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# Crooks, fools, cheats and chemical tariffs



**C**redit to the grain industry that fought and won the removal of the Wheat Industry Authority and saved \$0.25/t.

In perspective, though, this saving is only about half what chemical tariffs cost the same farmers. How about industry leaders, lobby groups and politicians start paying some attention to this tax instead of picking the easy fights?

We have to concede that for all 4Farmer's ranting about the tariffs and spending huge sums fighting a Supreme Court case against Nufarm over Glyphosate Tariffs, the reality is the number of chemicals carrying tariffs has increased!

Local manufacturer, Imtrade was recently successful in getting the Tariff Concession removed from the following products. Therefore imported products containing these chemicals will now incur a 5% duty.

### Herbicides that have had their tariff concessions revoked.

Herbicides Containing	Like Products
Clethodim	Select®
Clodinafop	Topic®
Clopyralid	Lontrel®
Oxyfluorfen	Goal®
Dicamba	
Quizalofop-p-ethyl	Targa®
Triclopyr	Garlon®

Ironically, there are some tariffs that benefit 4Farmers. We have our own local manufacturing plant that tariffs help, but our prime motivation is and has always been to help the cause of farmers.

### Crooks & Fools

If farmers and their leaders ever get motivated about dismantling protectionism from chemicals they will have a tough fight on their hands.

Firstly, they are up against the multi-national company, Nufarm, whose fanaticism for the

retention of tariffs is extraordinary. Their ferocity in the fight for tariff retention makes them a tough opponent.

What's more, it never ceases to amaze us that some farmers continue to buy from them. It's like supporting someone who is working against you.

Secondly, you have to battle against the amazing decision making ability of the Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

The AAT is the independent government body set up to review "wrong" government department decisions like those made by Customs.

When presiding over a case to remove the tariff on Trifluralin raw material, Deputy President was misled by Nufarm into believing 2,4-D is a substitutable chemical for Trifluralin. The decision was that as 2,4-D raw material has a duty, a substitute like Trifluralin should have one also.

### Cheats

We would love to simply ignore the tariff and pass the savings on to you in lower chemical costs.

It seems that another company may have tried to do this and as a result Customs is investigating farm chemical importers over mis-declaration of goods and avoidance of duty.

Aside from cutting quality and using non registered sources, the non-payment of duty would be another tactic to get the price down. As much as we don't like duties we don't intentionally cheat. This sort of cheating only makes it unfair to honest companies doing the right thing.

The best solution all round would be for farmers and their leaders to start making a stand and say NO CHEMICAL TARIFFS!

**Phil Patterson, Managing Director**



## The 4Farmers quality team

4Farmers can guarantee the quality of its chemicals as a result of having a first class laboratory. The laboratory is about to gain international accreditation for Good Laboratory Practice standards. Our laboratory team is pictured with Manager, Keith D'Costa. [SEE STORY ON PAGE 4.](#)

# 4Farmers Products

With Cross Reference to similar trade name products

Herbicides	Similar Product
2,4-D Amine 625,750	Various
2,4-D Ester 800	Various
2,4-D Ester 680	Various
2,4-D plus Picloram	Tordon 75-D <sup>®</sup>
Atrazine 900 WG	Atradex <sup>®</sup> , Gesaprim <sup>®</sup>
Bensulfuron 600 WG	Dupont Londax DF <sup>®</sup>
Bromox MA	Bromicide MA <sup>®</sup>
Bromoxynil 200	Buctril <sup>®</sup>
Brown Out	Spray,Seed <sup>®</sup>
Chlorsulfuron 750 WDG	Glean <sup>®</sup> , Siege <sup>®</sup>
Clethodim 240EC	Select <sup>®</sup>
Clodinafop 240EC	Topik <sup>®</sup>
Clopyralid 300EC, 750SG	Lontrel <sup>®</sup>
Cyanazine 900 WDG	Bladex <sup>®</sup>
Diclofop-Methyl 500	Hoegrass <sup>®</sup>
Diflufenican 500SC	Brodal <sup>®</sup>
Diuron 900DF	Diurex WG <sup>®</sup>
Fluazifop 212EC	Fusilade <sup>®</sup>
Fluometuron 900WG	Nu-tron 900 DF
Glyphosate 470,450,360,540	Roundup <sup>®</sup>
Glyphosate 875	BiDri700 <sup>®</sup> , Roundup Dry <sup>®</sup>
Glufosinate-Ammonium 200	Basta <sup>®</sup>
Haloxyfop 520EC	Verdict <sup>®</sup>
Imazethapyr 700WG	Spinnaker <sup>®</sup>
Ipyp 750WG	Arsenal <sup>®</sup>
Ipic 240	Flame <sup>®</sup>
LV MCPA 570	Nufarm LVE Agritone <sup>®</sup>
LVE MCPA/ Diflufenican	Tigrex <sup>®</sup>
MCPA 500, 750	Various and Agritone <sup>®</sup>
Metolachlor 720EC	Dual <sup>®</sup>
Metribuzin 750WG	Lexone <sup>®</sup> , Sencor <sup>®</sup>
Metsulfuron Methyl 600WG	Ally <sup>®</sup>
Oryzalin 500SL	Surflan <sup>®</sup>
Oxyfluorfen 240EC	Goal <sup>®</sup> , Striker <sup>®</sup>
Paraquat 250	Gramoxone <sup>®</sup>
Pendimethalin 330EC	Stomp <sup>®</sup> , Argo <sup>®</sup>
Propyzamide 500SC, 900WG	Kerb <sup>®</sup> , Edge <sup>®</sup>
Quizalofop-p-ethyl	Targa <sup>®</sup>
Simazine 900WG	Gesatop <sup>®</sup> , Simagranz <sup>®</sup>
Sulfometuron 750WP	Oust <sup>®</sup>
Sulfosulfuron 750WG	Monza <sup>®</sup>
Tralkoxydim 400WG	Achieve <sup>®</sup>
Tri-allate 500EC	Avadex <sup>®</sup>
Triasulfuron 750WG	Logran <sup>®</sup>
Tribenuron Methyl 750DG	Express
Triclopyr 600EC	Garlon <sup>®</sup>
Trifluralin 480EC	Treflan <sup>®</sup>
Trifluralin 600EC	Treflan 600 <sup>®</sup>
Tri-pick	Grazon <sup>®</sup>
Turf ControlSC	Spearhead <sup>®</sup>

Seed Dressings	Similar Product
Imidacloprid 600 SC	Gaucho <sup>®</sup> , Emerge <sup>®</sup>
Imid-Triadimenol	Zorro <sup>®</sup>
Procymidone 500 SC	Sumislex
Tebuconazole 25T	Raxil <sup>®</sup>
Triadimenol 150 + WP	Baytan <sup>®</sup> , Baymax <sup>®</sup>
Triadimenol 150 liquid	Baytan <sup>®</sup> , Baymax <sup>®</sup>
Fungicides	Similar Product
Azoxystrobin 500 WG	Amistar WG <sup>®</sup>
Carbendazim 500	Bavistin <sup>®</sup> , Spin <sup>®</sup>
Chlorothaloril 720	Bravo <sup>®</sup>
Flutriafol 250SC	Impact <sup>®</sup> , Intake <sup>®</sup>
Iprodione 500	Iprodione Aquaflow 500 SC <sup>®</sup>
Mancozeb 750 WG	Penncozeb 750 DF <sup>®</sup>
Procymidone 500	Fortress 500 <sup>®</sup>
Propiconazole 250EC	Tilt <sup>®</sup> , Bumper <sup>®</sup>
Tebuconazole 430SC	Folicur <sup>®</sup>
Triadimefon 125EC	Triad <sup>®</sup> , Slingshot <sup>®</sup>
Triadimefon 500 Dry	Tee-Fon 500 <sup>®</sup>
Triadimenol 250EC	Bayfidan <sup>®</sup> , Shavit <sup>®</sup>
Insecticides	Similar Product
Alpha-Cyber 100EC, 250SC	Fastac Duo <sup>®</sup> , Dominex <sup>®</sup>
Bifenthrin 100EC	Talstar <sup>®</sup>
Chlorpyrifos 500EC	Lorsban <sup>®</sup>
Cypermethrin 260EC	Scud <sup>®</sup> , Sonic <sup>®</sup>
Dimethoate 400EC	Rogor <sup>®</sup>
Fenamiphos 400	Nemacur <sup>®</sup>
Imidacloprid 200SE	Confidor <sup>®</sup>
Lambda-Cyhalothrin 250 CS	Karate Zeon <sup>®</sup>
Omethoate 290	Le-mat <sup>®</sup>
Pirimicarb 500	Aphidex <sup>®</sup> , Pirimor <sup>®</sup>
Rodenticides	Similar Product
Rat and Mouse Bait Pellets	Talon <sup>®</sup>
Zinc Phosphide Unsterilised Mouse Bait	MouseOff ZP <sup>®</sup>
Other Products	Similar Product
Ammonium Sulphate	
Boom Clean Dry	
Citric Acid	
Ethephone 720 SL	Galleon <sup>®</sup> Growth Regulator
Farm Pro 700	LI 700 <sup>®</sup>
Foam marker	
Glyphosate Wetter	Gly Wetter Plus Surfactant <sup>®</sup>
Penetrator	Pulse Penetrant <sup>®</sup>
Speedy Spray Adjuvant	Hasten <sup>®</sup>
Sunshade Spray Adjuvant	AntiEvap <sup>®</sup>
Turbo Charge	Supercharge <sup>®</sup> , Uptake <sup>®</sup>
Wetter 1000	

# Protecting farmers not important?

**4Farmers produces quality chemicals like Trifluralin 480 that are second to none, however, as some farmers are now aware through experiencing 'the hard way' not all chemicals are made to a standard.**

Last year it was 4Farmers who alerted farmers to the black, foul smelling Trifluralin being brought in by some competitors. It was making people sick.

This product also had a lower flash point and higher flammability that made it even more hazardous.

Though the APVMA knew about the product before the season started, it allowed the product to be distributed anyway.

It was only after 4Farmers blew the whistle that the APVMA were reluctantly forced to take action and recall the product. Unfortunately, it would have been too late for many farmers.

That is where the action seems to have stopped.

Despite a seemingly straight forward case of blatant negligence and possible deceptive behaviour, there seems to have been little consequence or penalty for the perpetrators.

In contrast, the APVMA recently boasted of imposing a \$20,000 fine on some

obscure importer of marine anti-fouling products.

It seems to send the message that farmers' being dudded with bad Trifluralin isn't serious, and putting farmers' lives at risk doesn't seem to matter.

The APVMA, which is indirectly paid for by farmers from levies on their chemicals, is supposedly the organisation to protect farmers from hazardous and illegal products like the Trifluralin imported last year.

## Loophole

We can accept competition but the dangers of making registrations too easy is that we're going to become flooded with rubbish like this shonky Trifluralin.

Presently the APVMA has a loop hole in their registration process that is a green light for anyone and everyone to get a registration. There are danger signs all over this unless the APVMA pulls it head out of the sand.

Clearly farmers have been let down again by the authority paid to protect them.

It's a minefield for farmers out there, but fortunately they can be assured they will always receive good value, quality chemicals from one supplier – 4Farmers.

We're owned by farmers – producing for farmers.



## NEW PRODUCTS

### ▶ 4Farmers Sulfosulfuron 750 (similar to Monza®)

**Only because of 4Farmers entering the market this season with Sulfosulfuron will farmers be assured of a significant price drop in this chemical.**

Wheat farmers needing to control Brome, Barley, and Silver grasses will be very happy. It also has good activity against Brassica weeds including radish, turnip, mustard and volunteer canola. Terry Piper, senior 4Farmers agronomist, said Sulfosulfuron, being a Group B chemical, will not of course control weeds resistant to that group like many populations of ryegrass or wild radish are. Nor will it control Clearfield® canola.

4Farmers Sulfosulfuron can be used pre-or post-emergent in wheat.

"Don't spray too late", warns Terry. "Some farmers had been disappointed with the equivalent product, Monza®, but this was due to late applications. Sulfosulfuron grass control drops off markedly as the weeds pass tillering."

### ▶ Glufosinate Ammonium 200 (similar to Basta®)

**Glufosinate Ammonium is exciting for the fact it is a Group N weedicide which is different to many other chemicals including Glyphosate and Paraquat.**

It is commonly used by orchardists and other horticulturalists as a knockdown. Glufosinate Ammonium has no broad-acre crop applications at present, although a similar chemical (known as Liberty®) has been used in Liberty Link® crops. It is translocated to a limited extent. It will move throughout any leaf onto which it is sprayed, but not from leaf to leaf. Best efficacy will be in warmer conditions.

## Don't jump to conclusions or new fancy chemicals!

**A new product like the recently released Sakura® may be a handy tool for some farmers but don't overlook other good existing generic chemicals that can do the same job and maybe better.**

Pictured is a paddock beautifully clean of weeds, however, you perhaps wouldn't have counted on that outcome had you known its history.

It was full of weeds like Ryegrass and Barley grass from the previous year.

It was not spray topped and was generally totally unprepared for cropping. Sowing it looked like it might have been a disaster.

It was subsequently sprayed with (units/ha) 1L Glyphosate 470 + 1.3L Trifluralin + 1.3L Triallate + 1L Metolachlor + 250g Diuron + 30g Triasulfuron all tank mixed and IBS.



The result...magnificent!

The value of sticking to at least Trifluralin, Triallate and Metolachlor to control ryegrass has also been proven by independent trials like those at Hart SA.

# Australian Made

## Tested and Guaranteed

“Many people wouldn't know that of around 60 of the crop protection lines 4Farmers typically sell, about 70% are produced on site by ourselves”.

“It's a key reason why the laboratory at 4Farmers has undergone such considerable expansion over the years,” explains Laboratory Manager, Keith D'Costa.

As a result of the increasing demand for 4Farmers products and our decision to manufacture more product locally, so our analytical laboratory and production area have had to be expanded to take over the 4Farmers office and warehouse at 70 McDowell Street. Administration, storage and distribution have moved to a new location down the road.

The laboratory has been expanded because everything is rigorously tested.

Keith D'Costa explains: “The fully equipped



laboratory manned by a team of experienced chemists not only tests the final 4Farmers product but also, the raw materials going into them, plus every other single chemical product we import.

“I have a test result from this lab on file for every 4Farmers product out there. What's more, we have retained batch samples so we can confidently back up our guarantees

on the products sold.

### No Shortcuts

“It's one thing producing what works and legal, but it's another thing what is good value within those parameters.

“For instance few people realise that chemicals are produced at legal tolerances. Chemicals are never exactly what the label says they are.

“Trifluralin 480 for instance has a tolerance of plus or minus 5% so it could be sold as 456g/l up to 504g/l. Our product passes at 480g/l plus.

“Farmers should be aware that a fact driven by commercial reality is that other manufacturers will deliberately produce product at the low end of this range. “Good product starts at registration and the engineering of good formulations. We benchmark ourselves against the best products in the market and try to produce the same quality or better.

“So that's why we have a well resourced laboratory that ensures when you buy a 4Farmers product, you're buying a quality product that we stand by and can prove its value.”

## HV 2,4-D Ester drift: Fact or Fiction?

**H**V 2,4-D Ester 800 remains a suspended product. The product remains under a cloud because there are some people with the perception that it has substantial problems with drift. Is this fact or fiction?

Fortunately, with the good sense and grace of the APVMA to date, 4Farmers has a permit for its use in WA over summer (APVMA permit 13339) and it can still be used in all states from 1 May 2013 to 31 August 2013 (APVMA permit 13576).

To offer some credible independent perspective, the following is extracts from two papers presented by John Moore, experienced Researcher at the WA Department of Agriculture & Food, Agribusiness Crop Updates 2008.

Though over 4 years old we know of no information to change the conclusions.

### We quote...

“2,4-D high volatile esters (HVE) were suspended by APVMA (the Australian pesticides regulatory body) in 2005 following concerns raised by the Department of Heritage and Environment about wide scale effects on the environment from vapour drift.

There is no significant evidence to support the claim of widespread environmental damage caused by 2,4-D vapours from agricultural spraying and localised damage is caused mainly by droplet drift.

There were surprisingly few substantiated cases of damage attributed to vapour movement despite speculation as it being a cause of off target damage and many references to it in the media and extension material.

(Referring to a specific trial conducted) Overall the movement of the volatile fraction of 2,4-D in damaging concentrations appears to be relatively localised and almost certainly within the zone that will be affected by droplet drift. Very low concentrations will move many kilometres as vapour but there is no

evidence that these concentrations are damaging to plants.

There was no significant damage to canola caused by 2,4-D butyl ester vapours more than a few metres from the edge of spraying when applied in conditions conducive to vapour drift but within the label recommendations.

There was little evidence of the movement of 2,4-D ester vapour moving more than a few metres from the site of application in damaging quantities. This is contrary to popular belief, but consistent with other studies. Damage from 2,4-D is more likely from direct droplet drift than vapour drift. In this work the 2,4-D ester formulations were more than 10 times more effective than the amine.

However, this may be an over-estimate as the slope of the amine dose response curve was greater than the ester and it is expected that they should be similar. More detailed research on the dose response is required. ”

# Understanding Dangerous Goods, Safe Handling and Transport

**Safe transport of farm chemicals should be an important issue to farmers if it is not already. This is especially so with the increased use of chemicals like Paraquat particularly in 1,000L IBCs (intermediate bulk containers).**

Dangerous goods (DGs) are substances or articles with hazardous properties that have immediate risk if handled incorrectly such as when being transported.

Dangerous goods are described by;

- (i) Correct shipping name
- (ii) UN number
- (iii) Class – Agricultural chemicals that are classified DG are usually Class 6.1 Toxic. Some materials might have a subsidiary risk or class secondary to the main risk eg Omethoate Class 6.1, Sub Class 3 (flammable)

(iv) Most classes of DGs will be divided into one of three packaging groups. These are shown with roman numerals so not to confuse class numbers;

- a. Packing Group I Great Danger
- b. Packing Group II Medium Danger
- c. Packing Group III Minor Danger

DGs within Class 6.1 are classified into packaging groups according to their toxicity.



Packing group Group	Oral Toxicity LD50 (mg/kg)	Dermal Toxicity LD50 (mg/kg)	Inhalation toxicity by dusts & mists LD50(mg/L)
I	< 5	<40	<.5
II	>5-50	>40-200	>0.5-2
III	>50-200	>200-1000	>2-10

## Bulk DGs v Packaged DGs

Bulk dangerous goods are generally DGs in containers greater than 500 litres. Therefore the common 1000L IBC is a bulk vessel. Other common sizes less than 500L or kg, 200L, 110L, 20L, bags or boxes, are deemed packaged dangerous goods.

The maximum number of bulk vessels in any load which are typically 1000L IBCs, is 3 (ie 3000L). More than this number requires the driver to have a bulk DG driver's license and have an emergency panel on the truck.

## When to Placard

DG loads (Class 6.1, group II or III) equal or greater than 1000L or 1000kg must be placarded.

Appropriate placards must be secured to the front and the rear of the vehicle.

A load must be placarded whether the DG vessels are empty or full. Therefore, if for example a 1000L IBC has been emptied on the truck, it is still considered a placarded load.

If part of the load is taken off so that it falls below the 1000L or 1000kg threshold, then it should be unplacarded.

A vehicle carrying any amount of DGs must also carry;

- Documents fully describing the DG load including quantity. This might be the invoice from the point of purchase.
- A booklet called the Dangerous

Goods Initial Response Guide which covers all DGs or otherwise the relevant Emergency Procedures Guide (EPG) for the particular product /s in the load. If not these, the driver must at least have a relevant MSDS.

- Personal protective & safety gear (eg Gloves, eye wash), fire extinguisher & reflector signals are all generally required too.

## Restrain the Load

Any load, chemical or non chemical eg a drum of water or roll of wire, must be properly restrained.

Generally restraint of any load must be with appropriate load straps of Australian Standard. Rope of any type or quality is not considered suitable to restrain a load.

Rigid sides or gates can be useful but are no substitute for restraining with load straps. Although if transporting packaged dangerous goods rigid sides or gates are essential as well as straps.

## Beware Legal Load

The legal load capacity of a vehicle is also very important but often overlooked. Many utes and trailers don't have a legal capacity to carry more than 1000kg net weight.

An IBC empty weighs at least 50kg. Filled with only 1000L of water it weights 1050kg. This alone will overload many utes and trailers.

Many chemicals that have specific gravity more than water therefore can become even worse. A formulation of Glyphosate 540 for instance has a specific gravity of 1.35. Therefore a full IBC will weigh over 1.4t.

## Responsibility

When loading chemical or any load, spare a thought for the great burden of responsibility the person or company loading you has. They are held as much accountable for inappropriate loading of chemicals as you or maybe more because they are perceived to be in a position that they should know better.

The fines and implications for the person or company that loads your vehicle are very significant.

So don't be offended if someone loading your vehicle doesn't allow you to load it as you might want. Their neck could be on the line too.

Should you be unfortunate to have an accident carrying a load of chemicals, you can be saved from the clean up costs and other implications of the accident by your motor vehicle public liability insurance. By law, the minimum insurance for a vehicle with a placarded load is \$5 million.

Check your circumstances with your broker or insurance company.

*Assistance of Agsafe writing this article acknowledged*

# Expanding with experience around Australia



**T**hanks to great pricing with our own range of high quality chemicals, 4Farmers in recent years has become one of the fastest growing farm chemical suppliers in Australia.

To accommodate this growth our administration, sales and distribution departments have needed to shift down the road to a 1700m<sup>2</sup> office and warehouse at 35 McDowell Street Welshpool WA.

New experienced sales and distribution staff have also been recruited to complement the exciting growth phase 4Farmers is going through.

4Farmers Sales & Distribution manager, Greg Jupp, has around 25 years experience

in the rural merchandise industry much with Wesfarmers (fore runner to Landmark). This includes running a rural agency in partnership at Bruce Rock and stints in Perth managing wholesaling operations.

“After a break from the industry 4Farmers is a refreshing return. Aside from supporting a network of distributors around Australia, from my office I can competitively deal direct with farmers and resellers around Australia,” he said.

Peter Ralston was formerly a successful farmer from Tammin WA and a client. He knew how good our product was. He’s been recruited as a Sales Manager.

“My goal is to support Greg and be a

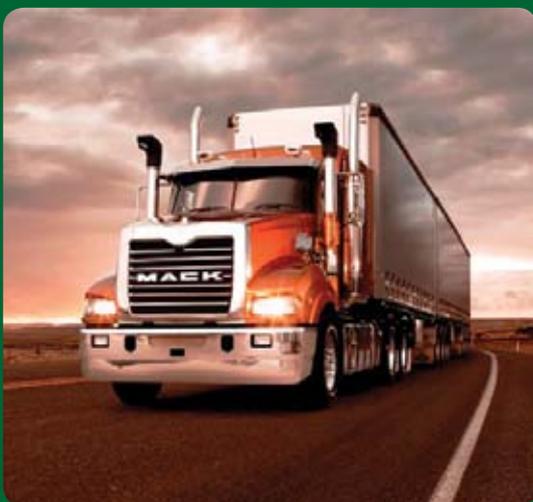


*Greg Jupp (left) discussing sales orders with Peter Ralston for distribution around Australia*

contact person to every farmer not serviced by a distributor.” explains Peter.

“Especially in these tough times, it is important for farmers to be discerning with chemical quality and prices. If farmers want a better deal on quality chemicals they should call me”.

## 4FARMERS CAN SUPPLY CHEMICALS TO EVERYWHERE IN AUSTRALIA.



### Contact head office to find your local distributor.

If you're not near a local distributor we can send chemicals direct to you.

**Head Office 1800 038 445**

**[www.4farmers.com.au](http://www.4farmers.com.au)**