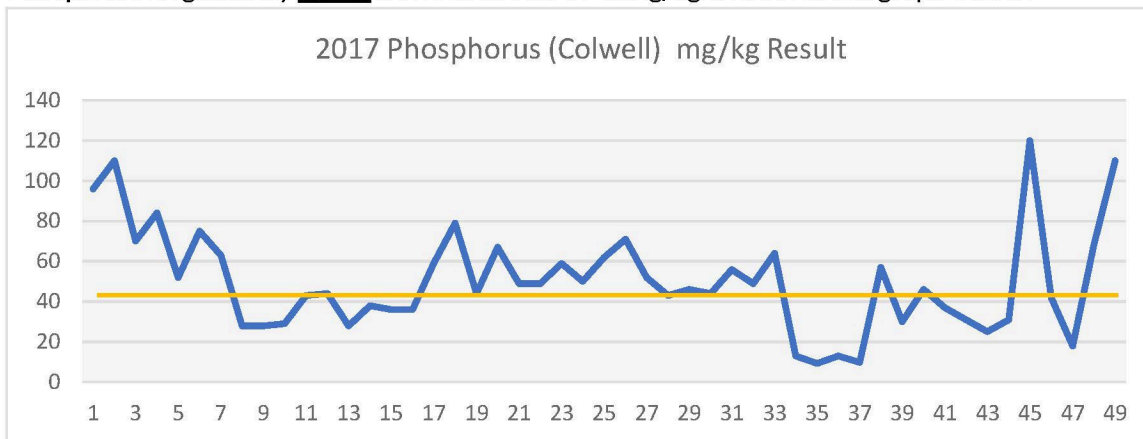


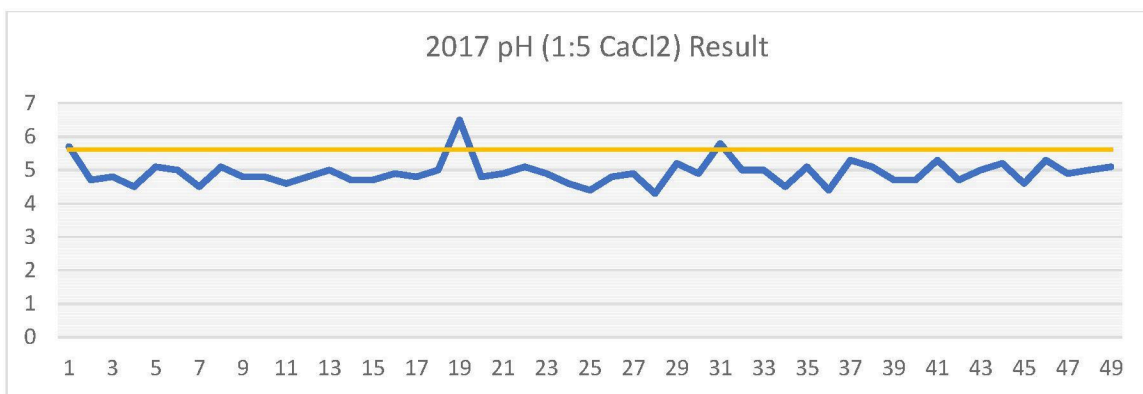
It's that time of year when Farm Crop Planning is happening, and fertiliser decisions have to be made.

Murray Valley Rural Services offers a Soil testing service for their Client Base. Over the last couple of seasons there has been a trend in the level of nutrients as discussed below.

1. **Phosphorus** is generally above the critical vale of 45mg/kg as seen in the graph below.



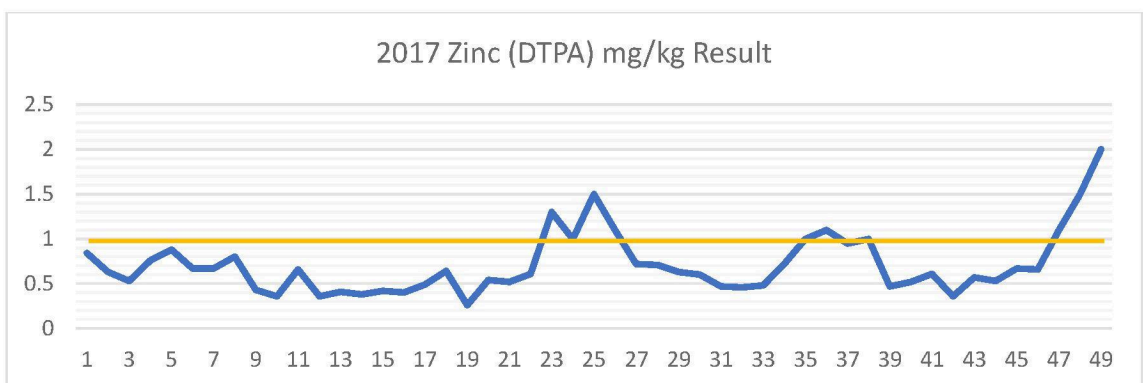
If this is the case, it is possible to reduce Phosphorus applications and divert funds to other issues such as liming to increase soil pH. Nearly all soil tests conducted in the 2017 season were below 5.2pH, as seen below.



Low pH induces other issues such as high Aluminium Saturation, which is detrimental to crops such as Barley, Canola, Pulses and legume pastures.

2. **Zinc** has also been noted as below critical levels of 1mg/kg. Zinc is essential for a number of processes within a plant but particularly early root development. Both cereals and canola have a high demand for Zinc.

Nearly 90% of soil test results from the 2017 season indicated levels below the optimum required for healthy plant establishment and growth.



A good option to address these issues is to use the “Kickstart 20” starter blend fertilizer at sowing. It contains more Nitrogen than MAP, contains Zinc, and is very cost effective. For more information about this product, please contact either **Andrew Parr** on 0459 511555 or **Dan Walsh** on 0438 098903.

Murray Valley Rural Services can also provide a range of shallow and deep soil testing services, and work with you to assess and formulate a cost-effective fertilizer program for the 2018 season.