

# Summer Crops

**Trading Hours** November 2022 Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.30pm

#### When are conditions right to plant a summer crop?

- Generally most summer crops have a minimum soil temperature requirement before they will germinate
- To check the soil temperature you will need a soil thermometer that has a probe placed at seeding depth
- The temperature needs to be taken at 9:00am each morning, for three days in a row, and rising to reach the desired temperature

### Sorghum

- Sprint is a fast growing sudan grass hybrid, combining fast regrowth and high total season dry matter production
- An early maturing hybrid suited for grazing by both cattle and sheep
- Sprint provides multiple cuttings or grazing, with very high total season dry matter production.
- Being a sudan hybrid the purassic acid content is usually lower than other hybrids.
- Along with grazing benefits, Spint is well suited for producing high yielding and quality hay



Forage Sorghum

#### Millet

- Annual Summer Grass
- Plant on 14 degrees Celsius and rising
- Can be drilled into moist soil
- Vigorous seedlings
- High growth rates
- Quick grazing rotation and excellent companion for other forage species
- Multiple cuts per season





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1-7 Phillips st

Cummins, 5631

P: (08)86762016

s(08)86762007

E: admin@nrics.com.au

W: www.nrics.com.au

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It's that time of the year again, harvest and putting sheep in stubble paddocks. Once the header is out and before sheep go into those stubble paddocks, it is time to get your drenching and vaccination program organised.

Drenching the ewes is important, if it hasn't already been done yet, especially if you are going to put rams in with them and put them out. Use a drench and if need be change up to a new active ingredient in the drench you use. Changing the drench will help alleviate resistance. Also be mindful to drench the rams, especially if you are going to put them in with the ewes. Be sure to follow the label for dosing requirements.

Whilst both are in the yards for drenching, it is a great time to give ewes and rams their annual booster, if you haven't already done so. Giving your sheep a B12 booster vaccination 10-14 days before moving them onto stubble provides maximum protection. Cobalt (Vitamin B12) deficiency is a cause of economic loss for sheep producers. Symptoms include loss of appetite and a decrease in live weight gain. Dietary cobalt is essential for the health of your flock. It is converted in the ruman into vitamin B12 and used in:

- Weight gain
- Energy production
- Wool production

With stubble paddocks the use of stock blocks or a loose mineral lick, will help maintain the essential vitamins and minerals required for sheep to thrive. Place the blocks or mineral tubs out from the trough or a favourite area in the paddock where they love to camp.

Make sure the sheep have adequate access to clean drinking water, free of straw and other vegetation that ends up in a trough, as well as bees. If you have a problem with bees around your troughs use copper that is dissolved in the water which should make the bees move on and keep the trough bee free.

Another thing that can be done is see whether your sheep need to be jetted or clik'ed, as with the warmer months coming so will the flies. Fly protection is something that needs to be thought of, especially if there are summer rains around then cool balmy days.



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# ARE YOU PREPARED?

SmartBar Fire Fighter Units are made to be durable, versatile and easy to use.

Designed to fit and slip onto most standard and one tonne utilities, they are portable via your vehicle to ensure that you will have a rapid response wherever the fire may be.

They are supplied with a Davey pump and Honda 5.5hp motor (single or twin propeller), with a three-way ball valve for quick suction change over.

Designed to suit your needs, our Fire Fighter Units are available in 400L or 600L and also as a bare unit. 400L and 600L bare unit tanks come with a screw on lid, breather and spill catchment area.

Each of our units also include moulded handles, tie down points and a storage shelf for gloves and masks.





# Header fire reduction checklist

- 1. Recognise the big four factors that contribute to fires: relative humidity, ambient temperature, wind and crop type and conditions. Stop harvest when the danger is extreme!
- 2. Focus on service, maintenance and machine hygiene at harvest on the days more hazardous for fire. Follow systematic preparation and prevention procedures.
- 3. Use every means possible to avoid the accumulation of flammable material on the manifold, turbocharger or the exhaust system. Be aware of side and tailwinds that can disrupt the radiator fan air blast that normally keeps the exhaust area clean.
- 4. Be on the lookout for places where chafing can occur ie fuel lines, battery cables, hot wires, tyres, drive belts etc.
- 5. Avoid overloading electrical circuits. Don't replace a blown fuse with a higher amperage one. It is your only protection against wiring damage from shorts and overloading.
- 6. Periodically check bearings around the front and the machine body. Use a handheld digital heat-measuring gun for temperature diagnostics on bearings, brakes etc.
- 7.Drag chains, or better still drag cables or grounding conductors, may help dissipate electrical charge but are not universally successful in all conditions. There are some invaluable fire-suppressing options on the market.
- 8. Use the battery isolation switch when the header is parked. Use vermin deterrents in the cab and elsewhere, as vermin chew some types of electrical insulation.
- 9. Observe the Local Fire Danger protocols on high fire risk days.





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