



2006-07

7111.0

# PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

AUSTRALIA  
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 20 DEC 2007

## CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
Notes .....	2
Summary of findings .....	3

### TABLES

1 Production and area of principal crops .....	5
2 Livestock numbers .....	6

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Explanatory notes .....	7
-------------------------	---

## INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Nigel Gibson on Hobart (03) 6222 5940.

## NOTES

**ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** This publication contains preliminary estimates of principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers for the 2006–07 season and comparative data for the previous year. The data are based on a response rate of 71% from the 2006–07 Agricultural Survey. More comprehensive and updated estimates for the 2006–07 season will be published in March 2008 in *Agricultural Commodities, Australia* (cat. no. 7121.0).

**CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE** There are no changes in this issue.

.....

### ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABR	Australian Business Register
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
Aust.	Australia
cat. no.	Catalogue number
EVAO	Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations
ha	hectare
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
RSE	relative standard error
SA	South Australia
SE	standard error
t	tonne
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

Brian Pink  
Australian Statistician

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### INTRODUCTION

The 2006–07 season was characterised by very dry conditions in most states with record and near-record low rainfalls recorded in many areas. Most cropping regions of Australia experienced a near total lack of rainfall in late winter to mid spring. The lack of rainfall over this period was combined with above average temperatures. These conditions severely limited summer crop production. In particular, a lack of irrigation water for rice growing had a significant impact on rice production in 2006–07.

### CROPS

#### *Wheat*

The total area sown to wheat for grain in 2006–07 fell 7% from the previous year to 11.6 million hectares. The three main growing states were Western Australia (3.9 million hectares), New South Wales (3.6 million hectares) and South Australia (2.2 million hectares).

Production of wheat for grain in 2006–07 fell 58% from the previous season to 10.6 million tonnes. In Western Australia, production was reported as 4.9 million tonnes, in New South Wales it was 2.7 million tonnes and in South Australia it was 1.4 million tonnes.

#### *Barley*

The total area sown to barley for grain in 2006–07 fell 7% from the previous year to 4.1 million hectares. The main growing states were South Australia (1.2 million hectares), Western Australia (1.1 million hectares), Victoria and New South Wales (both 900,000 hectares).

Production of barley for grain in 2006–07 fell 56% to 4.2 million tonnes. Major producing states were Western Australia (1.7 million tonnes), South Australia (984,000 tonnes) and New South Wales (777,000 tonnes).

#### *Grain sorghum*

The total area sown to sorghum for grain in 2006–07 fell 17% from the previous year to 637,000 hectares. In Queensland, the main growing state, the area sown was 458,000 hectares, while in New South Wales it was reported as 178,000 hectares.

Production of sorghum for grain in 2006–07 fell 29% to 1.4 million tonnes. Production in Queensland was 933,000 tonnes, while in New South Wales it was reported as 431,000 tonnes.

#### *Oats*

The total area sown to oats for grain in 2006–07 rose 5% from the previous year to 978,000 hectares. The three main growing states were New South Wales (394,000 hectares), Western Australia (291,000 hectares) and Victoria (177,000 hectares).

Production of oats for grain in 2006–07 fell 57% to 733,000 tonnes. In Western Australia, production was reported as 423,000 tonnes, in Victoria it was 134,000 tonnes and in New South Wales it was 120,000 tonnes.

#### *Other crops*

In 2006–07, the total area sown to canola was 1.0 million hectares, the area planted to sugar cane for crushing was 391,000 hectares, and the area planted to cotton was 163,000 hectares. The area sown to lupins for grain was 746,000 hectares, and the area sown to rice was 21,000 hectares.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

---

### *Other crops continued*

In 2006–07, canola production was 517,000 tonnes, lupins for grain production was 473,000 tonnes, and rice production was 161,000 tonnes. The production of sugar cane cut for crushing was 35.1 million tonnes, and the production of cotton lint was 283,000 tonnes.

### LIVESTOCK

#### *Milk cattle*

Preliminary estimates indicate the number of milk cattle in Australia was 2.6 million head at 30 June 2007. Victoria continued to dominate the dairy industry with a herd of 1.7 million.

#### *Meat cattle*

Preliminary estimates indicate the number of meat cattle in Australia was 25.6 million head at 30 June 2007. The dominant states in the industry were Queensland with 11.5 million head and New South Wales with 5.6 million head.

#### *Sheep and lambs*

Preliminary estimates indicate the number of sheep and lambs in Australia was 86.3 million head at 30 June 2007. The dominant states in the industry were New South Wales with 28.6 million head, Western Australia with 21.1 million head and Victoria with 17.7 million head.

The number of lambs marked in Australia was reported as 33.9 million in 2006–07.

#### *Pigs*

Preliminary estimates indicate the number of pigs in Australia was 2.6 million head at 30 June 2007. The dominant states in the industry were New South Wales with 741,000 head and Queensland with 669,000 head.

PRODUCTION AND AREA OF PRINCIPAL CROPS(a)—Year ended 30 June

	AUSTRALIA		2007							
	2006	2007	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
BARLEY FOR GRAIN										
Production ('000 t)	9 483	4 176	777	596	^ 58	984	1 746	15	na	**—
Area ('000 ha)	4 406	4 098	896	909	^ 62	1 160	1 063	7	na	**—
CANOLA										
Production ('000 t)	1 419	517	^ 53	^ 43	**1	81	339	^ 1	na	—
Area ('000 ha)	971	1 031	292	187	**2	168	382	^ 1	na	**—
COTTON LINT										
Production ('000 t)	564	283	214	na	69	na	—	na	na	na
Area ('000 ha)	328	163	119	na	44	na	—	na	na	na
GRAIN SORGHUM										
Production ('000 t)	1 929	1 367	431	**—	933	na	—	na	*1	—
Area ('000 ha)	766	637	178	**1	458	na	—	na	*1	—
LUPINS FOR GRAIN										
Production ('000 t)	1 289	473	^ 15	^ 9	**—	29	420	*—	na	—
Area ('000 ha)	813	746	^ 77	^ 45	**—	77	546	^—	na	—
OATS FOR GRAIN										
Production ('000 t)	1 690	733	^ 120	134	*1	53	423	^ 3	na	*—
Area ('000 ha)	931	978	394	177	^ 6	106	291	^ 3	na	**—
RICE FOR GRAIN										
Production ('000 t)	1 002	^ 161	^ 161	—	na	na	—	na	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	102	^ 21	^ 21	—	na	na	—	na	—	—
SUGAR CANE CUT FOR CRUSHING										
Production ('000 t)	37 123	35 081	^ 3 217	na	31 481	na	383	na	na	na
Area ('000 ha)	398	391	22	na	365	na	4	na	na	na
WHEAT FOR GRAIN										
Production ('000 t)	25 173	10 641	2 671	857	750	1 438	4 905	20	na	*—
Area ('000 ha)	12 456	11 624	3 633	1 374	571	2 155	3 884	7	na	*—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) Data for 2006 and 2007 are preliminary and may be subject to revision.

	AUSTRALIA		2007							
	2006	2007	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
MILK CATTLE (b)										
Cows in milk and dry ('000)	1 879	1 786	213	1 157	122	105	^ 54	133	**1	**—
Other milk cattle ('000)	908	862	115	519	65	63	^ 38	62	**—	—
<b>Total milk cattle ('000)</b>	<b>2 787</b>	<b>2 648</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>1 675</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>^ 92</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>**1</b>	<b>**—</b>
MEAT CATTLE										
Bulls and bull calves intended for service ('000)	700	694	153	^ 83	301	29	62	12	54	^ 1
Other calves under one year ('000)	5 667	5 627	1 317	708	2 181	291	637	126	365	2
Cows and heifers one year and over ('000)	13 258	13 357	2 890	1 223	5 908	518	1 238	222	1 350	^ 8
Other cattle one year and over ('000)	6 059	5 920	1 234	580	3 066	192	406	^ 126	313	*5
<b>Total meat cattle ('000)</b>	<b>25 684</b>	<b>25 599</b>	<b>5 593</b>	<b>2 596</b>	<b>11 455</b>	<b>1 029</b>	<b>2 343</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>2 081</b>	<b>^ 15</b>
SHEEP AND LAMBS										
Sheep ('000)	66 342	62 608	20 787	12 827	3 732	7 627	15 509	2 056	**—	^ 71
Lambs under one year ('000)	24 685	23 692	7 827	4 895	898	3 730	5 605	704	—	**33
<b>Total sheep and lambs ('000)</b>	<b>91 027</b>	<b>86 300</b>	<b>28 614</b>	<b>17 722</b>	<b>4 629</b>	<b>11 357</b>	<b>21 114</b>	<b>2 760</b>	<b>**—</b>	<b>^ 104</b>
LAMBING										
Ewes mated to produce lambs ('000)	42 711	41 515	14 189	8 540	1 629	5 323	10 425	1 375	—	35
Lambs marked ('000)	35 072	33 913	11 408	7 667	939	4 747	7 927	1 202	—	24
Proportion of lambs marked to ewes mated (%)	82	82	80	90	58	89	76	87	—	69
Ewes expected to lamb next year ('000)(c)	44 281	41 100	14 593	8 391	1 827	5 363	9 592	1 297	—	^ 37
PIGS										
Boars ('000)	12	11	3	^ 2	2	1	^ 2	^ —	*—	na
Breeding sows ('000)	302	278	77	63	63	33	^ 40	^ 3	—	na
Gilts intended for breeding ('000)	50	55	^ 19	19	7	4	^ 4	^ —	—	na
All other pigs ('000)	2 368	2 274	^ 642	452	596	^ 309	258	^ 17	**—	na
<b>Total pigs ('000)</b>	<b>2 733</b>	<b>2 617</b>	<b>^ 741</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>^ 20</b>	<b>**—</b>	<b>na</b>

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) Data for 2006 and 2007 are preliminary and may be subject to revision.

(b) Excluding house cows.

(c) Forecast made at the beginning of each season.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication presents preliminary estimates of principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers for the 2006–07 season, ewes expected to lamb in the forthcoming season, and comparative data for the previous year. The preliminary estimates are based on a response rate of 71% from the 2006–07 Agricultural Survey.

**2** The estimates for 2005–06 are the third release of preliminary National and State level estimates for principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers collected in the 2005–06 Agricultural Census. The estimates are based on a final response rate of 93% and implement the final methodology for handling non-response.

**3** Final estimates for 2005–06 for the full range of commodities and to sub-state levels, including Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions and Statistical Local Areas (SLA), will be released in March 2008. The final estimates are not expected to differ significantly to the 2005–06 estimates in this publication.

### SCOPE AND COVERAGE

**4** Estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from the Agricultural Survey conducted at 30 June 2007.

**5** The scope of the 2006–07 Agricultural Survey was essentially all agricultural businesses above a minimum size cut-off recorded on the Australian Business Register (ABR) maintained by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

**6** For the 2006–07 Agricultural Survey, the measure of size was the ABS's Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations (EVAO) where available; or where it was not available a Business Activity Statement (BAS) turnover size was derived. A minimum size cut-off of \$5,000, based on either EVAO or BAS Turnover, was used to determine whether a unit was in-scope for the Survey.

### GENERAL

**7** Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES (SAMPLE ERROR)

**8** The estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample drawn from the total farm population in scope of the collection, and are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all farms had been included in the Agricultural Survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might vary by chance because only a sample was taken. There are about two chances in three that a 'sample' estimate will differ by less than one SE from the figure that would have been obtained if all farms had responded, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two SEs.

**9** In this publication, 'sampling' variability of the estimates is measured by the relative standard error (RSE) which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers.

**10** Most published estimates have RSEs less than 5%. For some states with limited production of certain commodities, RSEs are greater than 10%. Estimates that have an estimated RSE between 10% and 25% are annotated with the symbol '^'. These estimates should be used with caution as they are subject to sampling variability too high for some purposes. Estimates with an RSE between 25% and 50% are annotated with the symbol '\*', indicating that the estimate should be used with caution as it is subject to sampling error too high for most practical purposes. Estimates with an RSE greater than 50% are annotated with the symbol '\*\*', indicating that the sampling variability causes the estimates to be considered too unreliable for general use. Separate indication of the RSEs of all estimates is available on request.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES  
(SAMPLE ERROR) *continued*

**11** A table with RSEs for the principal commodities in this publication follows:

### RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR OF PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES—At 30 June 2007

	NSW	Vic.	QLD	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Barley for grain, production	5.4	4.7	18.8	2.6	3.3	7.2	na	67.0	2.0
Canola, production	12.1	11.0	77.4	5.9	6.5	19.3	na	—	4.6
Cotton lint, production	6.8	na	7.5	na	—	na	na	na	5.4
Grain sorghum, production	8.2	59.6	8.4	na	—	na	38.5	—	6.3
Lupins for grain, production	17.5	17.1	53.8	7.3	5.8	48.7	na	—	5.2
Oats for grain, production	11.4	9.2	32.8	9.8	6.5	11.8	na	48.6	4.6
Rice for grain, production	13.0	—	na	na	—	na	—	—	13.0
Sugar cane cut for crushing, production	12.8	na	4.4	na	4.0	na	na	na	4.1
Wheat for grain, production	3.9	4.7	9.8	2.2	2.5	9.5	na	43.6	1.7
Total milk cattle	4.8	3.8	6.6	8.6	14.9	6.1	65.2	70.7	2.7
Total meat cattle	2.4	3.4	3.0	4.8	5.2	5.2	6.1	18.3	1.7
Total sheep and lambs	3.0	3.1	5.3	2.5	2.7	4.5	55.5	19.0	1.4
Total pigs	11.5	5.3	6.5	9.9	7.5	10.6	63.8	na	4.1

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON  
REQUEST

**12** As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to either the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Linda Falzari on (03) 6222 5939.

GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**13** ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated. Without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**14** A range of publications relevant to the Agriculture sector are produced by the ABS, including:

- *Agricultural Commodities, Australia*, cat. no. 7121.0
- *Agricultural Survey, Apples and Pears, Australia*, cat. no. 7121.0.55.002
- *Australian Wine and Grape Industry*, cat. no. 1329.0
- *Livestock and Meat, Australia*, cat. no. 7218.0.55.001
- *Livestock Products, Australia*, cat. no. 7215.0
- *Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms*, cat. no. 4620.0
- *Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, Preliminary*, cat. no. 7501.0
- *Value of Selected Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia*, cat. no. 7502.0
- *Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia*, cat. no. 7503.0
- *Vineyards Estimates, Australia*, cat. no. 1329.0.55.002
- *Water Use on Australian Farms, Australia*, cat. no. 4618.0

**15** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.









**FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .**

*INTERNET*            **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS website is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.

*LIBRARY*            A range of ABS publications are available from public and tertiary libraries Australia wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our website for a list of libraries.

**INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE**

Our consultants can help you access the full range of information published by the ABS that is available free of charge from our website, or purchase a hard copy publication. Information tailored to your needs can also be requested as a 'user pays' service. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

*PHONE*                1300 135 070

*EMAIL*                client.services@abs.gov.au

*FAX*                    1300 135 211

*POST*                   Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney NSW 2001

**FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS**

All statistics on the ABS website can be downloaded free of charge.

*WEB ADDRESS*      www.abs.gov.au



2711100007063

ISSN 1328 6900

**RRP \$22.00**

