

February 2009

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# Crop and Pasture Report



RURAL SOLUTIONS SA

Prepared by Rural Solutions SA for  
PIRSA Grains Industry Development



# CROP AND PASTURE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2009

COMPILED 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009 BY PETER FULWOOD

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## Report Compilation

**PETER FULWOOD**  
**RURAL SOLUTIONS SA**  
 PO BOX 245  
 NURIOOTPA SA 5355  
 Phone: (08) 8568 6400  
 Mobile: 0401 122 082  
 Fax: (08) 8568 6449

E-mail: [fulwood.peter@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:fulwood.peter@saugov.sa.gov.au)

## Rural Solutions SA District Reporters

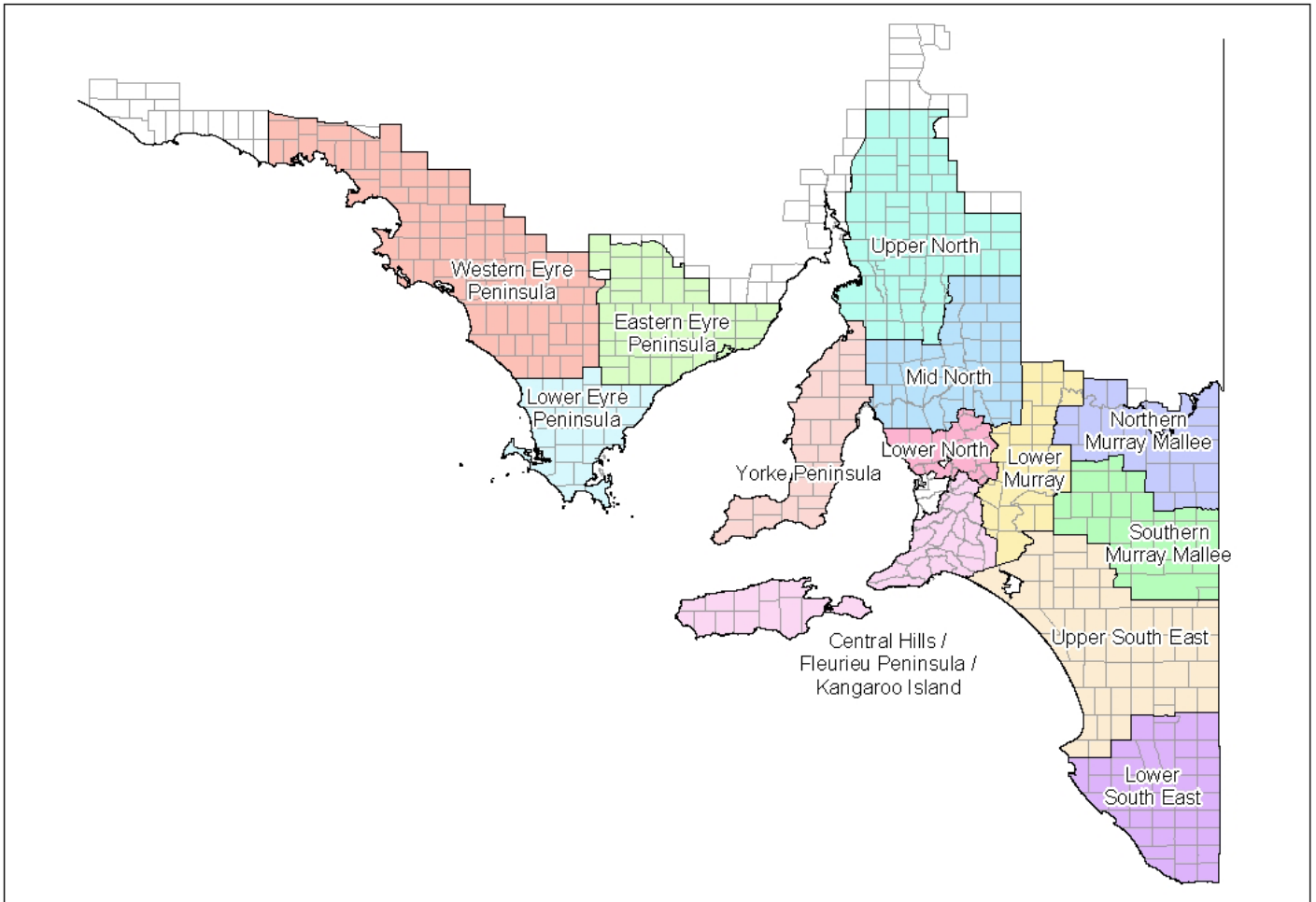
| <b>Eyre Peninsula</b>   |   |
|---|---|
| Mr Neil Cordon<br>PO Box 1783<br>PORT LINCOLN SA 5606<br>Phone 08 8680 6210<br>Fax 08 8680 5020 | Mr Kieran Wauchope<br>PO Box 1783<br>PORT LINCOLN SA 5606<br>Phone 08 8688 3409<br>Fax 08 8688 3407 |

| <b>Northern Agricultural Districts &amp; Yorke Peninsula</b>   |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Mr Michael Wurst<br>Mr Charlton Jeisman<br>Mr Barry Mudge<br>17 Irvine Street<br>JAMESTOWN SA 5491<br>Phone 08 8664 1408<br>Fax 08 8664 1405 | Mr Tom Yeatman<br>PO Box 822<br>CLARE SA 5453<br>Phone 08 8842 6224<br>Fax 08 8842 3775 | Mr Peter Fulwood<br>PO Box 245<br>NURIOOTPA SA 5355<br>Phone 08 8568 6400<br>Fax 08 8568 6449 |

| <b>Central Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island</b>                                    |   |
|---|---|
| Mr Tim Prance<br>PO Box 1439<br>VICTOR HARBOR SA 5211<br>Phone 08 8552 8058<br>Fax 08 8552 8501 | Mr David Creeper<br>C/- PO Lenswood<br>LENSWOOD SA 5240<br>Phone 08 8389 8826<br>Fax 08 8389 8899 |

| <b>Murraylands &amp; South East</b>  |   |
|--|---|
| Ms Tanja Morgan<br>Mr Mehdi Zaboli<br>Mr Keith Bolto<br>Mr Linden Masters<br>PO Box 469<br>MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253<br>Phone 08 8535 6400<br>Fax 08 8535 6427 | Mr Chris McDonough<br>Mr Richard Saunders<br>PO Box 411<br>LOXTON SA 5333<br>Phone 08 8595 9100<br>Fax 08 8595 9199 |

## Crop Reporting Districts



### KEY LINKS

**National Agricultural Monitoring System (NAMS):** <http://www.nams.gov.au>

**South Australia Land Condition:** [http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/land/monitoring/current\\_reports.html](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/land/monitoring/current_reports.html)

### Drought Hotline

Phone 180 2020 or log onto <http://www.service.sa.gov.au/drought.asp>

For drought related information on support services, local rural financial counsellors, information on Centrelink payments and services, maintaining land condition, managing stock and crops in dry times, and the condition of the River Murray and Murray-Darling Basin.

# Summary of Crop and Pasture Conditions in South Australia February 2009

*Prepared by Peter Fulwood*

## **WEATHER**<sup>1</sup>

South Australian rainfall data for the last month is available from the Bureau of Meteorology website:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/weather/sa/observations.shtml>

- Warm to hot with very hot conditions early in the month; several centres had their highest temperature on record for February.
- Mean daily maximum temperatures were up to 2-3°C above average.
- Strong winds on several occasions raised dust from exposed paddocks.

## **RAINFALL**

- Virtually no rain fell during the month apart from a few isolated thunderstorms, with many centres recording no rainfall and totals in most districts less than 2 mm.
- Summer rainfall (December-February) ranged from above average to below average in parts, with moderate to heavy falls in December followed by extremely dry conditions in January and February.

## **PREVIOUS SEASONS**

- Season 2007 was highly variable, ranging from severe drought affected areas in the north to near average production further south, following the severe statewide drought of 2006.

## **SEASON 2008**

- Last season had a patchy start, quite good winter rains but an exceptionally dry spring, resulting in below average yields in many areas and variable grain quality.

## **CROPS**

- Harvest is now finished in all districts.
- Limited paddock activities given the very dry conditions, with a little gypsum and lime being spread as well as small areas of clay delving and spreading.
- Spraying for summer weed control was limited by the ongoing dry conditions, nevertheless summer weed populations have declined as a result of spraying, grazing and hot, dry weather, reducing the risk of a green bridge carrying over disease.
- While most districts are reporting no significant changes to crop area and crop type for the coming season, a likely reduction in area sown to cereals on Western Eyre Peninsula will see total crop area drop marginally in 2009.
- A swing away from higher risk pulse and canola crops and a trend towards more wheat than barley is likely in some districts.
- The final crop mix will vary depending on the timing and amount of the opening rains.
- Final estimate for season 2008:  
Total crop area of 4.01 million hectares with total crop production of 4.93 million tonnes.

## **PASTURES**

- Paddock feed remains adequate in most areas with stock numbers relatively low, however feed levels have declined over the past month.
- While cereal stubbles are still providing some feed, many pasture paddocks are largely grazed out.
- Supplementary feeding has commenced, with some farmers using confinement feeding areas for stock to help maintain paddock cover and stock condition over autumn.
- Surface cover levels remain satisfactory, however with ongoing dry conditions paddocks will need to be monitored to avoid overgrazing.

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<sup>1</sup> Acknowledgment

Weather information:- Climate and Consultative Services Section of the Bureau of Meteorology: Internet: <http://www.bom.gov.au>

## DISTRICT REPORTS

### Western Eyre Peninsula

*By Neil Cordon*

#### WEATHER

- For the second consecutive month the weather was hot, dry with an occasional strong wind.

#### RAINFALL

- No significant rainfall was recorded for the month, with long-term averages ranging between 13-22 mm.

#### CROPS

- Early indications are for an easing in area sown to cereals of up to 15%.
- There appears to be a swing away from high-risk pulse and canola sowings and a trend towards more wheat than barley.
- The rural communities are facing severe financial constraints coming into this season, with reductions across the board in inputs such as fertiliser, seed and herbicides.
- The rural situation is at a level not experienced previously where both yield and price parameters need to be achieved for farm survival.
- The past dry two months have assisted in reducing the risk of cereal leaf diseases due to the green self-sown material from the December rains either dying off, being eaten or sprayed out. Summer weeds have suffered a similar fate.
- Farmers having been getting ready for the 2009 season doing chores such as seed grading, machinery maintenance, stock work and farm budgets.
- There is a trend away from narrow point, no till systems to full cut, full soil disturbance sowing machines or minimum tillage operations.

#### PASTURES

- Stock feed supply has quickly diminished making the paddocks prone to erosion.
- Good management should see farmers able to carry normal stock numbers through.
- Water supply is an issue in the Mt Cooper district, resulting in costly, widespread carting of water in those areas.
- Water quality and supply is a major barrier to improvements in livestock productivity in localised areas of Eyre Peninsula.

### Eastern Eyre Peninsula

*By Neil Cordon*

#### WEATHER

- Conditions remained hot and dry, with an occasional strong wind.

#### RAINFALL

- No significant rainfall was recorded for the month, with long-term averages ranging between 13-22 mm.

#### CROPS

- Early indications are for similar sowings to last season.
- Ongoing swing away from high-risk pulse and canola sowings and a trend towards more wheat than barley.
- Rural communities are facing severe financial constraints coming into this season, with across the board reductions in inputs such as fertiliser, seed and herbicides.
- The rural situation is at a level not experienced previously where both yield and price parameters need to be achieved for farm survival.
- Dry conditions for the past two months have assisted in reducing the risk of cereal leaf diseases, with the green self-sown material resulting from December rains either dying off, being eaten or sprayed out. Summer weeds have suffered a similar fate.

- Farmers having been getting ready for the 2009 season doing chores such as seed grading, machinery maintenance, stock work and farm budgets.

## PASTURES

- Stock feed supply has diminished making some paddocks prone to erosion.
- Good management should see farmers able to carry normal stock numbers through.
- Water quality is of concern in the Cowell and Mangalo areas.
- Water quality and supply is a major barrier to improvements in livestock productivity in localised areas of Eyre Peninsula.

## Lower Eyre Peninsula

*By Kieran Wauchope*

### WEATHER

- Conditions were generally mild to warm with only a few days hotter than 35°C.
- Winds were generally moderate.

### RAINFALL

- For the second month in a row no significant rainfall was recorded; Port Lincoln received 0.6 mm.

### CROPS

- Paddock activity has again been low with a little gypsum and lime being spread.
- Deep soil nitrate tests are being done.
- Early indications show that canola area may decrease slightly.
- The area of pulses and feed barley (due to volatility in markets) is suspected to be dramatically reduced.
- Wheat area will be increased and more wheat on wheat is likely to be seen this year.

### PASTURES

- Stock still grazing stubbles.
- Cover is satisfactory in most areas except for those which were very dry last year, ie north of Tumby Bay along the east coast and some along the west coast.

## Yorke Peninsula

*By Peter Fulwood*

### WEATHER

- Warm to hot with very hot conditions early in the month.
- Mean daily maximum temperatures were up to 2-3°C above average.

### RAINFALL

- Virtually no rain fell during the month.
- Monthly rainfall was well below average with totals ranging from 0 mm (many centres) to 1 mm (Maitland).
- Summer rainfall (December-February) was average to below average, with some moderate falls in December followed by extremely dry conditions in January and February.

### CROPS

- Limited paddock activities during the month.
- Summer weed populations have continued to decline as a result of spraying, grazing and hot weather.
- Ongoing hot, dry conditions provided limited opportunities for spraying summer weeds.
- No significant changes to crop area and crop type are anticipated for the coming season, although farmers will be looking to contain input costs as much as possible.
- Some cabling for snail control particularly early in the month, when temperatures were sufficiently high.
- Isolated reports of more rats and mice than usual on southern Yorke Peninsula, most likely where grain was left on the ground following harvest.

- A fire near Alford early in the month burnt about 80 hectares on sandy country.

## PASTURES

- Paddock feed has declined although cereal stubbles are still holding up in the dry conditions.
- Supplementary feeding just commencing in some areas.
- Cover in pulse stubbles and on pasture paddocks starting to get low in parts and will need to be carefully managed to avoid overgrazing and exposing soil to erosion risks.

## Lower North

*By Peter Fulwood*

### WEATHER

- Warm to hot with very hot conditions early in the month.
- Mean daily maximum temperatures were around 2-3°C above average.
- Strong to gale force winds on the 7<sup>th</sup> raised dust from exposed paddocks.

### RAINFALL

- Very little rainfall recorded during the month.
- Monthly rainfall was well below average with totals ranging from 0 mm (many centres) to 11.2 mm (Point Pass).
- Summer rainfall (December-February) was generally near average, with moderate to heavy falls in December followed by extremely dry conditions in January and February.

### CROPS

- Limited paddock activities given the very dry conditions.
- A few cereal stubbles have been slashed in preparation for the coming season.
- Ongoing hot, dry conditions provided limited opportunities for spraying summer weeds.
- Summer weed populations have continued to decline as a result of spraying, grazing and hot weather.
- No significant changes to crop area and crop type are anticipated for the coming season, although farmers will be looking to contain input costs as much as possible.

## PASTURES

- Paddock feed in pasture paddocks has declined and many paddocks now have limited surface cover, however cereal stubbles have held up well through the past couple of months.
- Supplementary feeding of hay and grain is just starting in some areas.
- Stock are generally in good condition.

## Mid North

*By Tom Yeatman*

### WEATHER

- February continued the hot temperatures of January early in the month, continuing warm to hot for the rest of the month.

### RAINFALL

- The lack of rain also continued with rain not being recorded again for the second consecutive month.

### CROPS

- The hot, dry conditions burnt off the green growth from the December rains.
- Little activity occurred on farms, except some clay delving and spreading was carried out on sandy rises in the Watchman area.
- It is still too early to determine planting intentions given uncertainties regarding fertiliser and other input prices, likely market returns, the downturn in the economy and interest rate uncertainties.
- The area cropped is likely to be maintained with only small moves in crop mix.

- Most wish to maintain rotational practices and keep a mix of crops to manage yield and price risks, so the area for each crop is unlikely to change greatly.

## PASTURES

- Stock are grazing stubbles but will need hand feeding increasingly over the coming weeks as stubble value declines.
- Dams are in need of a top-up in many areas.

## Upper North

*By Michael Wurst*

### WEATHER

- Conditions during February were warm to hot with several days experiencing strong winds.
- Thunderstorms brought rain to isolated areas of the district.

### RAINFALL

- Rainfall for February was generally well below average for most of the district.

### CROPS

- The isolated thunderstorms in January and February resulted in further germination of summer weeds.
- Summer weeds have germinated in other areas of the district, particularly paddocks that have been mechanically fallowed.
- Summer weeds are extremely stressed and further rain is needed to enable effective control.
- Very little paddock activity has occurred during February.
- Growers have been cleaning seed and marketing warehoused grain.
- Clearing sales in the district have been well attended with the price of second-hand machinery and equipment holding up well.
- Wheat will remain the dominant crop in most of the district with area sown remaining similar to last year.
- Despite high prices last year the area sown to canola and durum are likely to remain at similar levels.
- Growers are frustrated with the performance of Flagship and the discount being applied to Sloop.

### PASTURES

- Numerous landholders have been crutching or shearing during February.
- Surface cover of pasture paddocks has deteriorated throughout the district, however most stubble paddocks still have reasonable cover.
- Stock numbers are relatively low in most parts of the district and most landholders should have sufficient feed to maintain livestock in reasonable condition.

## Central Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island

*By David Creeper*

### WEATHER

- The month of February produced average to above average temperatures throughout all areas.

### RAINFALL

- Rainfall was below average with Mt Barker receiving the highest recording of just 1.4 mm on one day.
- High temperatures, low rainfall, low soil moisture and low humidity during February dramatically increased the fire risk across all areas. Fortunately no large fires were recorded in February.

### CROPS

- All crops have been harvested and most activity has been focussed on livestock management.
- Very dry summer conditions have reduced the amount of weed growth, however control of perennial summer weeds has still been required on some properties.
- Reduced stubble volumes will require careful management in autumn to reduce the risk of wind or water erosion.

- Kangaroo Island has had drought declaration EC extended until March 2010.
- The Kangaroo Island Field Days were held on the 26th of February with 'Climate Change' as the theme.

## PASTURES

- The nutritional value of dry feed in pasture paddocks has benefited from low rain over summer.
- Hand feeding will be required as stubbles and pastures are reduced from grazing livestock.
- Some landholders will need to minimise the impact on paddocks by either feed lotting or hand feeding livestock in confined areas.
- Irrigated pastures have again been placed under pressure due to the high temperatures and lack of rain over January and February.
- Some farmers on eastern Kangaroo Island are carting water to livestock as a result of inadequate winter and spring rains to fill dams.

## Northern Murray Mallee

*By Chris McDonough*

### WEATHER

- There were some periods of extreme temperature exceeding 40°C.
- There was some raised dust on a few days of very strong winds.

### RAINFALL

- February has seen virtually no rain recorded across the district, following on from a very dry January.

### CROPS

- There has been very little need for summer weed control in February due to the lack of rainfall.
- Soil cover remains reasonably good on most paddocks, however there are isolated paddocks that have been worked or have had prolonged grazing that will continue to present some erosion risk.
- Dry conditions mean there has been little stubble breakdown and nutrient mineralisation over summer so far.
- While it is still very early in the year, farmers are still preparing for a full seeding program this year, however some input savings are expected to be made in the area of phosphorus fertiliser rates.

### PASTURES

- Stubble paddocks and earlier summer weed growth have generally maintained livestock feed, but continued dry weather through March may see a greater need for confinement feeding.

## Southern Murray Mallee

*By Tanja Morgan*

### WEATHER

- Hot day conditions early in the month with warm days and strong winds for the remainder of February.
- Cool to mild night temperatures.

### RAINFALL

- Decile 1 rainfall conditions for the month.

### CROPS

- Limited paddock activity for February, although some seed grading and fertiliser deliveries taking place.
- Dry, windy conditions have not been favourable for a lot of summer weed spraying.
- Some grain and hay supplies have been sold and delivered throughout the month.
- Farmers eagerly awaiting rainfall before crop area for the 2009 season can be finalised.

### PASTURES

- Livestock are surviving on summer weeds and stubble paddocks even though paddock residue is on the decline.
- Some supplementary feeding is taking place.

## Lower Murray

*By Keith Bolto*

### WEATHER

- Temperatures for February in Murray Bridge have been hot with 46°C reached on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Whilst cooler than January, temperatures for February were above average.
- Strong winds on the 7<sup>th</sup> were associated with minimal erosion in paddocks with poor ground cover.

### RAINFALL

- There was no significant rainfall in Murray Bridge for February.

### CROPS

- Control of summer weeds is complete.
- Paddock activity is limited.
- With the exception of some pulse crops, ground cover is good.
- Area similar to 2008 likely to be sown.

### PASTURES

- The majority of producers have sufficient pasture feed.
- Most pasture paddocks still have good cover for erosion prevention.
- Hay and feed grain supply is good.

## Upper South East

*By Tanja Morgan*

### WEATHER

- Temperatures for the month have been warm to hot with milder night temperatures and cooler mornings, particularly towards the end of the month.
- Strong winds were common over successive days.

### RAINFALL

- Rainfall recordings were negligible and well below average.

### CROPS

- Lucerne hay production is all complete and some harvest of seed crops has taken place.
- Lucerne seed yields have suffered as a result of the extreme hot spell and dry conditions, however potential is still good in many crops.
- Some grain and hay supplies have been sold and delivered throughout the month.
- Summer weed spraying has been put on hold as conditions have been unfavourable.
- It is likely the crop area for the 2009 season will be similar to 2008, however high input crops such as canola are likely to be dropped as significant rainfall is yet to be received.

### PASTURES

- Paddock feed levels are low, including stubble paddocks.
- Low grain prices have encouraged farmers to establish confinement feeding areas for livestock, to help maintain paddock cover and stock condition over summer and early autumn.

## Lower South East

*By Peter Fulwood*

### WEATHER

- Warm to hot with some very hot conditions early in the month in inland areas.
- Mean daily maximum temperatures were up to 1-2°C above average.
- Strong winds on the 7<sup>th</sup> raised dust from a few exposed paddocks in northern parts of the district.

**RAINFALL**

- Very little rainfall recorded during the month.
- Monthly rainfall was well below average with totals ranging from 0 mm (Naracoorte) to 4 mm (Frances).
- Summer rainfall (December-February) was generally above average, with moderate to heavy falls in December followed by very dry conditions in January and February.

**CROPS**

- Harvesting of crops is finished throughout the district.
- Limited paddock activities given the very dry conditions.
- While ongoing hot, dry conditions limited opportunities for spraying, summer weed populations have continued to decline as a result of spraying, grazing and dry weather.
- Crop area may continue to increase this coming season following the significant increase in wheat in 2008, particularly feed wheat to supply the dairy / feed lot industry.
- There may also be an ongoing increase in the area of canola and beans.
- Dryland lucerne harvesting is well underway, with most of the irrigated lucerne yet to be harvested.

**PASTURES**

- Paddock feed generally remains adequate but is declining as stubbles and pasture residues run down.
- Perennial pastures continue to provide some feed, although growth has slowed markedly with the ongoing dry conditions.
- Supplementary feeding has commenced in some parts, with some farmers using confinement feeding areas for stock to help maintain paddock cover and stock condition over autumn.

## Crop Production Estimates

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES SOUTH AUSTRALIA - FIELD CROP PRODUCTION ESTIMATES Pg 1

**February 2009**

Final estimates for season 2008/09

Contact: Peter Fulwood

Phone 08 8568 6400

Mobile 0401 122 082

Fax 08 8568 6449

| CROP                    | Western Eyre Peninsula | Lower Eyre Peninsula | Eastern Eyre Peninsula | Yorke Peninsula | Upper North    | Mid North      | Lower North    | Subtotal         |           |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| <b>WHEAT</b>            | 465,000                | 129,000              | 363,000                | 148,000         | 208,000        | 216,000        | 42,000         | 1,571,000        | ha        |
|                         | 274,000                | 244,000              | 360,000                | 288,000         | 183,000        | 378,000        | 97,000         | 1,824,000        | t         |
| <b>DURUM</b>            | 0                      | 0                    | 600                    | 30,000          | 12,000         | 6,700          | 4,500          | 53,800           | ha        |
|                         | 0                      | 0                    | 350                    | 50,000          | 10,000         | 12,000         | 9,000          | 81,350           | t         |
| <b>BARLEY</b>           | 116,000                | 93,000               | 118,000                | 208,000         | 135,000        | 139,000        | 39,000         | 848,000          | ha        |
|                         | 81,000                 | 181,000              | 130,000                | 447,000         | 149,000        | 254,000        | 98,000         | 1,340,000        | t         |
| <b>OATS</b>             | 12,500                 | 3,200                | 4,900                  | 5,000           | 9,000          | 8,000          | 2,000          | 44,600           | ha        |
|                         | 6,000                  | 4,000                | 2,500                  | 7,500           | 7,000          | 11,000         | 3,500          | 41,500           | t         |
| <b>RYECORN</b>          | 400                    | 0                    | 500                    | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0              | 900              | ha        |
|                         | 200                    | 0                    | 200                    | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0              | 400              | t         |
| <b>TRITICALE</b>        | 1,700                  | 900                  | 4,500                  | 2,100           | 2,800          | 4,000          | 1,000          | 17,000           | ha        |
|                         | 800                    | 1,500                | 3,600                  | 3,000           | 2,500          | 5,900          | 2,100          | 19,400           | t         |
| <b>PEAS</b>             | 8,800                  | 8,100                | 7,000                  | 41,000          | 20,000         | 23,000         | 11,500         | 119,400          | ha        |
|                         | 3,500                  | 8,100                | 4,900                  | 45,000          | 16,000         | 26,000         | 17,000         | 120,500          | t         |
| <b>LUPINS</b>           | 1,500                  | 24,000               | 5,000                  | 1,500           | 3,200          | 2,900          | 900            | 39,000           | ha        |
|                         | 600                    | 24,000               | 3,000                  | 1,500           | 2,800          | 3,000          | 1,000          | 35,900           | t         |
| <b>BEANS</b>            | 900                    | 6,900                | 200                    | 12,000          | 6,200          | 13,000         | 6,000          | 45,200           | ha        |
|                         | 300                    | 6,900                | 100                    | 14,000          | 3,000          | 12,000         | 7,200          | 43,500           | t         |
| <b>CHICKPEAS</b>        | 0                      | 700                  | 800                    | 6,000           | 550            | 2,000          | 800            | 10,850           | ha        |
|                         | 0                      | 550                  | 400                    | 4,800           | 250            | 1,900          | 700            | 8,600            | t         |
| <b>LENTILS</b>          | 200                    | 1,300                | 0                      | 34,000          | 2,000          | 4,400          | 3,000          | 44,900           | ha        |
|                         | 70                     | 1,100                | 0                      | 27,000          | 1,000          | 3,700          | 3,000          | 35,870           | t         |
| <b>VETCH</b>            | 200                    | 700                  | 500                    | 2,000           | 5,000          | 2,600          | 300            | 11,300           | ha        |
|                         | 40                     | 200                  | 100                    | 1,400           | 500            | 1,700          | 250            | 4,190            | t         |
| <b>CANOLA</b>           | 2,000                  | 48,000               | 3,500                  | 16,000          | 14,000         | 34,000         | 7,500          | 125,000          | ha        |
|                         | 700                    | 55,000               | 2,100                  | 19,000          | 11,000         | 36,000         | 10,000         | 133,800          | t         |
| <b>HAY</b>              | 7,500                  | 6,000                | 7,500                  | 25,000          | 40,000         | 32,000         | 16,000         | 134,000          | ha        |
| (not included in total) | 6,000                  | 14,000               | 11,000                 | 59,000          | 130,000        | 93,000         | 54,000         | 367,000          | t         |
| <b>TOTAL ha</b>         | <b>609,200</b>         | <b>315,800</b>       | <b>508,500</b>         | <b>505,600</b>  | <b>417,750</b> | <b>455,600</b> | <b>118,500</b> | <b>2,930,950</b> | <b>ha</b> |
| <b>TOTAL t</b>          | <b>367,210</b>         | <b>526,350</b>       | <b>507,250</b>         | <b>908,200</b>  | <b>386,050</b> | <b>745,200</b> | <b>248,750</b> | <b>3,689,010</b> | <b>t</b>  |

## PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES SOUTH AUSTRALIA - FIELD CROP PRODUCTION ESTIMATES Pg 2

**February 2009**

Final estimates for season 2008/09

Contact: Peter Fulwood

Phone 08 8568 6400

Mobile 0401 122 082

Fax 08 8568 6449

| CROP                              | Kangaroo<br>Island | Central Hills<br>& Fleurieu | Lower<br>Murray | Nth Murray<br>Mallee | Sth Murray<br>Mallee | Upper<br>South East | Lower<br>South East | TOTALS    |    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|----|
| WHEAT                             | 5,000              | 6,000                       | 63,000          | 190,000              | 115,000              | 69,000              | 24,000              | 2,043,000 | ha |
|                                   | 9,000              | 9,000                       | 63,000          | 161,000              | 92,000               | 127,000             | 62,000              | 2,347,000 | t  |
| DURUM                             | 0                  | 300                         | 800             | 700                  | 0                    | 3,500               | 0                   | 59,100    | ha |
|                                   | 0                  | 400                         | 600             | 350                  | 0                    | 6,000               | 0                   | 88,700    | t  |
| BARLEY                            | 3,000              | 9,500                       | 60,000          | 55,000               | 125,000              | 92,000              | 18,000              | 1,210,500 | ha |
|                                   | 6,000              | 19,000                      | 63,000          | 47,000               | 100,000              | 174,000             | 46,000              | 1,795,000 | t  |
| OATS                              | 3,000              | 1,500                       | 3,000           | 3,000                | 4,000                | 8,500               | 4,500               | 72,100    | ha |
|                                   | 6,000              | 3,000                       | 2,700           | 2,500                | 2,000                | 12,000              | 10,500              | 80,200    | t  |
| RYE                               | 0                  | 0                           | 1,200           | 4,000                | 4,000                | 900                 | 0                   | 11,000    | ha |
|                                   | 0                  | 0                           | 1,000           | 3,000                | 2,400                | 500                 | 0                   | 7,300     | t  |
| TRITICALE                         | 600                | 2,300                       | 10,000          | 18,000               | 28,000               | 7,800               | 2,000               | 85,700    | ha |
|                                   | 1,200              | 4,500                       | 10,000          | 15,000               | 21,000               | 11,000              | 4,500               | 86,600    | t  |
| PEAS                              | 200                | 1,100                       | 1,600           | 0                    | 2,000                | 3,800               | 400                 | 128,500   | ha |
|                                   | 300                | 1,700                       | 1,000           | 0                    | 1,000                | 3,800               | 800                 | 129,100   | t  |
| LUPINS                            | 2,000              | 1,500                       | 1,000           | 1,500                | 8,000                | 17,500              | 3,500               | 74,000    | ha |
|                                   | 3,200              | 2,700                       | 700             | 800                  | 2,400                | 19,000              | 4,900               | 69,600    | t  |
| BEANS                             | 200                | 300                         | 100             | 0                    | 100                  | 11,500              | 15,000              | 72,400    | ha |
|                                   | 300                | 500                         | 40              | 0                    | 40                   | 11,500              | 27,000              | 82,880    | t  |
| CHICKPEAS                         | 0                  | 0                           | 0               | 0                    | 0                    | 300                 | 400                 | 11,550    | ha |
|                                   | 0                  | 0                           | 0               | 0                    | 0                    | 200                 | 400                 | 9,200     | t  |
| LENTILS                           | 0                  | 0                           | 0               | 0                    | 0                    | 1,500               | 100                 | 46,500    | ha |
|                                   | 0                  | 0                           | 0               | 0                    | 0                    | 900                 | 100                 | 36,870    | t  |
| VETCH                             | 0                  | 0                           | 200             | 0                    | 4,000                | 400                 | 0                   | 15,900    | ha |
|                                   | 0                  | 0                           | 150             | 0                    | 400                  | 240                 | 0                   | 4,980     | t  |
| CANOLA                            | 4,000              | 1,200                       | 2,000           | 3,000                | 6,000                | 28,000              | 9,000               | 178,200   | ha |
|                                   | 8,000              | 1,900                       | 1,500           | 1,000                | 2,400                | 30,000              | 14,000              | 192,600   | t  |
| HAY<br>(not included<br>in total) | 7,000              | 24,000                      | 13,000          | 4,000                | 8,000                | 55,000              | 43,000              | 288,000   | ha |
|                                   | 28,000             | 96,000                      | 32,000          | 6,000                | 12,000               | 152,000             | 138,000             | 831,000   | t  |
| TOTAL ha                          | 18,000             | 23,700                      | 142,900         | 275,200              | 296,100              | 244,700             | 76,900              | 4,008,450 | ha |
| TOTAL t                           | 34,000             | 42,700                      | 143,690         | 230,650              | 223,640              | 396,140             | 170,200             | 4,930,030 | t  |

### South Australian Field Crops

#### Area sown for grain, grain production, five year average and current year estimates

| Crop                              | Unit      | 2003/04   | 2004/05   | 2005/06   | 2006/07   | 2007/08   | 5yr Av    | 2008/09   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Wheat                             | Area (ha) | 2,013,100 | 2,057,000 | 1,977,400 | 2,035,781 | 2,101,227 | 2,036,900 | 2,043,000 |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 3,601,900 | 2,686,700 | 3,699,700 | 1,481,974 | 2,250,970 | 2,744,200 | 2,347,000 |
| Durum                             | Area (ha) | 91,500    | 60,750    | 59,850    | 50,250    | 54,750    | 63,400    | 59,100    |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 194,850   | 110,600   | 154,300   | 25,700    | 95,400    | 116,200   | 88,700    |
| Barley                            | Area (ha) | 1,093,500 | 1,119,900 | 1,170,500 | 1,154,060 | 1,225,163 | 1,152,600 | 1,210,500 |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 2,492,100 | 1,825,100 | 2,545,900 | 1,029,030 | 1,776,660 | 1,933,800 | 1,795,000 |
| Oats                              | Area (ha) | 73,300    | 67,400    | 72,300    | 82,383    | 85,659    | 76,200    | 72,100    |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 119,550   | 87,800    | 119,400   | 44,362    | 95,457    | 93,300    | 80,200    |
| Rye                               | Area (ha) | 8,950     | 7,650     | 10,000    | 8,600     | 9,000     | 8,800     | 11,000    |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 7,850     | 4,550     | 11,900    | 2,700     | 4,800     | 6,400     | 7,300     |
| Triticale                         | Area (ha) | 85,900    | 88,900    | 83,400    | 89,880    | 93,967    | 88,400    | 85,700    |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 146,850   | 98,000    | 125,500   | 53,379    | 97,649    | 104,300   | 86,600    |
| Peas                              | Area (ha) | 111,600   | 119,800   | 143,130   | 145,190   | 146,874   | 133,300   | 128,500   |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 151,850   | 147,700   | 257,910   | 91,084    | 152,909   | 160,300   | 129,100   |
| Lupins                            | Area (ha) | 64,415    | 63,750    | 72,420    | 84,792    | 83,372    | 73,700    | 74,000    |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 94,368    | 72,288    | 121,460   | 46,795    | 77,898    | 82,600    | 69,600    |
| Beans                             | Area (ha) | 92,021    | 94,648    | 70,420    | 73,607    | 70,877    | 80,300    | 72,400    |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 192,017   | 135,434   | 168,540   | 39,398    | 105,494   | 128,200   | 82,880    |
| Chickpeas                         | Area (ha) | 3,650     | 2,950     | 1,590     | 4,640     | 5,993     | 3,800     | 11,550    |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 4,180     | 2,580     | 2,230     | 2,173     | 5,075     | 3,200     | 9,200     |
| Lentils                           | Area (ha) | 68,550    | 55,900    | 54,410    | 57,620    | 54,603    | 58,200    | 46,500    |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 88,730    | 57,675    | 101,890   | 23,456    | 55,952    | 65,500    | 36,870    |
| Vetch                             | Area (ha) | 22,200    | 24,200    | 14,520    | 16,431    | 15,756    | 18,600    | 15,900    |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 16,200    | 9,400     | 15,243    | 3,639     | 8,629     | 10,600    | 4,980     |
| Canola                            | Area (ha) | 189,000   | 193,500   | 147,600   | 157,672   | 163,351   | 170,200   | 178,200   |
|                                   | Prod (t)  | 311,900   | 228,850   | 213,400   | 72,938    | 152,989   | 196,000   | 192,600   |
| Hay<br>(not included<br>in total) | Area (ha) |           |           | 277,700   | 170,000   | 220,000   | 222,600   | 288,000   |
|                                   | Prod (t)  |           |           | 1,084,800 | 250,000   | 520,000   | 618,300   | 831,000   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | Area (ha) | 3,917,700 | 3,956,300 | 3,877,500 | 3,960,900 | 4,110,600 | 3,964,600 | 4,008,500 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | Prod (t)  | 7,422,300 | 5,466,700 | 7,537,400 | 2,916,600 | 4,879,900 | 5,644,600 | 4,930,000 |

**Notes:**

Current year estimates assume average rainfall and temperature conditions for the remainder of the growing season.

Grain estimates are for total grain production and include grain delivered for immediate sale and warehousing plus grain retained on farm for seed, feed and future sale.

Hay estimates are for total hay production and include all pasture, cereal and other crops cut for hay, both dryland and irrigated.

The estimates are based on information provided by Rural Solutions SA District Reporters from a variety of sources, and are updated throughout the season as conditions change and further information becomes available.

They are intended to be used only as estimates of crop area and grain production and are current at the time of preparation of the report.

The estimates are updated using ABS census data as available.

Prepared by Peter Fulwood 28 February 2009