

Top 5

December 4th, 2024

TECH/CONNECTIVITY REBATES

Grants available until the money runs out or May, whichever is first. Think mobile boosters, remote monitoring, recording, automation- I remember last round a few people got cameras and scales to adapt to their feeders and spreaders. There are a lot of companies approved, including AgriWebb, so the scope is pretty wide. Call Ed over summer if you want to chat about what might work for you. Process and approved suppliers [HERE](#)

POST RAIN: SUMMER WEEDS

Keep an eye out for toxic weeds this summer. Generally, they are unpalatable to sheep but will be eaten if it's the only green pick available. Signs of poisoning include ill thrift, photosensitisation, weakness and sudden death. Remove stock from paddock immediately if you see these signs, scout for any green, send through photos or call a vet.

1. Lesser Loosestrife – toxic, found in wet areas of paddock, affected animals suffer kidney/liver damage resulting in death.



2. Box Poison – native shrub plant up to 1m high with orange/yellow flower, contains natural 1080.



3. Mint Weed – has a strong mint odour, stock can suffer from nitrate poisoning if newly introduced or consumed in large amounts.



4. Caltrop – contains toxin causing liver damage, green plants have higher amounts of toxin compared to dead plants.



FARM AUDITS

With the recent round of farm safe audits, we gathered a few tips from those who got put through their paces. The biggest take away was work WITH the auditor- ask their advice during the visit as well as in advance.

1. Signage. A combo of the speed signs, traffic flow, and AWI shearing shed sign pack (ask Ed, or our WA rep, Tenille Norrish, for a kit). The speed and traffic signs are pricey and sometimes hard to get hold of, so have a chat to local suppliers/sign makers.
2. Documentation. That is actually filled out regularly! So write up a post harvest debrief, complete induction forms as

mechanics/shearers/stockies/truckies are around.

3. Employee's family- what is their farm access? Is this in the contract, or WRITTEN somewhere?

As this is an ever changing area, use professionals if you feel you need support, and download the latest templates/rules. Safe Farms is a great place to start, with lots of free tools.

PILOT REQUIREMENTS

As we're moving equipment along the roads, make sure we're doing it right. This handy infographic outlines what and when its needed: [HERE](#)

CLEAN UP THAT WATER

Water is precious this year, with low dam levels and a warm windy summer helping drop them faster than usual in many areas. Similar thinking to feed: what have you got on hand? Each animal needs about 6L day, so do your maths.

With a long summer/autumn predicted, this season is the one to clean up dams: algae, weeds, and silt.

Here's a reminder of the chemical options out there- all work best if you bother to remove some of the algae first, and mix in the chemical with a fire unit pump or dragging something through the water.

To further help, dam averages:

Great Southern: 3,000m³ (3,000,000L)

Wheatbelt & North: 5,000m³ (5,000,000L)

South-west: 1,700m³ (1,700,000L)

Copper Sulfate- kills everything. 1g/1000L.
Premix and spray. Keep livestock off for a week.

Simazine

Simazine has different strengths, so check the label and use the rate it says to for dams!

Premix at 1:10 ratio and spray over the dam surface.

Don't use for livestock for at least a week- 2weeks if it had blue-green algae. Is toxic to plants so don't use on the garden for a week.

Barley straw- best as a preventative rather than treatment. (Yes its scientifically proven to work). 100g/1000L, best if bale is pulled apart. Lasts 6 months but takes 1 month to work.

Cupricide- a bit different as treatment rates calculated based on top 100cm of water (about 4.8L/1000m²). Also different: not toxic to plants or livestock, still toxic to crustaceans.

Feric Alum blocks- in a hessian bag attached to float (200L drums work well). 50mg/L. Better as a preventative/small issues.

Calcium hypochlorite (chlorine)- \$\$\$, often needs repeat treatments, applications rates vary but 10-12g/1000L is normal. Kills crustaceans.