

SEO METADATA

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THE FARMER'S DIGEST

Your weekly dose of sport, tips, headlines & a good yarn

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MEME OF THE WEEK

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Back in 2019, Liberal MP Angus Taylor accidentally posted a glowing comment on his own social media post. The comment, "Fantastic. Great move. Well done Angus", became one of Australia's most beloved political memes. It went dormant for seven years. Then in February 2026, Taylor challenged Sussan Ley for the Liberal leadership. Australians immediately flooded his social posts with the same line. He won the spill 34-17. The meme is alive again.



WEEKEND SPORT

AFL | Round 8

AFL Round 8 kicks off Friday night with a double-header — Dogs v Fremantle at Marvel and the Crows v Port Adelaide derby in Adelaide. Fremantle are flying as the competition's second-placed side, while Port look like they've found some form just in time to make the Showdown uncomfortable. The game of the round is Sunday at the SCG: ladder-leaders Sydney hosting fourth-placed Melbourne. Heeney is back, Pickett is running hard, and the Swans look a level above any Victorian side right now.

NRL | Round 9

NRL Round 9 is a big one. The Storm's six-game losing streak continues to baffle everyone, and Dolphin country at Suncorp on Friday night is the next opportunity for Melbourne to either arrest the slide or confirm something is genuinely broken. The Roosters v Broncos at Allianz on Saturday is shaping as the game of the round: Sydney have hit top gear, Reece Walsh is back for Brisbane after his facial fracture, and the market has it at \$1.38 v \$2.80 which tells you everything. On Sunday the Panthers host Manly, and regardless of Manly's encouraging run of form, CommBank is Penrith's fortress. They've won eight of the last nine there.

Round 9 Tipping

Points comp — you score the decimal odds of whoever you tip correctly. EP = Adjusted Prob x Odds.

Game	Tip	Odds	EP	Why
Bulldogs vs Cowboys	BULLDOGS	\$1.75	1.02	Home advantage at Accor holds up. Cowboys inconsistent, struggle to grind out ugly wins.
Dolphins vs Storm	DOLPHINS	\$1.60	1.09	Storm have lost six straight, including 48-6 at home to Souths. Hughes out with concussion. Easy call. ✓
Titans vs Raiders	RAIDERS	\$1.72	1.12	Raiders have won eight straight at Cbus. Titans had the bye but that does not fix the usual issues. ✓
Eels vs Warriors	WARRIORS	\$1.48	1.01	Warriors in second place and keep banking wins. Eels came back to earth badly last week. ✓
Roosters vs Broncos	BRONCOS	\$2.80	1.01	Walsh and Carrigan return. Broncos unbeaten away this season, won last two at Allianz. \$2.80 is genuine value. 🔥
Knights vs Rabbitohs	RABBITOHS	\$1.75	1.02	Souths put 48 on Melbourne and carry real momentum. Knights wobble once pressure builds.
Sharks vs Tigers	SHARKS	\$1.50	0.98	Nine wins from last ten at Shark Park. Tigers have Luai distraction with PNG meetings this week.
Panthers vs Sea Eagles	SEA EAGLES	\$4.20	1.01	Panthers at \$1.23 earns you barely 1 point if they win. Manly have won four straight and beat Penrith here 26-10 last year. The maths tips Manly. ⚠️

Projected EP if all land: 8.16. Key value plays: Broncos \$2.80 🔥 and Sea Eagles \$4.20 ⚠️

Super Rugby Pacific | Round 12

Super Rugby Pacific is into Round 12, the final round of the regular season with finals spots still on the line. The pick of the weekend is Hurricanes v Crusaders in Wellington, a genuine NZ rivalry game with both teams chasing top-four positioning. The Waratahs get a handy bounce-back opportunity against the Western Force, and Joseph-Aukuso Suaalii returns to bolster the backline after missing last week.

PUNT OF THE WEEK

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Feature Race: South Australian Derby | Morphettville | Saturday May 2, approx. 4:30pm AEST

The Tip: Catch A Thief | Current market \$4.50 | Trainer Ciaron Maher and David Eustace are flying at the moment and this horse has drawn well in barrier 4 with strong recent form over the Derby distance of 2500m. Suited by a strong tempo which a quality field should provide.

Source: Racing.com free form guide + Betfair Hub ante-post market

Just a punt guide, not financial advice. AgPages is a farming marketplace, not a bookmaker.

THIS WEEK: OPINION

The fertiliser crunch is real. Here is how to think about it.

The fertiliser problem is real. With the Iran war choking Hormuz, urea and ammonia prices have spiked to levels that are genuinely affecting the maths on winter cropping decisions. DAFF is reporting input cost stress across the sector, and the timing could not be worse: we are right in the April to June seeding window. Farmers are having to choose between cutting application rates, delaying, or grinding through with margins that look very thin.

But here is the thing I keep coming back to: the operators who will come out of this period in the best position are the ones who have already stripped cost and complexity out of their contracting model.

If you are booking spraying, seeding, or harvesting contractors through a proper channel, with visibility on pricing and availability, you are ahead. You know your cost structure. You can model the impact of a fertiliser price spike on your per-tonne margin, make a call, and move on. The farmers getting hurt hardest right now are the ones who never quite sorted their contractor relationships, who are ringing around in April not knowing who is coming or what they will pay.

The BOM signals on El Nino are building too. Confidence is high that warming is underway. The Spring Predictability Barrier makes it hard to quantify peak intensity until June, but "plan for dry" is not a bad default right now for eastern and southern Australia.

My read: the farmers who use this window well, get contractors locked in early, cut fertiliser rates where the agronomy allows it, and watch their cash closely, will be in a better spot by harvest than most. The ones sitting on their hands waiting for certainty will still be waiting in October.

It is a crummy set of conditions. But every tough year is also a year that separates the operators from the rest.

By Cameron, Co-founder | AgPages

THIS WEEK IN FARMING

Fertiliser and fuel costs could cut winter crop margins by 15-25%

The Strait of Hormuz disruption has driven urea and ammonia prices to multi-year highs, landing at exactly the wrong point in the seeding calendar. DAFF is monitoring supply chain impacts across WA, SA, and VIC.

Source: University of Western Australia / The Conversation, April 2026

"The question is not whether to plant, it is whether the yield premium from full fertiliser rates justifies the cost at current prices."

BOM tracking El Nino signals with high confidence, forecasts to sharpen by June

Climate models are showing steady warming toward El Nino thresholds by July. Eastern and southern Australia are flagged for below-average rainfall risk. Confidence on peak intensity will build through the Spring Predictability Barrier.

Source: DailyAgNews.com.au / BOM, April 2026

Australian cattle prices ease as drought turnoff builds in QLD and NSW

Heavy steer values have pulled back 12% from the March peak. Dry conditions south of the Warrego Highway are forcing producers to strip herds back to breeding nucleus ahead of winter. Elders analysts expect another 3-4 weeks of heavy turnoff before southern supply tightens seasonally.

Source: Elders Market Insights, April 2026

"Southern processors have held bids firmer than northern, which is telling you something about where the supply pressure is sitting."

Rabobank: Australian farmland values forecast to grow just 2% in 2026

Following a decade of double-digit annual growth, the farmland market has firmly entered a weaker cycle. Higher interest rates, input cost stress from the Iran war, and softer cropping sector margins are all contributing. Grazing land is still outperforming arable.

Source: Rabobank Farmland Price Outlook, April 2026

Total Field Days running May 1-3 in the Hunter Valley

One of NSW's key agricultural education events is on this weekend, with a focus on sustainable practices and small-scale farming. AgFest in Tasmania follows next week (May 7-9).

Source: DailyAgNews.com.au, April 2026

MARKET WRAP

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Grain: Soft and sideways. Global supply remains high with big northern hemisphere crops in play. Australian wheat is trading around \$280-295/t FOB, down modestly on February levels. Canola has found some floor around \$640-660/t as EU demand holds ahead of the northern hemisphere new crop. Fertiliser price spike is the main new variable. Source: Elders / DAFF weekly update.

Livestock: Cattle easing. Heavy steers nationally around 405-420c/kg lw, off 12% from the March peak as QLD/NSW drought turnoff builds. Cows remain pressured at 320c/kg lw. Lamb tight on lower slaughter numbers after two years of flock reduction. Export prices still holding well on firm US and Asian demand. Source: MLA / Elders Autumn Outlook.

Season: BOM three-month outlook for May-July flags below-average rainfall for eastern and southern Australia. El Nino watch indicators building. Soil moisture is variable: WA in good shape, parts of QLD/northern NSW dry since late 2025. Source: BOM April outlook.

One Thing to Watch: Fertiliser availability in late May. If Hormuz disruptions persist into the northern hemisphere peak demand season, Australian top-up supply could tighten further. Any farmer who has not confirmed July-August deliveries should be making calls now.

FROM AGPAGES

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Seeding and spraying season is almost here, and contractors are already booking out. If you are planning your winter cropping program, now is the time to lock in your spray and seeding contractors, not in four weeks when every rig in the district is already spoken for. With fertiliser margins tighter than usual this year, you want to be sure you have the right people, at the right rate, before the window opens.

Post a job at agpages.com.au, it takes two minutes.