

Liquid Systems lead way

DUAL systems are attracting more interest from growers because of the versatility they offer, according to South Australian-based designer and manufacturer Liquid Systems.

"They can be either used for liquid NP which is a suspension type fertiliser or with double pumps you can have separate systems one for phosphorus and one for nitrogen," Peter Burgess, of Liquid Systems, said.

"The ability to swap and change is going to be crucial for future farming systems."

The Liquid Systems dual set-up uses two Bertolini pumps feeding the manifold systems, which was developed, built and tested from the ground up by Liquid Systems.

"Ninety five per cent of my business is actually in WA, and that is probably because CSBP has really got the bit between its teeth and gone with it,"



Peter Burgess, of Liquid Systems, shows John and Sam McNamara, of Williams, the latest dual pumping system from his company.

Mr Burgess said.

"This equipment is built to also withstand the phosphoric acid-based liquids in SA, so everything is 316 stainless steel and polypropylene, even the gauges which are made specially

in Germany out of 316 stainless."

Interest in Liquid Systems' manifold systems is such that original equipment manufacturers such as John Deere and Burando Hill are now requesting modules

that can be bolted on to their equipment.

"Probably we are showing people what you can actually do with these systems and we are then seeing that incorporated into machinery designs," Mr Burgess said.

Liquid nitrogen boosts southern crops

Growers on Esperance systems tour

THE wet conditions in the South Coast region this season has raised the profile of Flexi-N liquid fertiliser to “drip feed” nitrogen to crops during the growing period.

CSBP's David Large said up until this year the uptake of Flexi-N through the area had been steady, however its suitability this season under the leaching conditions had been well highlighted.

“Compared to solid forms of nitrogen, the Flexi-N has provided for better plant uptake of nitrogen; its flexibility has been a major bonus to be able to apply small amounts to feed crops quickly – with pesticide treatments in various cases; and its on-farm storage has provided a cost benefit to growers,” David said.

“In some situations, crops that have received Flexi-N applications are also looking better than others.”

CSBP Area Manager Keith Gundill said due to the wet conditions that had restricted crop production for a significant portion of the growing period this year, growers were unsure of their yield potentials and so using Flexi-N and splitting applications to apply small amounts at a time had proven to be a successful strategy.

“Farmers have been happy to apply just 30-40L/ha of Flexi-N at different times, and with pesticides in many cases, to help nurse crops along,” Keith said.

David said on lighter soils the trend was to apply less nitrogen upfront and to follow up with additional applications through boomsprayers during the season.

On heavier soils and particularly through the drier areas, the emphasis is on a good level of

nitrogen applied at seeding. For various growers, this is now turning their focus toward upgrading or modifying seeding systems to be able to band, or inject, Flexi-N at sowing. They are looking to improve nitrogen use efficiency as well as take advantage of the logistical benefits of applying it at sowing.

CSBP recently held a field tour through to Esperance for a number of farmers in the South Coast region to view how different growers were upgrading or modifying their systems to handle liquids, and how they had adopted liquid fertilisers – also in mixes with fungicides and trace elements – into their programs. Farmers from Jerramungup, Gairdner, Frankland, South Stirling and Mount Barker were involved in the two-day tour.

The group visited six different properties in the Esperance area, inspecting a range of liquid delivery systems including those developed by growers themselves through to the latest machines from manufacturers.

At the Longmire family's farm near Salmon Gums there was a Valley Systems tow-behind liquid fertiliser cart with a small tank added for application of zinc via a Dosatron pump. A Liquid Systems dual pump was also located at the rear of the cart. This was assisting tank agitation in a trial of a liquid suspension fertiliser used through the system this year.

At Danny Sanderson's farm near Grass Patch and Ashley Stewart's near Wittenoom Hills there were Morris liquid seeding systems. At Danny's there was a 3900-litre liquid tank complementing the granular fertiliser and seed tanks. Ashley had also used his third tank for inoculating his field peas.



CSBP Esperance Area Manager Craig Burton outlines the use of the Valley Systems tow-behind liquid fertiliser cart to the tour group at the Longmire family's farm near Salmon Gums. A Liquid Systems dual pump was located at the rear of the cart to assist tank agitation in a trial of a liquid suspension fertiliser used through the system this year.

At Kenton Wehr's near Scaddan the group inspected a Hardi boomspray that had been converted for banding liquid fertilisers.

Simon Tiller near Beaumont had installed a 4000L main tank, a tank for water and tanks for application of copper and Triad fungicide using Dosatron pumps on his Ausplow DBS bar.

At Ashley Reichstein's near Wittenoom Hills there was a Simplicity liquid seeding system.

The liquid delivery kits used with the systems mainly focused on the use of orifice plates or terminal jets.

Meanwhile, CSBP Market Development

Manager – Broadacre Cropping and Liquids, Wayne Crofts, said demand for the company's Flexi range of liquid fertilisers in the South Coast region was increasing from broadacre graingrowers and graziers as well as horticulture, viticulture and tree producers.

Wayne said the company was considering additional investment in the region to further extend the competitive supply of its liquid fertilisers to growers throughout the area.

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