

FOOD N FIBRE

Dual celebration for Kalyx

The Narrabri office of leading Australian agricultural research firm Kalyx celebrated a double milestone on Friday, September 22, at a special event with staff, clients, local growers and suppliers.

Hosted by local director Denis Harvey, the event celebrated the fifth anniversary of Kalyx Narrabri, and marked 10 years since the company, formerly known as Agritech, opened its operations in the town.

Mr Harvey said the event was a great opportunity to thank local partners and clients for their support, and to acknowledge their contribution to the growth and success of Kalyx in the region.

"Over the past 10 years our team at Kalyx Narrabri has worked closely with a number of local partners to deliver pioneering research and development programs," he said.

"The on-ground support we receive from our local community is paramount to our success and something we value greatly."

Kalyx Australia director Sue McGregor echoed Mr Harvey's sentiments, emphasising the importance

of regional partners and local communities as the company continues its national expansion.

"Rural Australia is at the heart of what we do - our team live in the communities they work in and form strong networks with growers and industry," said Ms McGregor.

 The on-ground support we receive from our local community is paramount to our success and something we value greatly.

Kalyx Narrabri is one of 16 Kalyx regional locations across Australia delivering critical research to the country's agricultural and horticultural industries.

The team at Narrabri manage



CELEBRATION: At the 10- and five-year anniversaries of Kalyx in Narrabri on Friday evening were local staff members Brad Cornall, Matilda Kelly, Sam Boyle, Mitch Cuell, Dave Dewsbury, co-owner Denis Harvey, Amy Clark, Wade Moloney and Libby Baguley.

dryland and irrigated summer and winter trials through to Goondiwindi in the north, Walgett in the west and the Liverpool Plains in the east.

Nationally, Kalyx employs a quali-

fied and skilled team of 80 valued employees and remains 100 per cent owned by 10 of the most senior staff in the business. Kalyx Australia is the result of a merger between West

Australian-based research group Kalyx and East Coast research company Agritech.

Agritech commenced operations in Narrabri in 2007.

Commodities comment

By **JOSH BROWN, AGVANTAGE COMMODITIES**

Fact of the Day - Juices and soft drinks like Coca-Cola and Pepsi contain corn sweeteners. A bushel of corn can sweeten up to 400 cans of soft drink.

As we have touched on weather conditions locally over the past couple of months, there is really not much new that can be commented on without sounding like a broken record.

The September heat along with its above average temperatures continue as we near the start of daylight saving over the Labour Day long weekend.

The same aspects temperature wise are also being faced across the Midwest and North East parts of the United States. Where oppositely there is wide-ranging rains along the plains, this brings a slight sense of uneasiness as winter wheat sowing commences across the central and southern parts of the country.

As the 2017-18 harvest has commenced north of the border, we start

looking south towards the conditions of crops and the market across North West New South Wales.

When looking back on last year's season, the feed market was at a low of around \$200/mt domestically due to the production rally seen throughout the northern hemisphere.

Fast forward to July of this year where the prices delivered in to the Darling Downs jumped up to \$335/mt. This increase was fuelled by the USDA's world estimate report (WASDE) that the projected yield was set to be much lower than first expected due to many impacting factors, this then drove the market internationally and domestically much higher. Now as harvest looms closer at home and the weather conditions being faced across the east coast worsen, prices continue firm as feed wheat sits at \$358/mt delivered Downs for January delivery.

The Chicago Board of Trade December wheat futures are trading currently at US452.2c/bu, traders equate this to roughly a US210c/bu basis value. This basis, with incorporating the weakened Aussie dollar

and bushels to tonnes equals to an APW1 Newcastle NTP price of \$315/mt and a \$350 Brisbane.

In July of this year December wheat futures had a high of US574.25c/bu, this provided the market with a significant rally. This is paralleled with December hard spring wheat futures which today are at US646c/bu.

Looking back on July's rally, due to the production uncertainty in the market the futures in December sat tall at US850c/bu, this high was then translated through prices playing around the \$380 mark for high protein wheat.

This fluctuation portrays how the production levels internationally impacted prices domestically, though it is clear that the market gap is thinning just within the past couple of months.

With the doubt of yields stateside as well as here locally, the December futures will continue to paint a picture of the markets firmness.

When looking at the export protein market against the domestic feed market, the spread between the two is narrowing.

From our perspective, the premiums seen in the protein market earlier in the year have very much shrunk

and now would be the best time to be offloading tonnages of protein wheat left on farm and/or in the system.

Whereas holding on to the bulk of feed wheat parcels is definitely the safest option for now as the demand and local conditions are the driving forces behind increasing prices.

Barley and sorghum continue their strengths across the market.

F1 barley is pricing at around the \$340 mark for October and \$345 delivered Downs for January 2018.

Sorghum trails at \$310 for October 2017 and \$305 for March to May 2018 delivered Downs on the back of supply uncertainty for the summer crop.

Faba bean demand continues domestically of course due to need across the livestock industry but also the nutritious benefits provided by the pulse especially for piggeries and poultry farms around the region.

Ex-farm prices are at \$265 subject to location around the North West and remains illiquid on the demand side.

Chickpeas, as commented on recently, the demand is definitely set to increase as harvest begins to slowly move south from Central Queensland.

As new crop becomes more desirable come October and November,

the risk of continuing to hold on to old crop stock for premiums heightens - the inverse between the two is clear.

Delivery for new crop prices in to the Gladstone and Mackay port zones are at \$935/mt and for the Darling Downs, prices for October at around the \$910 mark with Narrabri \$20-30 less (at time of writing).

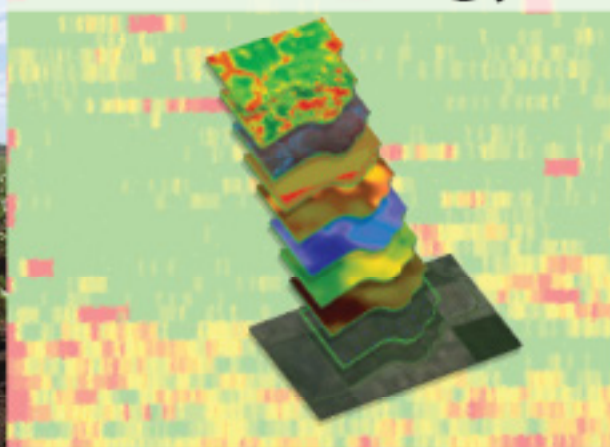
Whilst chickpeas prices are not at their highs compared to recent seasons, we believe growers should be capturing current values, as from a long term average point of view, they are still very good & in the higher percentile. The risk of holding is that the sub-continent have a good season forcing Australian growers to carry into 2018.

The cotton futures market has been fluctuating only on a miniscule scale and still steady in wake of the next WASDE report and the US season ahead.

Bale prices are reasonably unchanged this week with 2018 cotton at \$490 and 2019 cotton just below at the \$475 mark.

The Aussie dollar has faced a low since flirting with the \$0.80 mark this month, the dollar today sits at just below the \$0.79 mark (at time of writing).

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