Issue 3
March '20

The Silologist

Entering the New Year

Well, didn't that go quick? 2020 is already here and were already in March. In hindsight, 2019 brought a lot of tough times with it, but I'm thinking this will a lot better.

I better fill you in on what we have planned for the next 12 months, and what's in store for the immediate future. I can't give away too many secrets, but the team here at HE Silos and I have been working super hard to bring you all some great new products. I think what we have in store will really impress you. We're truly passionate about making sure we are providing you with a quality product that it socially responsible.

There is some great events coming up this year as well. All of the field days, including the ones out at Borenore and Henty will of course be an annual hit. Another good one will be the

Agribusiness Today event which happens here in Forbes later in the year. As well as Bulk 2020 in April (now postponed due to the COVID-19) and the Australian Grains Industry Conference (AGIC) in July. We'll be tagging along to all of these, so keep an eye out for us, on all of our social platforms.

As for Steve, The Silologist, he has a few things up his sleeve to spark your interest in different blog topics; digging a little deeper into things such as pressure testing, silo maintenance, fumigating, all things augers and much more. You'll also have to keep an eye out for a few special guests that he will interview over the next year.

Regards,

Steve, The Silologist

Breaking News on The Silologist Blog

There has been some recent news in the media about the sudden outbreak of the fall armyworm which is native to America.

Biosecurity Queensland confirmed early February that a single armyworm moth has been detected up in Cape York. This discovery comes only a few days after authorities had confirmed the pest was present on the northern islands in the Torres Strait. The pest is very similar to the Leucania convecta armyworm species that is found in all states in Australia, but if this fall armyworm is more worrying.

The pest is a breed of moth that is found mainly found in grass pastures, cereal and rice crops. It lives up to its name as a pest as it can cause a lot of damage to crops. Once it gets in, it will latch onto the roots and eat away at the crop, eventually killing it.

When fully grown the moth will be roughly 30-40mm in length from wing to wing. It is brown, grey and white in colour and the males will have more distinct patterns on their forewings. Some females may also be carrying larvae which can be identified by a larger than normal head that will be dark in colour.

This situation gets a lot more serious as they can fly, like really fly. Experts estimate their migration rate can be up to almost 500 kilometres per generation, but a normal flight distance is anywhere between 100-200 kilometres. It is also believed that they can also spread through human movement after the species was detected in Africa following the arrival of a passenger flight.

The fall armyworm is known to damage more than 350 plant species which in turn can see radical crop destruction. Once they are present in a crop there isn't much you can do to stop it so prevention and caution are key.

Experts say some targeted crops include cotton, sweet corn, rice, peanuts and fruits. The list of food sources for larvae however is much larger and they will eat much more of the plant. According to experts at the Department of Primary Industries this species can wipe out some crops as quickly as overnight. When larvae first begin to hatch they require very little food, but as they continue to age they require more up to 50 times more than what they needed at the beginning of the lifecycle.

Australia is in a good position due to our advanced scientific research and biosecurity measures, but now that the pest has reached our boarders, producers need to be on the lookout themselves.

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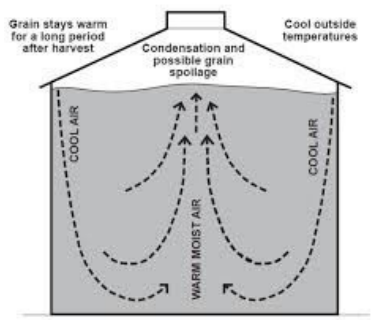
What's on the Blog?

Hi I'm Steve, The Silologist I bring you fortnightly updates on grain production, storage, and monitoring. Its basically a one-stop-station for your hard facts, which is easily accessible to you.

Head to our website to keep updated with all the latest news and developments with The Silologist: **www.thesilologist.com.au**

Understanding the Importance of Moisture Migration

Moisture Migration is a common occurrence in almost 100% of cases due to a lack of Grain maintenance.



Grain Maintenance involves the following:

- Monitoring the grain: every fortnight in summer (life cycle of some insects can be over as little as 3 weeks) and monthly in winter.
- Use Aeration to remove moisture migration.

Before filling your silo:

- When performing your silo maintenance, check the seals around the lid and manhole. Especially when filling or out loading
- Pressure test your silo: once your silo is sealed, perform a pressure test.

So make sure your silos, and grain are working for you by practicing good silo hygiene and monitoring, and preventative maintenance.

Continue Reading>>

Aeration Drying or Aeration Cooling?

Knowing whether grain needs to be dried or cooled can be confusing but there are some simple rules of thumb:

Aeration cooling brings down the temperature of the grain to slow down the life cycle of insects, and if it is cooled to below the 15-20° level, the insect lifecycle can be stopped completely. This can be achieved with low airflow rates from a small aeration fan.

Aeration drying comes in when we need to pull moisture out of the grain in order to prevent mould growth and grain damage. This needs much higher airflow, with rates of over 15 litres of air per second.

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Choosing the Right Silo For You

Choosing the right silo can be a daunting task, so we have answered a few FAQ's that will make it a whole less painful for you. The two mains points you need to consider are:

1. **what is the length of your current auger setup?**
2. **What commodity do you want to store?**

We manufacture silos to suit any commodity To be able to capture all the information we require to make sure we are manufacturing the best option for you, we do need to get as much of that information from you as possible. We want to make sure you are getting the best fit for purpose the first time, so things are hassle free.

Continue Reading>>

Pressure Testing Your Silo

The HE Team caught up with Chris Warrick, the National Coordinator for Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) to get the best advice on pressure testing.

Basically, if you are fumigating for insect control, your silo needs to be pressure tested to make sure it can be fumigated safely and properly.

The bottom line is that if you want to be able to use fumigation as an insect control method, you need to pressure test your silo to ensure it can do the job properly and safely, as safety is just as important.

Continue Reading>>

Understanding Bulk Densities

Bulk density is defined as the weight of a material including the air space around the grains. The more slender the grain, the less bulk density for example, wheat takes up much less space than oats.

Bulk density can also be affected by other factors such as the filling method, size of silo, moisture content of product and the shape and size of the grain or pellet. If you call us, we can let you know the bulk density of any product, together with the cost per tonne in relation to the price of the silo.

Continue Reading>>

Farmer Profile | Meet The Haycock's

Early in the year the HE team caught up with the Haycock family of Yeoval. The Haycocks are long-time customers of ours and are a prime example of true Aussie farmers. We wanted to share their story with you all for a number of reasons, but mainly because of how resilient they've been and how they continue to adapt as weather conditions and life on the land change.

The Haycock's have been farming for over 100 years. The first generation that began out on the land in Yeoval were cropping farmers. They had mainly barley, wheat and oats, but as time went on sheep and cattle were slowly introduced.

"We had the most Red Angus cattle in Australia just about, at one stage" – John Haycock.

John Haycock and his son Chris run the family farm. The father and son team have worked extremely hard to get to where they are today, but that success hasn't come without its challenges. The drought has taken its toll on the Haycock's just as much as the next family. Sitting back looking at all the dry red dirt, reflecting on how little rain they have had isn't easy but it's a reality that they've had no choice but to face.

"It's been so long now. We've had dry times before, but when you're talking about more than 3 years of just straight drought and so little rain, it has been one of the hardest times we've ever had." – Chris Haycock.

Last December was the first time the family had been able to strip in three years, seeing only 20 tonne come through in 3 years. The Haycock's say they usually get 26 inches of rain on average per year, but in the last 12 months they've only seen roughly 8 inches.

Although it has been tough, the Haycock's aren't the type to give up without a fight. They did what most would do and sat down to work out a plan that would see them adapt and change with the harsh conditions, implementing new technologies and practices on the farm.

"We've had to change our way of farming so when it does get dry like this we know what to do. We now know that sometimes it's the right choice to offload stock instead of just sitting back and waiting. Decisions like this have to be made, or you'll just run yourself broke." –Chris Haycock.

They know almost all of the tricks in the book, but one of their best despite being so simple is to store grain. This family produce the grain and then store as much as they possibly can to ensure they are self-sufficient. A great way to use your resources wisely.

"As they say, having money in a silo is like having money in the bank." -Chris Haycock.

They haven't just stopped there though. Once the middle of this year rolls around, they are planning on planting vetch in a bid to continue to stay self-sufficient. The plant itself is low in sugar but high in protein. By planting and harvesting vetch, producers can reduce the amount of hay they have to cut by roughly half, allowing more to stay in storage and reduce overall costs.

Although the father and son duo are the operators of the family farm, they do have three younger helpers in tow too, Chris' children Thomas (16), Brooke (12) and Jack (9). Chris says they chip in when needed, but Thomas already knows the ins and outs of how life out on the land works.

Thomas says being on the land is basically all he has ever known and he wouldn't change a thing. Waking up every morning, knowing that as a farmer you get to make all the decisions to keep the farm running smoothly is what he can't wait to do when it is his time. One thing he already knows though is that farming isn't always smooth sailing. Just take our current situation for example.

"The worst part of it all is just looking at all the red dirt." – Thomas Haycock.

Although it's hard to know that kids as young as Thomas can see how tough farming can be, in a way it's reassuring to know that he shares our pain. It shows how much he appreciates and cares for his families' livelihood. Growing up he has learnt that there will be numerous challenges, big and small, but with the guidance of his Dad and Pop, he also knows that there are always ways to work around problems that may arise.

"I hope I've taught them a different way of farming so they're doing things smarter and not harder. As things change you have to change with them. It's just the way it is." –Chris Haycock.

As for the future the Haycock's say they aren't in any hurry to leave the family business. They've been working towards implementing a 5 year plan that would see them sew parts of the property so they rely solely on pasture, then after 5 years rotate back. They plan to keep switching it around so if things go wrong, or they find themselves in a drought like we're in at the moment they know that in a few years' time they will be back onto a new rotation. This way they aren't relying on one source of income and they are able to get back on their feet.

"We'll change things up. Work a bit harder so we can have more days off." – John Haycock.

Upcoming Events

1 - 3 April

#BULK2020
Australian Bulk Handling Exp
Melbourne Co ... tion Centre
POSTPONED TILL APRIL 2021

29-31 July

#AGIC2020
Australian Grains Industry Conference
Melbourne Crown Conference Centre

5 August

Agribusiness Today Forum
Forbes Golf Club, Forbes NSW

22 - 24 September

#HMFD
Henty Machinery Field Days
Henty, NSW

22-24 October

#ANFD
Australian National Field Days
Borenore, NSW

Fast Facts with Steve

1

The Fall Armyworm adult can fly up to lengths of 500km per generation.

2

Monitor stored grain monthly for moisture, temperature and pests

3

Fruit farming began sometime between 6000 and 3000 B.C. Figs were one of the first cultivated fruit crops.

Workshop Closure

HE Silos Workshop will be closed over the Easter break.

Our office will be **closed** from Thursday 9th April at 4pm and **reopen** Tuesday 14th April from 7am

We will be **closed** on Monday April 27 for the Anzac Day Public Holiday.

You can get a complimentary quote at **www.hesilos.com**

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Employee News

At HE Silos, we strive on hard work and dedication. Over the course of a year, each month one employee is recognise for going above and beyond within their work, along with second and third place. Each June, one employee is awarded Employee of the Year and will receive a $1000.00 Travel Voucher to use on any adventure they seem fit.

HE SILOS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Rick Cabban
December 2019

In December 2019,our final employee for the year was Rick Cabban (Pictured above). Second place was Robyn McLean followed by Jason Wilson in third.

HE SILOS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Robyn McLean
January 2020

January Employee of the Month was awarded to Robyn McLean (Pictured Right). The runner ups Jye Skinner in second and Dylan Lydon in third.

Our February Employee of the Month was awarded to Doug Nadin (Pictured Left). John Carpenter took out second place and Connor Farrer in third.

HE SILOS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Doug Nadin
February 2020

Huge congratulations to all of our winners for HE Silos' Employee of the Month(s), for your tremendous work during the year. These members of the HE Team have all shown immense dedication and commitment to our work place.

Well done!

Keep up the great work.

Bon Voyage Pete!

Peter Collits has worked for HE Silos since 1991, apart from a short break for a few years when he tried his hand elsewhere, returning in the summer of '09.

The whole HE team took morning tea with Pete, with a beautiful cake being provided by Forbes The Bakehouse. Office Manager, Stevie-Leigh spoke about how much Pete would be missed by the whole team, and we were treated to a few anecdotes about his time here by his old friend Phil!

Pete had accumulated a massive amount of knowledge and expertise in his many years with HE, and he will be a very hard act to follow.

We will all miss Pete very much, and wish him all the very best for what we hope will be an amazing next chapter in his life.

Enjoy Retirement Pete!