass production, less weed competition and overall, greater N fixation into the soil that can be used by subsequent crops coming in the rotation.
2. Early sowing is promoted to take advantage of an early break and has obvious benefits for early and overall higher biomass production, compared to a traditional May sowing. However, this can often mean dry sowing is required. To achieve the full nitrogen benefit from a legume, the seed needs to be inoculated with rhizobium nitrogen fixing bacteria. However peat inoculums are ineffective for dry sowing. This is where granular bentonite based inoculums come in. Alosca Granular Inoculum has been used in this research because of its very robust characteristics for rhizobium viability that allows excellent nodulation even when sown dry. Alosca Granular Inoculum is sown down with the seed at 10kg/ha.

These simple changes to the way we use hard seeded legumes can deliver some very large benefits to a mixed farming/grazing enterprise in terms of significantly increased production of both pasture and grain crops in rotation, with significantly lower input costs. More production from less money – with more in between for the grower!

For more information contact an AgriWest Agronomist today.



Alosca Granular Inoculant allows legumes to be dry sown.



Paddock sown at high seeding rate (from seed grown in a seed nursery) with Alosca Granular Inoculant.



Alosca Granular Inoculant delivers impressive nodule counts.



PRE-LAMBING CHECKLIST – ARE YOU READY?

Ensuring that your ewes are healthy whilst pregnant, particularly in the late stages, is key to having a successful lambing. Healthy ewes produce healthy lambs – low mortalities (at birth and post-partum), high growth vigour, and strong lactation are key to your profits.

To ensure you get the best from your ewes pre-lambing, there are a few essential treatments that should be administered:

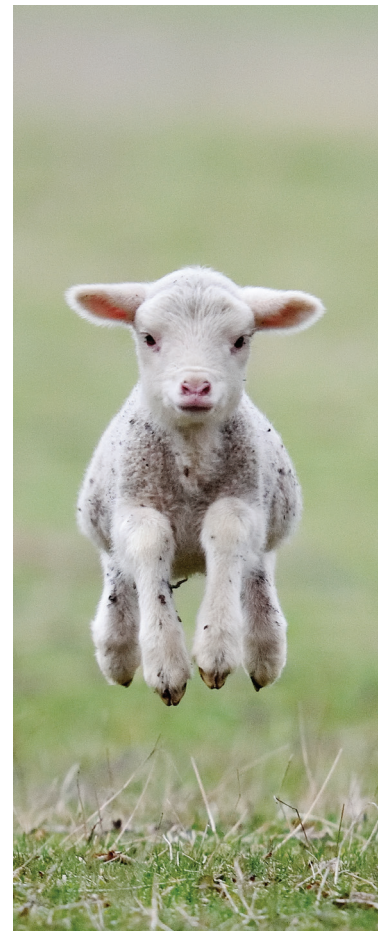
2 MONTHS PRE-LAMBING & THROUGH LACTATION: Good quality nutrition, both via supplementation of high quality minerals and vitamins, as well as high energy feed, are crucial to a healthy ewe and foetus. This helps reduce the incidence of issues such as pregnancy toxemia, minimising losses of both ewes and unborn lambs. Further, ewes that are in good condition heading into lactation will have stronger immunity, and will produce higher quality colostrum and milk for their progeny.

7-8 WEEKS PRE-LAMBING: Conducting a faecal worm test is good practice to know whether your ewes require a drench prior to lambing. Ewes that are free of worms will have stronger lactations, utilise feed more efficiently, and raise healthier lambs. Taking a worm test allows you to drench appropriately for the type of worms, as well as not contributing to worm resistance through unnecessary drenching.

4-6 WEEKS PRE-LAMBING: Ewes must be given a clostridial 6in1 vaccine prior to lambing. This is usually the ewe's yearly booster. Whilst keeping the ewe healthy, this injection is essential to the unborn lamb/s gaining important passive immunity from disease via the colostrum until they are given their first clostridial at marking time. Post-natal losses can be significantly reduced in the first few weeks of life via the benefits of vaccinating ewes.

Vitamin B12 is also recommended, which can be given in a combination vaccination with 6in1, or in a separate vaccination. Vitamin B12 assists in higher utilisation of energy by the cells, resulting in feed being converted more efficiently for a stronger, higher quality lactation. This is also the best time to drench ewes if the results of the faecal worm test return a positive reading.

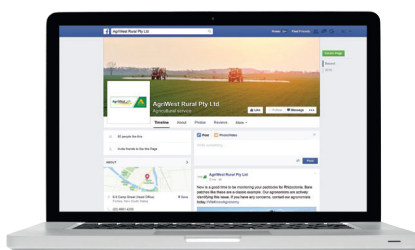
Correct pre-lambing health and nutrition is critical to achieving a high lambing percentage. For the small cost of treatments involved, the return on investment to your productivity is substantial. Speak to AgriWest to set a pre-lambing plan in place today!



FACEBOOK: MONTHLY RECAP



Looking for more insights? Our Facebook page is a great way to stay informed. Regular product information and specials, seasonal insights, community events and branch updates – it's all there at your fingertips!



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Contact an AgriWest specialist today for more information.

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