

Spring Conditions and Crop Performance Update

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Crop and Pasture Report

Prepared by Rural Solutions SA for
PIRSA Industry Development and Renewal
Grains Industry Development



Government of South Australia
Primary Industries and Resources SA

CROP AND PASTURE REPORT

SPRING CONDITIONS AND CROP PERFORMANCE UPDATE

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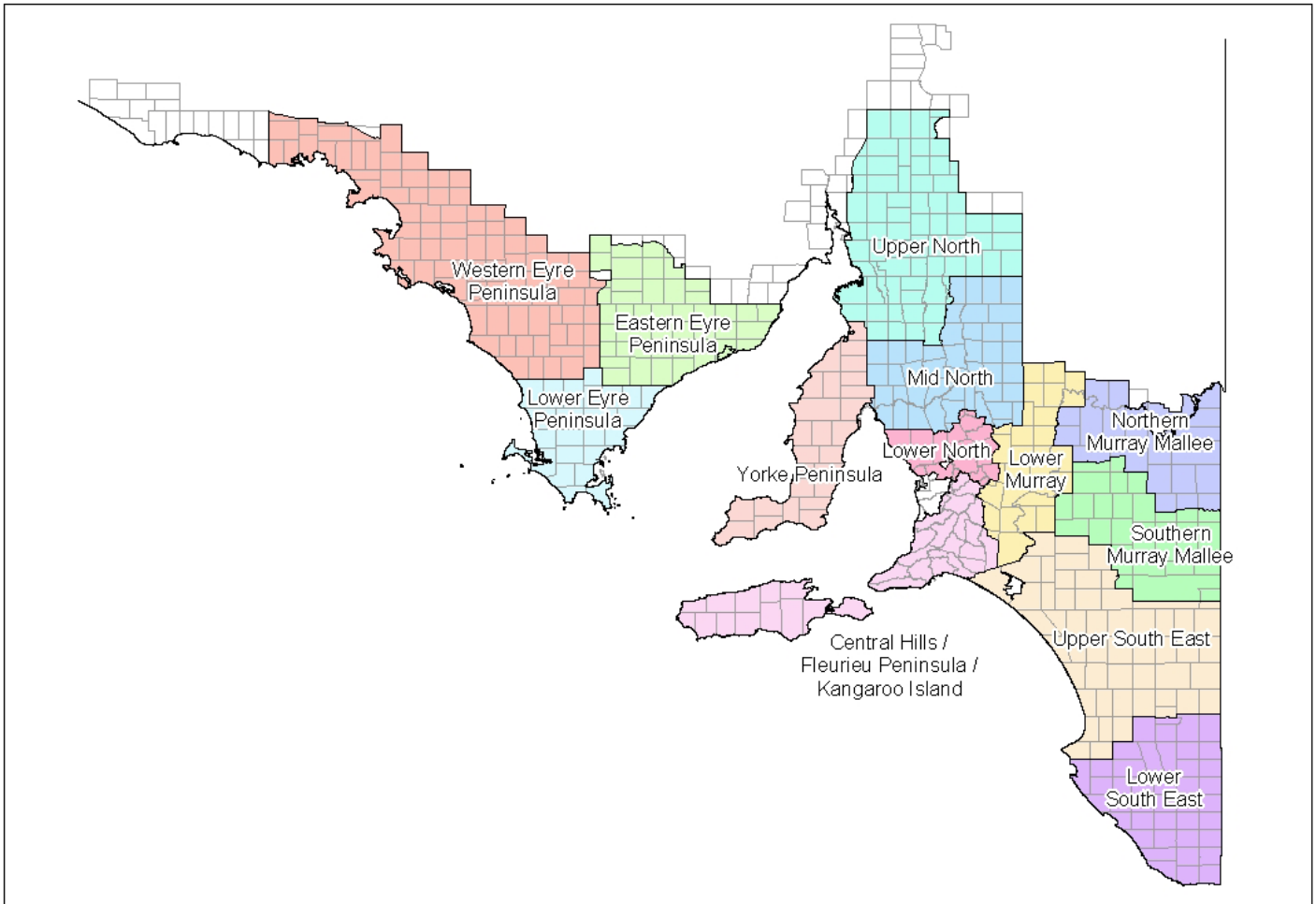
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Crop Reporting Districts



KEY LINKS

South Australia Land Condition: 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 Spring Conditions and Crop Performance Update

WEATHER¹

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>

- Cool during September with maximum temperatures well below average and minimum temperatures near average; cool to mild with occasional warm days during October with maximum and minimum temperatures near average.
- Gale force winds on 4th September as an intense low pressure system moved through bringing widespread, heavy rainfall to all districts.

RAINFALL

- September rainfall varied from above average in most districts to near average in the South East; October rainfall varied from above average on Eyre Peninsula to near average and below in remaining districts.
- Growing season rainfall (April-October) ranges from above average on much of Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, parts of the Mid and Upper North and Murray Mallee to near average in remaining districts.

CROPS

- Timely rainfall during September and October, together with ongoing cool to mild temperatures enabled crops to grow in near ideal conditions, although soil moisture levels started to decline in a few areas during October as large, bulky crops began to grow more rapidly with gradually rising temperatures.
- Crops are generally in excellent condition and continue to ripen relatively slowly in the absence of any sustained hot weather, with harvesting to start later than normal and extend over a long period.
- Crops on Lower Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and the Lower South East affected by waterlogging in August and September have largely recovered, although there is likely to be some impact on yield potential.
- Windrowing of canola crops commenced in the last week of October.
- Initial harvesting of barley started in several districts in late October, however it will be at least two weeks before much harvesting gets underway.
- Wet conditions in late winter and early spring resulted in staggered germinations of brome grass, barley grass, annual ryegrass and wild oats in some cereal crops, with implications for weed control next season.
- Stripe rust and to a lesser extent leaf rust have been reported in many areas, with stem rust showing up in a few districts in the latter half of October as temperatures increased.
- Cool, damp conditions and a significant increase in crop area saw lentils impacted more than usual by ascochyta; botrytis grey mould was also present in many crops.
- Despite the presence of a range of diseases, most farmers have been able to manage disease levels in their crops with well-timed, preventative fungicide applications.
- Mice numbers are now low with only a few reports of ongoing activity.
- Locusts have been hatching since late September, although cooler damp weather through October has slowed the process with some hatchings still occurring in the last week of October.
- Crops have excellent yield potential and should realize yields well above district long-term averages.
- Total crop area is estimated to be 4.01 million hectares with crop production estimated at 9.62 million tonnes. This would be the largest crop ever produced in South Australia.

PASTURES

- Pastures put on good growth during September and October and there is ample paddock feed; in a number of districts medic pastures are described as the best in many years.
- While the season has been good for hay and fodder production, the area of cereals cut for hay is expected to be down somewhat as farmers take advantage of high grain prices relative to hay prices.
- Hay yields are reported to be exceptional in most districts.

¹ Acknowledgment

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

DISTRICT REPORTS

Western Eyre Peninsula

WEATHER

- Day temperatures in September were cool to mild becoming gradually warmer in mid to late October.
- Night temperatures were generally cool to mild.
- Warmer days late in October pushed crops toward senescence.

RAINFALL

- Well above average due to significant rainfall events on 3rd September (>50mm) and 28th October (>70mm).
- Heavy rain and high winds in late October caused many barley crops to lodge and pods to split on some pulse crops.
- Cereals generally not mature enough yet to cause significant levels of shot grain.
- Stored subsoil moisture levels are high across the district.

CROPS

- Crops around the district look extremely good with yields expected to be well above average.
- Many pulse crops are almost ripe, with some growers hoping to harvest peas and lupins in the first week of November.
- Mice numbers have dropped substantially, although there is still some activity south of Streaky Bay.
- Many growers used preventative fungicide treatments on cereal crops to protect high yield potential.
- Brome grass has been a significant issue on sandy soils in the district. Many growers have used a chemical fallow on sandy rises to stop seed set.
- Hay cuts have occurred on oat paddocks sown for hay. Significant regrowth has occurred on paddocks cut early.

PASTURES

- Medic pastures contain an extremely high level of feed.
- Many growers have spray-topped pasture paddocks this year to stop barley grass from setting seed in preparation for next year's cropping program.
- Summer weeds are beginning to germinate with rains in mid and late October.

Eastern Eyre Peninsula

WEATHER

- September conditions were generally cool to cold.
- Day temperatures were gradually warmer in mid to late October.
- Warm days late in the month have pushed crops toward maturity.
- Soils contain a high level of stored moisture at depth.

RAINFALL

- Significant rainfall events on 3rd September and the week of 11th and 28th October brought rainfall figures in this period close to average.

CROPS

- Crops around the district look very good.
- Pulse and canola crops are well into filling pods.
- Cereals are at late flowering to grain fill.
- Yields are expected to be well above average.
- Many growers sprayed wheat paddocks with a fungicide as a preventative spray for rust.
- Rust infestation has been limited, although leaf rust has been a problem in susceptible varieties and paddocks that weren't treated early.

- Windrowing has begun on canola paddocks in the district.
- Brome grass has been a significant issue on sandy soils, with many growers using a chemical fallow on sandy rises to stop seed set.
- Growers in the Cleve Hills and the Franklin Harbour area have cut significant amounts of hay, with some reports of baling in excess of 8 t/ha of cereal hay.
- Paddocks cut in early September for hay have a significant amount of regrowth.

PASTURES

- Pastures contain an extremely high level of feed.
- Growers report that medic pastures are the best they have seen in over 20 years.
- Barley grass provided a high level of feed this season; many growers spray-topped pasture paddocks to stop weed seed set ahead of cropping the paddocks next season.

Lower Eyre Peninsula

WEATHER

- September conditions were generally cool to cold.
- Day temperatures were gradually warmer in mid to late October.
- Mild conditions throughout October have led to a long ripening period for crops.
- Soils throughout the district contain high levels of stored subsoil moisture.

RAINFALL

- Significant rainfall events on 3rd September and the week of 11th and 28th October brought rainfall figures in this period close to average.
- Heavy rain in late October has led to some cereal and bean crops lodging.

CROPS

- Crops around the district have well above average yield potential, except for those areas south of Edillilie which had extended periods of waterlogging.
- Intensive monitoring for diamondback moths took place during September, however cool and wet conditions seemed to prevent numbers from building up significantly.
- Ryegrass has been a recurring problem this season. Many growers have talked about crop-topping wheat paddocks to stop seed set, however cool and moist conditions have delayed seed set and crop maturity making it difficult to get the timing right for this application.
- Powdery mildew has been a problem on both pulse and cereal crops with many growers needing to treat paddocks.
- Early preventative sprays have limited the infestation of rust on cereals.
- Pulse and canola crops are well into filling pods.
- Cereals are at late flowering to grain fill.
- Windrowing of canola began in the last week of October.

PASTURES

- Stock are in excellent condition.
- Pastures contain an extremely high level of feed.
- Many growers have spray-topped pasture paddocks to control seed set of ryegrass.

Yorke Peninsula

WEATHER

- Cool during September with daily maximum temperatures well below average and daily minimum temperatures near average.

- Cool to mild with the occasional warm day during October with daily maximum and minimum temperatures near average.
- Gale force winds on 4th September as an intense low pressure system moved through bringing widespread, heavy rainfall.

RAINFALL

- September rainfall was generally well above average with a couple of centres having their record highest September rainfall; totals ranged from 48 mm (Port Victoria) to 121 mm (Warooka).
- October rainfall was generally near average, with totals ranging from 16 mm (Yorketown) to 60 mm (Curramulka).
- Growing season rainfall (April-October) is mostly above average throughout the district.

CROPS

- Very timely rainfall early to mid September and mid to late October, together with ongoing cool to mild temperatures enabled crops to develop in near ideal conditions.
- Crops in most parts are in excellent condition and continue to ripen relatively slowly in the absence of any sustained hot weather.
- There are a few reports of tall, heavy crops lodging with the recent rainfall.
- Windrowing of canola crops commenced in the last week of October.
- A small area of barley has been harvested at Tickera on northern Yorke Peninsula and harvesting of peas is expected to start in the first week of November, however it will be at least two weeks before much harvesting gets underway.
- A combination of high yielding crops and slow ripening in mild conditions is likely to see harvesting over an extended period this season.
- Wet conditions in September resulted in late germinating brome grass and wild oats in some cereal crops.
- The substantial increase in lentil area this season has resulted in many lentil crops containing high levels of medic which will need to be graded out following harvest.
- Cereal diseases reported include stripe rust and some wheat leaf rust, as well as barley leaf rust in very susceptible varieties. Stem rust in wheat showed up in the latter half of October as temperatures increased.
- Cool, damp conditions and a significant increase in crop area saw lentils impacted more than usual by ascochyta, as well as botrytis grey mould. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) granted emergency use permits for alternative fungicides to help overcome a potential shortage of registered fungicides for ascochyta in lentils and chickpeas.
- Despite the presence of a range of diseases, most farmers have been able to manage disease levels in their crops with well-timed, preventative fungicide applications.
- Minimal mice activity except around Port Victoria where numbers were still of concern.
- Crops have excellent yield potential and should realize yields well above the district long-term average.

PASTURES

- Pastures continued to put on very good growth during September and October, with spray-topping in the second half of October.
- Paddock feed is ample for stock requirements.
- While the season has presented a good opportunity for hay and fodder production, the area of cereals cut for hay is expected to be down slightly as farmers take advantage of high grain prices relative to hay prices.
- Hay yields are reported to be exceptional, although quality is somewhat variable.

Lower North

WEATHER

- Cool during September with daily maximum temperatures well below average and daily minimum temperatures near average.
- Cool to mild with the occasional warm day during October with daily maximum and minimum temperatures near average.

- Gale force winds on 4th September as an intense low pressure system moved through bringing widespread, heavy rainfall.

RAINFALL

- September rainfall was generally well above average, with totals ranging from 66 mm (Robertstown) to 122 mm (Freeling).
- October rainfall varied from below average to near average, with totals ranging from 24 mm (Greenock) to 56 mm (Tarlee).
- Growing season rainfall (April-October) is mostly near average throughout the district.

CROPS

- Timely rainfall during September and October, together with ongoing cool to mild temperatures enabled crops to develop in near ideal conditions.
- Crops are generally very even and in excellent condition and continue to ripen slowly in the absence of any sustained hot weather.
- A combination of high yielding crops and slow ripening in mild conditions will see harvesting start later and extend over a long period.
- Windrowing of canola crops is expected to commence in early November, however it will be at least two weeks before any harvesting gets underway.
- Wet conditions in September resulted in late germinating brome and annual ryegrass in some crops.
- Cool, damp conditions saw lentils impacted more than usual by ascochyta as well as botrytis grey mould. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) granted emergency use permits for alternative fungicides to help overcome a shortage of registered fungicides for ascochyta in lentils and chickpeas.
- Despite the presence of a range of crop diseases, in particular rusts in wheat, most farmers have been able to manage disease levels in their crops with well-timed, preventative fungicide applications.
- Common insect pests such as native budworm and aphids have been at notably low levels to date.
- Crops have excellent yield potential and should realize yields well above the district long-term average.

PASTURES

- Pastures continued to put on very good growth during September and October, with some spray-topping in the second half of October.
- Paddock feed is more than ample for stock requirements.
- While the season has been good for hay and fodder production, the area of cereals cut for hay is expected to be down somewhat as farmers take advantage of high grain prices relative to hay prices.
- Hay yields are reported to be exceptional.

Mid North

WEATHER

- Conditions during September and October were cooler than normal for this time of the year.
- While some warm days occurred during both months temperatures were below average and there were no hot northerly winds.
- Rainfall for September and October was average to above average.

RAINFALL

- Rainfall totals for September were generally above average.
- September rainfall for selected locations (monthly averages in brackets): Spalding 83 mm (50), Snowtown 60 mm (43), Balaklava 77 mm (40), Burra 70 mm (48).
- October rainfall has been good with most falling around the 15th and at the end of the month.
- Rainfall for October for selected locations (monthly averages in brackets): Spalding 54 mm (42), Redhill 42 mm (37), Balaklava 41 mm (35), Burra 45 mm (39).

CROPS

- Yield potential in most areas of the district is well above average following timely rains in spring.
- Most crops have had sufficient moisture during September and October, although some crops showed signs of moisture stress.
- Most crops around Balaklava and Snowtown are in head and into grain filling, while crops around the later districts of Burra and Farrell Flat are only at head emergence with some now flowering.
- Canola crops have podded well with above average yield potential.
- Many lentil crops have been affected by ascochyta outbreaks in September and October after being affected by botrytis grey mould during winter. Most crops have been sprayed accordingly.
- September and October have seen the development of stripe rust in the district with considerable fungicide applications being applied using either ground or aerial application.
- Significant tonnages of hay have been cut with the majority baled during mid-late October.

PASTURES

- Pasture growth occurred rapidly in September and October with conditions being ideal, particularly for legume pasture species.
- Paddocks flagged for hay were cut during late September around Snowtown to Balaklava, while the Burra and Farrell Flat areas have only cut hay more recently around mid-late October.
- Livestock are in good condition although some reports of lice have been made.
- Sheep remain in short supply keeping prices buoyant.

Upper North

WEATHER

- Conditions during September and October were rather mild with the return of a more normal spring weather pattern across the state and the Upper North.
- A number of warm days were experienced towards the end of the month.
- Some areas experienced frosts during spring with varying levels of damage occurring to crops.
- No part of the district experienced damaging hot northerly winds as has been common in recent years.

RAINFALL

- Rainfall for September was generally above average with some centres recording very high totals.
- September rainfall for selected locations (monthly averages in brackets): Appila 73 mm (43), Jamestown 85 mm (52), Port Germein 40 mm (33), Willowie 48 mm (33), Melrose 126 mm (64).
- Rainfall for October was nil until the 15th, with a significant rain event occurring at the end of the month.
- Rainfall for October for selected locations (monthly averages in brackets): Appila 38 mm (38), Jamestown 78 mm (44), Port Germein 77 mm (31), Yongala 66 (33) Willowie 71 (29), Quorn 44 (30).

CROPS

- Yield potential for crops across the district is high due to good rainfall through winter and continuing into spring.
- Some later sown crops will not achieve their full yield potential, but might have avoided some frost damage.
- Some crops on the heavy red soil began to show signs of moisture stress in early October with their upper leaves beginning to die off. Some of these areas freshened up again following the rain.
- Crops in southern parts of the district near Mannanarie and Yongala are quite late, with some crops only just coming out in head at the end of October. This has been induced by colder conditions in September and early October.
- Many crops around Jamestown are in head and some have been sprayed for stripe rust.
- Most crops in the western parts are ripening with some growers already harvesting barley and peas. Wheat is a bit later, but will be ripe around mid November.
- Crops in the north of the district around Morchard and Willowie are in head, with flowering occurring in early-mid October. Crops around Carrieton and north of Orreroo are beginning to ripen.

- Stripe rust, leaf rust and stem rust have all been found in the Upper North since late September / early October with some growers frantically spraying, particularly around Jamestown and Booleroo Centre.
- Stem rust has mainly been isolated to the Telowie / Port Germein district, while stripe rust is much more common and has been found from Warnertown to Jamestown.
- Considerable fungicide applications have been applied during September and October for all three rusts, but mainly for stripe rust.
- Many lentil crops have been affected by ascochyta outbreaks in September and October around Warnertown and Telowie, after being affected by botrytis grey mould during winter. Most crops have been sprayed accordingly.
- Locusts have hatched around Hawker and north of Parachilna and continue to hatch as conditions have been cool and once-flooded areas are now drying out. This has resulted in staggered hatchings, with some locust growth stages only at 2nd instar while others are starting to fly. Aerial spraying is underway.
- Some locusts are beginning to hatch around Quorn and Peterborough and are mainly around the 2nd instar stage.

PASTURES

- Pasture growth increased rapidly during September and October, with areas around Morchard achieving 4-6 t/ha of dry matter.
- Vetch and medic pastures are continuing to grow well, with good soil moisture in many parts.
- Lambs dropped during May and June continued to put on growth.
- Interest in sheep production and improving management has increased among growers, with sheep prices continuing to remain strong.
- Some growers started shearing during mid-late October to assist with avoiding wool contamination from grass seeds. This has meant a busy time for those who are also making hay and trying to keep it dry.
- Farmers began cutting hay in early October with good volumes and quality grown. Some hay was damaged around Wilmington with the rain in mid-October. Other areas near Laura and Wirrabara will have damaged hay with the late October rain.

Central Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island

WEATHER

- Temperatures have been cool.

RAINFALL

- Rainfall dropped alarmingly from mid September to early October, but fortunately there were good rains in late October following very good August and early September rainfall.
- Overall spring rainfall has been well above average at decile 8.

CROPS

- Crops are looking excellent.
- Outlook is for well above average yields due to cool ripening conditions, along with early sowing and good agronomic practices regarding fertilisers and weed / disease control.
- Crops suffering waterlogging damage in late August have recovered very well due to cool and dry conditions.
- There will be some bumper crop yields on Kangaroo Island, such as 5 t/ha wheat crops.
- Mild spring conditions will be very beneficial for pasture seed crops on Kangaroo Island.

PASTURES

- Pasture growth rates in early September were quite low at around 20 kg/ha/day, but quickly rose to 60-70 kg/ha/day during late September and mid October.
- During early October pasture growth dropped back to 30 kg/ha/day due to dry conditions.
- A number of paddocks have been cut for silage, with excellent conditions for good regrowth following.

- Weather conditions have been perfect for hay and silage, with long dry spells enabling fodder to be conserved with minimal weather damage.
- Pasture growth has finished in the drier areas such as Haines on Kangaroo Island, around the Lakes and Plains and some coastal areas on the western Fleurieu Peninsula.
- Overall, pasture feed supply is above average.

Northern Murray Mallee

WEATHER

- Average daily maximum temperatures for Loxton have been 2.8°C and 0.6°C below the long-term averages for September and October respectively. Highest temperature recorded for either month was 31.9°C in October.
- Loxton has recorded no frosts in September or October, with the lowest temperature in either month of 0.9°C in September.

RAINFALL

- Loxton received 60 mm and 52.2 mm of rain for September and October respectively, which is 60.9 mm above the long-term average for these months. The falls tended to be concentrated into a small number of large rainfall events, with 51.8 mm on 4th September and 32.4 mm over 13-15th October.
- These falls were mainly due to large weather systems bringing rain from the northwest.
- Rainfall for this year to the end of October is 313.2 mm, whereas Loxton's long-term average is 240.7 mm for the same period. For the same period in 2009 Loxton received 144.5 mm.
- The Northern Mallee is enjoying its best growing season since 2001.

CROPS

- Crop growing conditions have been excellent. The moisture in the soil profile has been good and the large falls of rain seem to refill the topsoil easily.
- Following the very large rain in early September there were 27 days without rain, and despite the relatively cool temperatures crops started to show some small signs of moisture stress. Soil moisture was still well above wilting point through the soil profile.
- Brome and barley grass weeds are obvious through many crops. It would appear that there were staggered germinations despite clean sowing conditions.
- Stripe rust became apparent in wheat crops in the Paringa to Loxton areas. Varieties affected to date include Catalina (MS), Yitpi (MR-MS) and Clearfield Janz (S).
- Widespread spraying occurred by aeroplane and ground sprayers. The rust appeared to slow as crops reached heading stage. In many cases Yitpi was affected before Catalina.
- Many growers were well aware of the potential losses of their respective varieties and sprayed accordingly.
- Great success with high risk crops in the Northern Mallee such as canola and mustard. Impressive crops are apparent throughout the Mallee.
- Leaf rust is widely apparent on Gladius wheat, but is not expected to cause yield reductions at this stage (early to mid dough).
- One report of stem rust has been observed and confirmed; growers have been advised to monitor their Yitpi wheat crops. It is not expected to significantly affect yields at this stage of crop maturity.
- Some frost damage is evident in crops through southern and mid Mallee areas.
- Locusts have been hatching since late September, and cooler damp weather through October has slowed the process with some hatchings still occurring in the last week of October.
- Spraying of locust bands by growers and PIRSA has started. The Local Control Centre at Loxton is receiving reports and directing survey teams and the aeroplane to the worst and largest of the bands.
- Growers are urged to monitor and make every effort to control all bands of locusts on their properties. If significant numbers of locusts reach adult stage then severe damage is highly likely to crops with any green portion evident.

PASTURES

- Very good levels of pasture feed across the Mallee.
- Barley grass and other annual grasses are all running to head.
- Medic growth has been strong with prolific flowering.
- Considerable quantities of crop and pasture cut for hay. Cool and overcast conditions through September significantly extended the drying period required for hay, requiring much turning and raking.

Southern Murray Mallee

WEATHER

- Maximum temperatures for September were below the long-term average by about 2°C.
- Temperatures for October were about average.

RAINFALL

- September rainfall in northern areas of the district was around 15 mm higher than the long-term average, although rainfall in southern parts was only average.
- October rainfall was about average in northern areas of the district, while in southern parts rainfall was around 8 mm below the long-term average.

CROPS

- Windrowing of canola is occurring around the district and should be finished in the next fortnight.
- Cereals are 4-5 weeks off harvesting and the last rain helped keep the soils moist to finish them off.
- In the more Rhizoctonia-prone soils there are some crops dying off before the heads have filled, due to the poor root systems only now being stretched for available water.
- In areas north of Karoonda crops are looking the best they have in the last few years.
- There is still some rust around that farmers are spraying.
- Insect levels are low.
- Low levels of diamondback moth have been found in canola.
- Locusts are present in northern parts of the district, still in small nymph stages.
- Mice are still present in low numbers.

PASTURES

- There is an abundance of paddock feed.
- Many farmers have started spray-topping paddocks due to be cropped next year, especially for saffron thistles and grasses.
- A lot of hay has been cut around the district with most already baled.
- Hay yields have been very good.
- There was also a small amount of medic hay cut this year, which hasn't been done for a while.

Lower Murray

WEATHER

- Cool during September with daily maximum temperatures well below average and daily minimum temperatures near average.
- Cool to mild with a number of warmer days during October with daily maximum and minimum temperatures near average.
- Gale force winds on 4th September as an intense low pressure system moved through bringing widespread, heavy rainfall.

RAINFALL

- September rainfall was mostly well above average with 88 mm at Murray Bridge.
- October rainfall was mostly above average with 59 mm at Murray Bridge.

- Growing season rainfall (April-October) is above average throughout the district.

CROPS

- Good rains during September and October, together with ongoing cool to mild temperatures enabled crops to develop in near ideal conditions.
- Crops are looking very good and continue to fill relatively slowly in the absence of any sustained hot weather.
- Harvesting will start later than normal and extend over a long period.
- Windrowing of canola crops has commenced.
- Wet conditions in September resulted in late germinating brome grass in some crops.
- Despite the presence of a range of crop diseases, in particular rusts in wheat, most farmers have been able to manage disease levels with well-timed, preventative fungicide applications.
- Isolated reports of mice eating lupin pods in September, however overall mice numbers are now low.
- Crops have excellent yield potential and should realize yields well above the district long-term average.

PASTURES

- Pastures continued to put on good growth in September and October, with spray-topping during October.
- Paddock feed is currently ample for stock requirements.
- Medics have finished flowering and have excellent pod set.
- While the season has been good for hay and fodder production, less cereal hay was cut as there are good supplies on hand and farmers want to take more cereals through to harvest to capitalise on high grain prices.
- Hay yields are reported to be exceptional.

Upper South East

WEATHER

- Cool during September with daily maximum temperatures well below average and daily minimum temperatures near average.
- Cool to mild during October with daily maximum and minimum temperatures mostly near average.

RAINFALL

- September rainfall varied from near average to above average, with totals ranging from 43 mm (Tintinara) to 67 mm (Cooke Plains).
- October rainfall varied from below average to near average, with totals ranging from 15 mm (Bordertown) to 32 mm (Padthaway).
- Growing season rainfall (April-October) is mostly near average throughout the district.

CROPS

- Moderate falls over the past two months, together with ongoing cool to mild temperatures enabled most crops to continue growing in good conditions.
- Crops are looking very good and continue to fill relatively slowly in the absence of any sustained hot weather.
- Soil moisture levels started to decline during October as crops began to grow more rapidly with gradually rising temperatures.
- Harvest is not expected to get underway for several weeks and is likely to extend over a long period.
- Windrowing of canola crops has commenced.
- Most farmers have been able to manage disease levels in their crops with well-timed fungicide applications.
- Isolated reports of mice eating lupin pods, however overall mice numbers are low.
- Most crops have very good yield potential and should realize yields well above the long-term district average.

PASTURES

- Pastures continued to put on good growth in September and October.

- There is ample paddock feed.
- Many farmers have started spray-topping paddocks due to be cropped next year.
- A lot of hay has been cut around the district with much already baled.

Lower South East

WEATHER

- Cold to cool during September with daily maximum temperatures well below average and daily minimum temperatures near average.
- Cool to mild during October with daily maximum and minimum temperatures mostly near average.

RAINFALL

- September rainfall varied from near average to above average, with totals ranging from 47 mm (Policemans Point) to 85 mm (Penola).
- October rainfall varied from mostly below average to near average in a few areas, with totals ranging from 16 mm (Kingston) to 57 mm (Mount Gambier).
- Growing season rainfall (April-October) is mostly near average throughout the district.

CROPS

- Moderate falls over the past two months, together with ongoing cool to mild temperatures enabled most crops to continue growing in good conditions.
- Soil moisture levels started to decline during October as large, bulky crops began to grow more rapidly with slowly rising temperatures.
- Harvest is expected to start later than normal and extend over a long period.
- Waterlogged conditions in some areas have affected crop yield potential, however most areas had dried out by mid October.
- The favourable growing conditions in most parts of the district should more than compensate for any losses from waterlogging.
- The majority of cereals are now in the early stages of grain fill.
- Most farmers have been able to manage disease levels in their crops with well-timed fungicide applications.
- Most crops have very good yield potential and should realize yields well above the long-term district average.

PASTURES

- Pastures continued to put on good growth in September and October.
- There is an abundance of paddock feed.
- The season has been good for hay and fodder production, with silage production starting in early October and hay cutting getting going towards the end of October.

Crop Production Estimates

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

November 2010

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CROP	Western Eyre Peninsula	Lower Eyre Peninsula	Eastern Eyre Peninsula	Yorke Peninsula	Upper North	Mid North	Lower North	Subtotal	
WHEAT	470,000	135,000	375,000	174,000	270,000	240,000	47,000	1,711,000	<i>ha</i>
	800,000	480,000	800,000	620,000	567,000	768,000	170,000	4,205,000	<i>t</i>
DURUM	0	0	0	36,000	12,000	10,000	6,000	64,000	<i>ha</i>
	0	0	0	122,000	30,000	32,000	21,000	205,000	<i>t</i>
BARLEY	95,000	86,000	95,000	150,000	75,000	100,000	33,000	634,000	<i>ha</i>
	180,000	301,000	219,000	525,000	165,000	330,000	120,000	1,840,000	<i>t</i>
OATS	15,000	3,200	5,000	5,000	9,000	8,000	2,000	47,200	<i>ha</i>
	21,000	7,000	7,500	13,000	15,000	18,000	5,000	86,500	<i>t</i>
RYE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<i>ha</i>
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<i>t</i>
TRITICALE	1,800	900	4,500	2,000	2,800	4,000	1,000	17,000	<i>ha</i>
	2,200	2,500	8,100	5,000	5,800	11,000	3,000	37,600	<i>t</i>
PEAS	6,000	7,000	6,000	36,000	30,000	24,000	9,000	118,000	<i>ha</i>
	8,000	13,000	11,000	90,000	48,000	48,000	23,000	241,000	<i>t</i>
LUPINS	1,200	24,000	5,000	1,500	3,000	3,000	900	38,600	<i>ha</i>
	1,200	45,000	7,500	3,000	3,900	6,000	1,800	68,400	<i>t</i>
BEANS	0	6,600	200	12,000	7,000	14,000	6,000	45,800	<i>ha</i>
	0	17,000	300	33,000	11,200	37,000	18,000	116,500	<i>t</i>
CHICKPEAS	0	200	0	4,000	2,000	4,000	100	10,300	<i>ha</i>
	0	300	0	6,000	2,800	5,000	100	14,200	<i>t</i>
LENTILS	0	2,000	0	70,000	4,500	9,000	6,000	91,500	<i>ha</i>
	0	4,000	0	122,000	6,000	15,000	12,000	159,000	<i>t</i>
VETCH	200	700	500	2,000	5,000	2,600	300	11,300	<i>ha</i>
	200	700	400	2,000	2,500	4,000	400	10,200	<i>t</i>
CANOLA	1,500	50,000	3,000	19,000	16,000	40,000	8,500	138,000	<i>ha</i>
	1,500	100,000	3,900	42,000	27,000	70,000	19,000	263,400	<i>t</i>
HAY	7,000	5,000	7,000	22,000	20,000	25,000	14,000	100,000	<i>ha</i>
(not included in total)	16,000	20,000	21,000	90,000	80,000	110,000	70,000	407,000	<i>t</i>
TOTAL ha	590,700	315,600	494,200	511,500	436,300	458,600	119,800	2,926,700	<i>ha</i>
TOTAL t	1,014,100	970,500	1,057,700	1,583,000	884,200	1,344,000	393,300	7,246,800	<i>t</i>

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

November 2010

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CROP	Kangaroo	Central Hills	Lower	Nth Murray	Sth Murray	Upper	Lower	TOTALS	
	Island	& Fleurieu	Murray	Mallee	Mallee	South East	South East		
WHEAT	5,500	6,600	66,000	220,000	131,000	72,000	25,000	2,237,100	ha
	16,500	16,500	150,000	420,000	275,000	216,000	90,000	5,389,000	t
DURUM	0	300	800	700	0	4,000	0	69,800	ha
	0	600	1,500	1,300	0	12,000	0	220,400	t
BARLEY	2,700	7,500	55,000	40,000	110,000	85,000	16,000	950,200	ha
	8,100	18,800	121,000	76,000	220,000	238,000	56,000	2,577,900	t
OATS	3,300	1,800	3,000	3,000	4,000	9,000	4,000	75,300	ha
	10,000	5,400	5,000	4,500	6,800	18,000	12,000	148,200	t
RYE	0	0	1,500	4,000	3,000	1,000	0	9,500	ha
	0	0	1,800	4,800	3,600	1,200	0	11,400	t
TRITICALE	600	2,100	10,000	18,000	28,000	8,000	2,000	85,700	ha
	1,500	5,200	18,000	27,000	49,000	16,000	6,000	160,300	t
PEAS	400	1,500	1,500	0	1,000	3,500	400	126,300	ha
	800	3,700	2,400	0	1,600	7,700	1,100	258,300	t
LUPINS	1,500	1,300	1,000	1,500	1,000	17,000	3,000	64,900	ha
	3,500	3,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	30,000	6,000	115,400	t
BEANS	200	400	100	0	0	12,000	13,000	71,500	ha
	400	1,200	200	0	0	30,000	36,000	184,300	t
CHICKPEAS	0	0	0	0	0	200	200	10,700	ha
	0	0	0	0	0	300	300	14,800	t
LENTILS	0	0	0	0	0	3,000	200	94,700	ha
	0	0	0	0	0	6,000	400	165,400	t
VETCH	0	0	100	0	1,000	400	0	12,800	ha
	0	0	100	0	1,000	600	0	11,900	t
CANOLA	4,000	1,500	2,000	7,000	6,000	28,000	10,000	196,500	ha
	9,000	3,300	3,000	7,000	9,000	50,000	22,000	366,700	t
HAY (not included in total)	7,200	27,000	10,000	3,000	7,000	50,000	40,000	244,200	ha
	40,000	140,000	40,000	9,000	25,000	200,000	180,000	1,041,000	t
TOTAL ha	18,200	23,000	141,000	294,200	285,000	243,100	73,800	4,005,000	ha
TOTAL t	49,800	57,700	304,500	542,100	567,500	625,800	229,800	9,624,000	t

South Australian Field Crops

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

Crop	Unit	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	5yr Av	2010/11
Wheat	Area (ha)	1,977,400	2,035,781	2,101,227	2,043,000	2,111,100	2,053,700	2,237,100
	Prod (t)	3,699,700	1,481,974	2,250,970	2,347,000	4,032,500	2,762,400	5,389,000
Durum	Area (ha)	59,850	50,250	54,750	59,100	60,000	56,800	69,800
	Prod (t)	154,300	25,700	95,400	88,700	157,200	104,300	220,400
Barley	Area (ha)	1,170,500	1,154,060	1,225,163	1,210,500	1,152,300	1,182,500	950,200
	Prod (t)	2,545,900	1,029,030	1,776,660	1,795,000	2,544,100	1,938,100	2,577,900
Oats	Area (ha)	72,300	82,383	85,659	72,100	79,700	78,400	75,300
	Prod (t)	119,400	44,362	95,457	80,200	136,600	95,200	148,200
Rye	Area (ha)	10,000	8,600	9,000	11,000	9,400	9,600	9,500
	Prod (t)	11,900	2,700	4,800	7,300	8,200	7,000	11,400
Triticale	Area (ha)	83,400	89,880	93,967	85,700	85,900	87,800	85,700
	Prod (t)	125,500	53,379	97,649	86,600	117,700	96,200	160,300
Peas	Area (ha)	143,130	145,190	146,874	128,500	127,700	138,300	126,300
	Prod (t)	257,910	91,084	152,909	129,100	181,150	162,400	258,300
Lupins	Area (ha)	72,420	84,792	83,372	74,000	66,500	76,200	64,900
	Prod (t)	121,460	46,795	77,898	69,600	97,200	82,600	115,400
Beans	Area (ha)	70,420	73,607	70,877	72,400	71,200	71,700	71,500
	Prod (t)	168,540	39,398	105,494	82,880	144,350	108,100	184,300
Chickpeas	Area (ha)	1,590	4,640	5,993	11,550	13,200	7,400	10,700
	Prod (t)	2,230	2,173	5,075	9,200	17,150	7,200	14,800
Lentils	Area (ha)	54,410	57,620	54,603	46,500	52,100	53,000	94,700
	Prod (t)	101,890	23,456	55,952	36,870	89,450	61,500	165,400
Vetch	Area (ha)	14,520	16,431	15,756	15,900	12,900	15,100	12,800
	Prod (t)	15,243	3,639	8,629	4,980	10,650	8,600	11,900
Canola	Area (ha)	147,600	157,672	163,351	178,200	182,700	165,900	196,500
	Prod (t)	213,400	72,938	152,989	192,600	297,100	185,800	366,700
Hay (not included in total)	Area (ha)	277,700	170,000	220,000	288,000	274,100	246,000	244,200
	Prod (t)	1,084,800	250,000	520,000	831,000	1,004,000	738,000	1,041,000
TOTAL	Area (ha)	3,877,500	3,960,900	4,110,600	4,008,500	4,024,700	3,996,400	4,005,000
TOTAL	Prod (t)	7,537,400	2,916,600	4,879,900	4,930,000	7,833,400	5,619,500	9,624,000

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 provide an indication of crop potential current at the time of preparation of the report.

The estimates are updated using ABS census data as available.

Prepared 1 November 2010