

and Murray Valley regions of NSW and Victoria, making it an important cropping sector for the business.

“We are pleased to say that Crop Care’s range of herbicides, insecticides and seed treatments provides solutions for all the major pests of rice,” he said.

Mr Walker said Ordram, with the active ingredient molinate, remained the industry standard for robust control of both barnyard grass and silvertop, the two major grass weeds in rice production.

“Ordram is relatively soft on the crop and has an extremely flexible use pattern,” he said.

“It can be applied to dry bays prior to inundation or via herbigation at the time of inundation or to permanent water by SCWIIRT or Bickley Boom.”

However, Mr Walker said there had been an increasing adoption of Director 480EC (clomazone) herbicide over recent years as the rice industry moved towards drill sowing rather than aerial sowing in permanent water.

He said drill sowing helped achieve good establishment in regions invaded by ducks and in seasons where irrigation water supplies were not as plentiful.

“Director 480EC is suited to drill sowing operations and it also offers the flexibility of tank mixing with Stomp 440 (pendimethalin) for superior residual weed control,” he said.

“This is a highly effective management strategy for grass weeds in drill sown rice.

“Not only does Director 480EC provide robust control of barnyard grass under varying water levels, it is a group Q product, which is a great alternative for effective resistance management.”

Where an in-crop grass foliar spray was required, Mr Walker said Aura (prooxydim) was a flexible choice for ground or aerial spraying.

“It offers the widest window for tackling barnyard grass, from three-leaf through to early tillering,” he said.

He asked resellers to remind growers using Aura to start reflooding to fill the bay as soon as possible two hours following application to limit germination of new weeds and maximise weed control.

Another foliar option from Crop Care, Basagran M60 is ideal for targeting aquatic weeds, such as the difficult to control Dirty Dora.

Mr Walker said Basagran M60 was a contact herbicide which could be

used up until panicle initiation. It is based on the active ingredient, bentazone.

“It is worth noting that when Dirty Dora populations are high, adding low rates of MCPA 250 to Basagran M60 can aid control,” he said.

Crop Care has developed a comprehensive guide for resellers and advisers about the company’s herbicides, insecticides and seed treatment options for rice.

See your local Crop Care Sales representative for a copy of the guide.

Gallagher HR4 gives extra value to EID

Gallagher has launched the HR4 Hand Held EID Tag Reader and Data Collector, an innovative animal management tool that helps farmers make immediate decisions.

The HR4 builds on the design of Gallagher’s award-winning HR3 tag reader, with the added functionality of being a powerful data collector. As well as reading tags, the HR4 can also record treatments and animal traits, plus recall historic information on an animal when it’s scanned.

Gallagher product manager **Mike Hemsley** says the ability to record and display information on a specific animal is a major advantage because it enables farmers to make on-the-spot, stock-management decisions. This can lead to considerable savings in time and money.

“If farmers are using a conventional hand-held tag reader they would typically record extra stock information when they scan by connecting to an electronic identification [EID] weigh-scale system or by using the old-fashioned notebook,” he said.

“But the HR4 gives the ability to record and display detailed information on



Crop Care has a full suite of solutions for rice growers.