



The true test of success for the wine industry



Rural Solutions SA has launched an expanded suite of innovative services for the wine industry.

Rural Solutions SA General Manager Locky McLaren said the group had developed practical, commercially savvy solutions for the wine industry.

“Salinity management, food safety, business planning, soil and plant tissue analysis and environmental design are just some solutions we can provide,” he said.

“Individual and commercial producers are seeking to improve profitability and long term sustainability and Rural Solutions SA has an excellent track record of tailoring projects to meet the unique needs.”

Rob Strachan, technical officer at Yalumba’s Oxford Landing vineyard agreed.

“Producing premium wine is increasingly precise these days as we monitor inputs such as water, fertiliser and overall soil

management to most minute detail,” Mr Strachan said.

“To help achieve our production goals, we use Rural Solutions SA’s Analytical Crop Management Laboratory at Loxton.”

“We send the laboratory staff plant tissue from the vineyard and within a few days we have the results we need. It’s a very quick turnaround and we appreciate the speedy delivery of the data.

“At this time of year, the timing of inputs can be critical and we use the results to support visual and other analysis to modify our management of the vines. This ensures that the wine we produce for Yalumba is not only consistent wine but the highest quality product possible.”

For more information contact: Tony Zimmermann 08 8226 1095

Eurepgap®: Meet the Environmental Challenge

With Eurepgap® you can meet the environmental challenge and profit from it.

The Case: Primary producers and supporting businesses are being asked to take greater responsibility for the environment and to minimise environmental impacts above the legal requirements. Some governments and consumer groups are demanding it.

The Solution: Eurepgap® is a series of group workshops and on-property sessions that use a risk management approach for issues such as water, OH&S, chemical use, waste management, energy use and biodiversity. The result is a practical, technically excellent approach to managing the environmental risks associated with horticultural production.

The program comprises of a 1-day introduction, 2–3 half-day modular workshops and an on-property inspection to discuss issues and progress. The modular approach is ideal for people who have a busy schedule, and Eurepgap® can be tailored to producers, packers and processors in any horticultural industry.

The Benefits: The solution is to become Eurepgap® compliant. With Eurepgap® you can easily satisfy the demands of government and consumers and enjoy the benefits afforded to environmentally proactive businesses. Access to difficult markets and legislative compliance are two major benefits. More efficient water use can deliver significant cost savings.

For more information contact: David Pocock 08 8595 9112

RURAL SOLUTIONS SA newsletter

Practical, productive and profitable solutions on display

The 3rd Australian Wine Industry Environment Conference is coming to Adelaide, South Australia, on 2-3 February 2005. This event is an important component of the Australian Wine Industry Environment Strategy “Sustaining Success” and is arguably the premier environment conference for the industry. The growth in the event is testament to the quality of the presenters and quality of the visitors.

Rural Solutions SA aims to play a major part in the Australian Wine Industry Environment Strategy “Sustaining Success” and as a result has developed a suite of services specifically tailored for the industry. SaltSmart®, REMS and Winery Wastewater Management

are three services being showcased at the 3rd Australian Wine Industry Environment Conference.

SaltSmart® mapping is a powerful tool to help manage soil salinity. Reliable information about soil characteristics and variation is vital to developing effective salinity management strategies – SaltSmart® helps deliver that information.

REMS is a ‘systems approach’ to environment management that helps producers get a handle on their piece of the world. REMS (using a Review, Establish, Monitor and Service approach) improves understanding of property issues to optimise production while caring for the environment.

Winery Wastewater Management is about maximum utilisation of a precious resource – water. Finding new sources of water for irrigation is becoming increasingly difficult. It pays to manage wastewater efficiently and effectively. Rural Solutions SA offers expert advice and support in all aspects of winery wastewater management.

For more information contact: Michy Kris 08 8226 0428 or 0438 440 229

Award success for Rural Solutions SA

Rural Solutions SA is being recognised for its achievements within the agribusiness sector. The accolades include:

- Finalist for “Civic Trust of South Australia: People” - Central North East Farm Assistance Program
- Finalist for Rabobank “Best Rural Enterprise Award”
- Short-listed for Premier’s Food Award

in this issue

- ▶ Practical, productive and profitable solutions on display
- ▶ Award success for Rural Solutions SA
- ▶ REMS™: Good for the bottom line and environment
- ▶ Protect your investment against salinity
- ▶ Waste not, want not: Profitable wastewater management
- ▶ Wine Industry Facts
- ▶ The true test of success for the wine industry
- ▶ Eurepgap®: Meet the Environmental Challenge



REMS™: Good for the bottom line and environment

The vision of a profitable vineyard growing top quality wine grapes with no negative environmental impact: fact or fiction? For Paul and Michelle Edwards this vision has become a reality for their Adelaide Hills vineyard – Serendipity.

To realise this vision they employed the services of Rural Solutions SA's Senior Consultant Wayne Brown, an expert in the field of environmental management systems. Wayne developed a tailored environmental plan for the Serendipity property using the REMS™ approach to environmental management.

REMS™ is a practical 4-step process, which includes the stages of Review, Establish, Monitor and Service. It enables you to focus your efforts and share information with key stakeholders. The outcome is improved productivity and product quality while maintaining long-term vitality of your base natural resources — soil, water and vegetation.

“Planning is the key to success,” said Wayne. “We were able to take a holistic approach that allowed us to manage impacts on surrounding properties as well as the vineyard itself. All facets of the new vineyard’s interaction with the environment were discussed and explained with



For more information contact: Wayne Brown 0408 813 628.

the owners prior to the establishment of the vineyard. For example buffer zones between Serendipity and adjacent properties were established to minimise chemical spray drift, to maintain habitat for birds and other small animals and to provide effective windbreaks.”

The benefits for Paul and Michelle Edwards extend beyond sound environmental stewardship; grape quality and production are world-class and they have a reputation for environmental excellence. All of this has a positive impact on the bottom line.

A huge strength of the REMS™ system is the people who deliver it, presenting a practical approach that is easily understood by the client and their staff. Rural Solutions SA has the ability to draw on a pool of highly skilled and experienced people from across the business to come up with the right blend of expertise for any project.

WINE INDUSTRY

facts

Irrigation

- 84% of Australian vineyards are irrigated
- On average, SA vineyards use 3.2 Megalitres per hectare; NSW 4.6ML/ha and Victoria 5.3ML/ha
- Nationally, 71% of vineyard irrigation is by drip or micro spray, 18% by spray and 13,400ha (9.7%) is still flood-irrigated
- 34% of South Australian vineyards source water from underground compared to 12% in NSW and 3% in Victoria

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2003 Australian Wine and Grape Industry

Protect your investment against salinity



Salinity is a major challenge to the wine industry. Irrigation with even quite good water (200ppm) will deposit 1.2 tonnes/ha of salt on the vineyard every year. The salinity of irrigation water is increasing and there are no signs of improvement.

The good news is that with good management much of this salt is leached out. But there is still a lot of salt around, for example, Australia has areas with large amounts of salt in the subsoil, ready to be taken up by the vine.

Soil salinity reduces growth, cane and shoot biomass, and in turn cuts

yield. Rural Solutions SA Senior Consultant agrees, “Soil is the key to yield and having access to good information about soil is invaluable in managing your production area to achieve maximum yield,” he said.

SaltSmart® mapping has proven to be the key to protecting against the effects of salinity. By using an electromagnetic induction meter and coupled with a GPS, a map of the subsoil is made possible.

“Interpreting soil maps allow us to identify areas that would benefit from treatments such as varying irrigation practices. Catchment management

plans can be developed to take into account specific attributes of the production area,” explained Terry.

“Soil variation identified by SaltSmart® mapping has also proven to be a reliable way of predicting yield,” added Terry. SaltSmart® mapping is one of a suite of products offered by Rural Solutions SA aimed to maximise productivity while minimizing environmental impacts.

For more information contact: Terry Evans 08 8565 6417 or 0429 675 957

Waste not, want not: Profitable wastewater management

Rural Solutions SA is at the leading edge of research and technology in the area of waste and reclaimed water, with hands on experience in providing tailored solutions to the wine industry – small boutiques to large corporate wineries.

As part of the planning and design process Rural Solutions SA consultants evaluate factors like: property size, topography, groundwater depth, and soil type. Other factors include: winery wastewater load, waste constituent levels, future plans for expansion, economic considerations, adjacent land uses, and proximity to residents.

The result is a tailored solution that incorporates the specific conditions of your facility. For example, Senior Consultant Howard Hollow made it possible for a winery to use its wastewater to grow a plantation of native trees. He developed an

irrigation management drainage plan and soil management recommendations to ensure EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) compliance. The advantages to the winery: economical disposal of the wastewater, elimination of problem odours and a future profit stream.

Irrespective of the wastewater management system, the need for monitoring is all important. Rural Solutions SA specialise in monitoring of wastewater management systems to ensure that they remain effective over time. We can plan and conduct the right monitoring programs and, on the basis of results, prepare and present reports to demonstrate compliance with EPA requirements.

Disposal of your winery wastewater is a necessary activity. With Rural Solutions SA as your partner you can plan and design systems to manage

both untreated and reclaimed wastewater in a way that creates cost efficiencies and in time, growth in profits.

For more information contact: Howard Hollow 08 8389 8800 or 0401 122 097

