

# BOWRAL CO-OPERATIVE

## ALL SEASONS NEWSPAPER

**SUPPORTING THE HIGHLANDS RURAL LIFESTYLE SINCE 1926**



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Valued Members and Customers,

We've been hard at work updating your experience in our retail space, and we're excited to introduce the highly anticipated RapidSpray farm equipment range. This addition is designed to cater to the unique needs of our rural community, helping elevate your farming efforts.

As spring unfolds, essential tasks such as vaccination and drenching come to the forefront, and our store is stocked with a variety of Animal Health solutions to see you through. With drier weather forecasted ahead, be sure to have a plan in place to act on bushfires and ensure you have water solutions ready.

We're thrilled to introduce you to the newest member of our team - Will Black, our new Agronomist. Will brings with him a wealth of knowledge, having previously worked with Incitec Pivot, Hygain, and Novartis Animal Health. He is eagerly looking forward to collaborating with local growers and meeting the needs of our Agricultural and Equine community. To arrange an on-farm visit with Will, you can reach him at 0457 561 280 or via email at [will@bowralcoop.com.au](mailto:will@bowralcoop.com.au).

Since re-joining the CRT community in March, we now have access to more opportunities to pass onto our customers and members. In August, we attended a state meeting informing both myself and Will (our new agronomist) of the greater product range. This will enable us to offer even better benefits to our members and customers.

Thank you for your continued support.





## Delivery Days

### Monday

Bargo, Picton, Balmoral, Thirlmere, Tahmoor, Buxton, Yanderra

### Tuesday

Yerrinbool, Hill Top, Colo Vale, Alpine, Mittagong, Joadja, Aylmerton, Braemar, Welby, Woodlands, High Range

### Wednesday

Avoca, Belmore Falls, Carrington Falls, Fitzroy Falls, Knights Hill, Robertson, Burrawang, Wildes Meadow, Glenquarry, Bowral, Kangaloon, Burradoo.

### Thursday

Yerrinbool, Hill Top, Colo Vale, Alpine, Mittagong, Joadja, Aylmerton, Braemar, Welby, Woodlands, High Range

### Friday

Exeter, Werai, Paddy's River, Canyonleigh, Sutton Forest, Wingello, Penrose, Berrima, Moss Vale, Bundanoon, Tallong, Sally's Corner

### Special areas

Please contact Jamie in the Produce Shed

**DELIVERY ORDERS TO BE PLACED BY 2:30PM THE DAY PRIOR TO YOUR DELIVERY DAY**



## End of Season Winter Apparel sale now on

# BECOME A CO-OP MEMBER

### Membership Benefits:

- Member discounts
- Minimum 100 share purchase
- Fully franked dividends paid Annually
- Exclusive invitations to field days & in store promotions

# TODAY

Ask one of our friendly staff for a membership form, or fill out the copy on the back cover of this issue, complete it and return it or head to our website [www.bowralcoop.com.au](http://www.bowralcoop.com.au)



# Agronomy Outlook

After three wetter-than-average seasons, we find ourselves in unfamiliar territory coming into this spring. We received 427mm from January to June this year, which is 78mm less than what we'd expect to receive on average. The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook remains at El Niño Alert. In the past, when we have reached El Niño Alert, events have subsequently developed around 70% of the time. El Niño typically increases the chance of below-average winter–spring rainfall for the eastern half of Australia, as well as above-average daytime temperatures.

Despite the general outlook, the area typically receives adequate rainfall to grow pastures and crops in most seasons. Given the climatic outlook, which is a variable out of our control, it's important to ensure we focus on controlling the controllables, optimise production with respect to the seasonal outlook while managing production risks.

## **Controlling the controllables**

Assessing soil fertility is one of the most important production drivers we can control. Knowing your paddock's pH and phosphorus levels are two key considerations to make informed fertiliser decisions. Soil pH impacts the availability of all plant essential macro and micronutrients, and soil phosphorus is frequently cited as the primary limiting nutrient in grazing systems. Soil phosphorus supports healthy plant root development. When your pH and soil phosphorus levels are adequate, you're in a better position to maximise dry matter production regardless of seasonal conditions.

If you are planning to apply fertiliser this spring but unsure of your paddock's soil fertility levels, I encourage you to contact the Bowral Co-op today to arrange a soil test.

## **Optimising production**

While managing risk Spring is a busy time across the southern highlands. Whether you're considering sowing down new pasture, renovating older pastures, or planting crops with a view to grazing, putting away fodder, or as part of a plan to clean up a paddock prior to planting new permanent pastures in autumn, there are important decisions we can make to ensure we optimise production this spring.

The most obvious variable to optimise pasture or crop production this season is your choice of seed variety. Choosing shorter-season seed varieties and varieties with higher water use efficiency (WUE) may make sense given an uncertain outlook.

For example, if you're considering sowing a forage rape this spring, Pallaton Raphno may be an excellent choice. Pallatin Raphno is a hybrid between kale and radish, ideal for a drier spring. Pallatin Raphno has a WUE 38.2% greater than other forage rapes.

If you are planning on sowing pasture or crops this spring and unsure of what varieties are best to choose, contact the Bowral Co-op today to discuss your options.

*Regards,*  
*Will Black, Agronomist*  
*PH: 0457 561 280*  
*E: will@bowralcoop.com.au*



# Protect your heard with Zoetis Ultravac 7in1



***In the world of modern agriculture, ensuring the health and well-being of livestock is a top priority for farmers. One key aspect of achieving this goal is through vaccination, a cornerstone of preventive care. Among the array of vaccines available, Ultravac 7in1 stands out as a trusted solution for safeguarding cattle from a range of potential diseases.***

## **The Power of Prevention**

Ultravac 7in1, developed by Zoetis, is a versatile vaccine designed to provide comprehensive protection for cattle against various diseases. The vaccine's name itself hints at its potency, as it guards against seven key diseases. The primary objective of Ultravac 7in1 is twofold: to prevent common forms of leptospirosis that can impact both cattle and humans, and to counteract significant clostridial diseases that often affect cattle. This proactive approach not only benefits livestock health but also mitigates potential risks to humans who might come into contact with infected cattle.

## **A Multifaceted Defence**

The range of diseases that Ultravac 7in1 targets is truly impressive. It acts as a shield against:

- Enterotoxaemia (pulpy kidney disease)
- Tetanus
- Black disease
- Malignant oedema (blackleg-like disease), including swelled head in rams
- Blackleg in cattle and sheep
- Leptospirosis (L. Hardjo and L. Pomona)

What's more, the vaccine not only prevents urinary shedding of the named leptospires in cattle but also plays a crucial role in stopping the risk of human leptospiral infection tied to leptospire shedding in urine and from the reproductive tract of cattle. For farmers, this is a comprehensive and holistic approach to disease prevention.

## **The Zoetis Advantage**

Ultravac 7in1 sets itself apart in several ways, and its pedigree is one of them. Global studies have shown that Zoetis' leptospirosis vaccines are among the best available. In Australia, Ultravac 7in1 relies on a specific strain of L. Hardjo called *Leptospira borgpetersenii* serovar Hardjo type hardjo-bovis, as well as *Leptospira interrogans* serovar Pomona.

However, the standout feature of Ultravac 7in1 is its ability to prevent the shedding of leptospires L. Hardjo and L. Pomona in cattle urine and the reproductive tract. This not only shields animals from productivity losses due to leptospirosis but also reduces the risk of contamination for unvaccinated cattle and people.



**Age-Appropriate Protection**

Ultravac 7in1 provides flexible usage guidelines, making it suitable for cattle of different ages. Calves can be vaccinated from as early as 4 to 6 weeks of age when the risk of infection is high. For optimal protection, two initial doses are recommended, followed by an annual booster. Notably, Ultravac 7in1's effectiveness doesn't require six-monthly booster doses, reducing the stress on cattle and farm management routines.

**Tailored Approach**

Farmers will appreciate that Ultravac 7in1 caters to different cattle categories:

Heifers: Vaccination should occur 2-4 weeks before joining and 4-6 weeks before calving.

Cows: Ideally, vaccination should be administered 4-6 weeks before calving.

1st Season/New Bulls: Vaccination should take place 6-8 weeks before joining and 2-4 weeks before joining subsequently.

Bulls: 2-4 weeks before joining is the recommended timeframe.

Steers: It's ideal to coincide steer vaccination with heifer vaccination.

Practical and Convenient

Ultravac 7in1's convenience factors in as well. Its low volume 2.5 mL dose minimises the chances of site reactions. Once opened, it remains usable for up to 30 days when proper storage instructions are followed, ensuring flexibility within farm management practices.

Zoetis Ultravac 7in1 is available to purchase from Bowral Co-op in;

- 50mL: Providing 20 doses
- 100mL: Offering 40 doses
- 250mL: Delivering 100 doses

*Once opened, Ultravac 7in1 remains usable for up to 30 days when proper storage instructions are followed, ensuring flexibility within farm management practices.*



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# Seed Potatoes: Our Variety and a Planting How-To!

## Dutch Cream Potato

Unmatched buttery texture, great for mashing, roasting, and baking. Versatile comfort food.

## Sebago Potato

All-purpose potato perfect for frying, boiling, and mashing. Reliable kitchen staple.

## Pontiac Potato

Smooth and waxy texture, great for salads, boiling, and roasting. Adds nutty flavour to dishes.

***Now that you've chosen your preferred potato varieties, it's time to get your hands dirty and start planting. Here's a simple guide to help you along the way:***

**Selecting the Seed Potatoes:** Choose healthy seed potatoes with no signs of disease or damage. Each seed potato should have at least one "eye" or sprout.

**Chitting (Pre-Sprouting) the Potatoes:** Place the seed potatoes in a cool, light-filled area to encourage sprouting. This process, known as chitting, typically takes a few weeks.

**Preparing the Soil:** Select a sunny spot in your garden with well-drained soil. Loosen the soil and add compost or organic matter to improve fertility.

**Planting the Potatoes:** Dig shallow trenches about 4 inches deep and place the seed potatoes with the sprouts facing upward, spacing them about 12 inches apart.

**Cover and Water:** Gently cover the seed potatoes with soil and water thoroughly. As the plants grow, mound more soil around the base to protect emerging tubers.

**Hilling:** As the potato plants grow, hill up the soil around the stems to encourage more tuber development.

**Harvesting:** After about 10-12 weeks, the potato plants should be ready for harvesting. Carefully dig up the potatoes, and your homegrown crop is ready to enjoy!

## A Helpful tip from Jamie!

Boost potato growth with Banana Special fertiliser. Rich in potassium, it aids root development, boosts plant vigour, and may increase yield. Apply as directed for best results.



*Member Kate's heartwarming share: Her seed potatoes planted 3 years ago still feed the family today!*



# Navigating Mare Behaviour and Oestrus Cycles in Spring!

**Spring is just around the corner, and owners of mares may well be noticing that Oestrus cycles are beginning to affect behaviour.**

This is perfectly natural. In Autumn and Winter, mares' ovaries actually diminish in size. This means that mares ought not to be cycling during these seasons, but when days start to lengthen and the weather warms, all bets are off.

**Mid-Spring to Summer seasons often see mares:**

- less tolerant of other horses (squealing and tail swishing)
- more distracted when at work
- urinating often but producing little urine
- 'winking' the vulva



Many of these behaviours follow a regular cycle (every 21 days) and might not always affect training. Some mares may require assistance during their cycle, and Bowral Co-op offers various supplements for this purpose. Chaste Tree Berry, in whole and ground forms, aids pituitary function, balances progesterone and dopamine levels. These effects promote a positive mood and better temperament during Oestrus. Similar benefits have been observed in stallions to reduce aggression. These supplements are easy to administer with feed.

Kelato's Betamare is a concentrated liquid Chaste Tree Berry supplement, providing the same hormonal support in a standardised manner. Feel free to consult our Saddleworld staff for advice on these and other supplements to enhance your horse's training and well-being.

**Resources:**

Smith-Thomas, H. (2023) 'Mares Behaving Badly: Is it Oestrus Or Something Else?', *The Horse Magazine*  
 Equivet Breeding Centre (n.d.) *Hold Your Horses: What to expect from your mare in Spring;*  
 Darani, P. (2020) 'Six Research-Backed Benefits Of Chasteberry For Horses'



## Spring/Summer Apparel has arrived!





# BOWRAL CO-OP

## BOWRAL CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

ABN 60 254 390 336 NSW 26

### Share Application:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:** Individual  Partnership  Company  Trust  Other

**Enterprise Type:** Cattle  Sheep  Horses  Cropping  Other \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

**I am most interested in:** Stock feed  Animal Health  Fencing  Water Management  Apparel

### MEMBER BENEFITS

#### Membership benefits include:

- a. **5% discount** off invoice value at the time of Sale on over 11,500 selected product lines
- b. Automatic COD members account (30-day trading account can be applied for separately)
- c. Settlement discount of 3% applies to account holders for early payment by the 5th of the following month
- d. A dividend on shares held – generally fully franked and paid annually following the annual general meeting, at a rate reflective of current interest rates.
- e. Exclusive invitations to Field days and In Store “Members only” promotional days

*Member benefits are subject to profitability and at the discretion of the Board.*

I/We apply for \_\_\_\_\_ shares of two dollars (\$2) each (min. 100 shares) and enclose payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment in full MUST be lodged with this application**

#### **BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT OF DIVIDEND PAYMENTS:**

Bank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_ BSB \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Acc No \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understood the Disclosure Statement (included overleaf) and agree to abide by the terms & conditions of membership whilst I am a member of Co-operative.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_