



# JENHARWILL BALING PAL

## Newsletter – November 2010

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### Welcome...

... once again to those that have visited our site previously and those who may be coming on board for the first time.

### The month that has been...

November was probably one of the wettest months seen for many years by young and old alike. Buckets of rain, thunderstorms and soggy wet windrows of hay. The Bendigo Creek flooded with monotonous regularity, and record inflows saw Eppalock Reservoir flood over the spillway. Flood levels below the weir saw water invading Rochester, something not seen since the 80's.

They say it takes a flood to finish a drought, so we can assume that the drought is broken. No doubt the benefit of having all the reservoirs at capacity will carry over for many years to come.

*One season everyday seems to best sum up the November weather. Wet, Wet, Wet.* Making hay while the sun shines was just a joke unfortunately, as the sun failed to shine very often. A very short window of opportunity allowed some hay to be baled, but not dry enough for export standards.

It would seem that most farmers are in the same boat, as the number of stacks of weather damaged hay sitting in paddocks is not a pretty site. The cruel irony is that it had the potential to be one of the best seasons ever, yield wise, and even the price of commodities seemed to be reasonable. Just goes to show, you've never got it till it's in the bank.

But no doubt next year will roll along, and we'll hopefully do it all again with high hopes and aspirations. (As long as we get a feed and a beer, what else do we need?)

Unfortunately the start of December has been equally cruel, with record rainfall in the area, more floods and major disruption of the grain harvest.



*Major flooding at Drummartin and Kamarooka, with the Bendigo Creek going over many thousands of acres. Note the stacks of hay standing in the flood waters.*



Many windrows of hay went under flood water.  
These are a complete write off,.

*Locust plagues* have failed to eventuate to the degree expected, but no doubt it will still happen, with reports of egg laying in many areas. Elmore experienced some bad patches of locusts, but further hot weather will see an increase in activity.

## Something different...Sulla

*Spectacular growth in some areas*



The *Sulla* crop has been cut, with results of Protein 12 and 10 ME. These results were lower than anticipated, but no doubt earlier cutting will give much better results. (weather permitting)

## **This is not how it should be**

Evel Knievel, Alias Davin decided he'd had enough for one day.  
This seemingly dry paddock, at Corop proved to be a lot wetter than we thought.



## **Coming events...**

We're kinda hoping that we can finish the baling and the cropping.  
Very doubtful if that will happen before Santa comes.

## Crystal Ball Gazing...

After such wet conditions we can only hope for a dry spell to enable the harvest to be completed. There will be plenty of good, green growth for the stock, so carrying capacities should be high over summer.

## Social Interaction



*Due to the inclement weather, and inability to be able to travel on the paddocks, a fishing charter on Port Phillip Bay was voted in, and we duly left Elmore at 2am on Thursday morning to hit the water at 5am, departing from St Kilda Pier.*



Baler experts discussing the pro's and con's

### ***We have stocks of oaten and vetch hay for sale***

We have a supply of Vetch, or Vetch and oat mix available, but a lot of this hay is rain effected, and will be priced according to tests.

High quality, with no rain damage will be very hard to locate

Oaten hay is available in 8x4x8 and 8x4x3 bales. We will have good quality, as well as rain damaged hay for sale.

*We will be looking for contract work*, especially cutting and conditioning with our Krone Big M. This machine has been fitted with superconditioner rollers, and can cut up to 15ha/per hour.

Anyone interested in *hay purchases*, especially vetch or high quality hay should give us a call to discuss their options. The best quality hay is usually the first to go, and many buyers end up paying the same price for lesser quality product.

## **Last, but not least...**

Even though things have been tough for everyone involved in agriculture, and also suppliers and rural communities, we hope that everyone keeps their chin up, and make sure they have a wonderful and happy Christmas with their respective families and friends.

Best Wishes and Happy Christmas from all at Jenharwill