

Keeping all RBX Group Stakeholders Informed

Note from the Managing Director

There is no doubt that the effects of COVID-19 on our business operations and personal lives is still very evident and will be with us for some time to come. Learning to live with these effects is going to be a critical part of being successful into the future. It is now almost two weeks since my second vaccine and according to the science the full effect of the protection offered will be in place within a few days. The vaccine availability has been opened up to all adult South Africans with plenty of vaccine stock available, so I encourage all to register on the national database and get vaccinated.

We are also just a week away from our first Sterile FCM releases for the new season and on some crops we start our SPLAT FCM™ applications in late September, so the new season is well upon us. Being healthy is the best way to guarantee your consistent support for the team in the new season so please follow protocols and stay safe.

Cheers - Rob

The Rise of the Splatigator

SPLAT FCM™ has been very successful in previous seasons, and River Bioscience is proud to have SPLAT FCM™ in our product range. During last season, we applied SPLAT to over 18 250ha using approximately 30 teams to manually apply the product to the trees.

With the focus on growing this product for the future, current forecast for the upcoming season is approaching 30 000ha, our team had to find an easier and faster way to apply the product and so we say hello to the Splatigator.

The Splatigator was first developed in the USA and field tests were done in South Africa with three versions of the machine until the team found the setup that works most effectively. Since the

pilot project, we have attained two Splatigators which will be used in the upcoming season in the Sundays River Valley and parts of Limpopo. The aim is to roll this out to other regions in the future.

Why is the switch to mechanical applications necessary?

- Staying current with the technology trends.
- Speed of application – using the Splatigator will deliver the output of almost two manual teams in one day (24 people).
- Using the Splatigator will ease project management due to the applications and requests of services growing year on year.
- Overall quality control will be easier with the Splatigator as there are fewer people to manage in the orchards.
- Some producers are



Version 2 of our Splatigator project

reluctant to have many people on their farms and with the Splatigator this will no longer be a concern.

The team is excited to receive the final version of the Splatigator from the engineering company, which will be used in the upcoming season. Stay tuned for updates after the season!

September Birthdays

Jovin Boois, Marlin Brink,
Leander Britz, Christo Douries, Zonia Fortuin,
Lionel Fransman, Elrico Jafta, Rustum Jansen,
Wilhelm Koekemoer, Herschelle Mollies,
Adele Niemand, Cuman Oostendorff,
John Opoku-Debrah, Celia Polisa,
Saul Titus, Olwethu Tsewu, Branwon Vallentyn,
Madre Van Wyk, Deon Viljoen

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