

Spring Conditions and Crop Performance Update

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Crop and Pasture Report

Prepared by Rural Solutions SA for
PIRSA Agribusiness
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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Report Compilation

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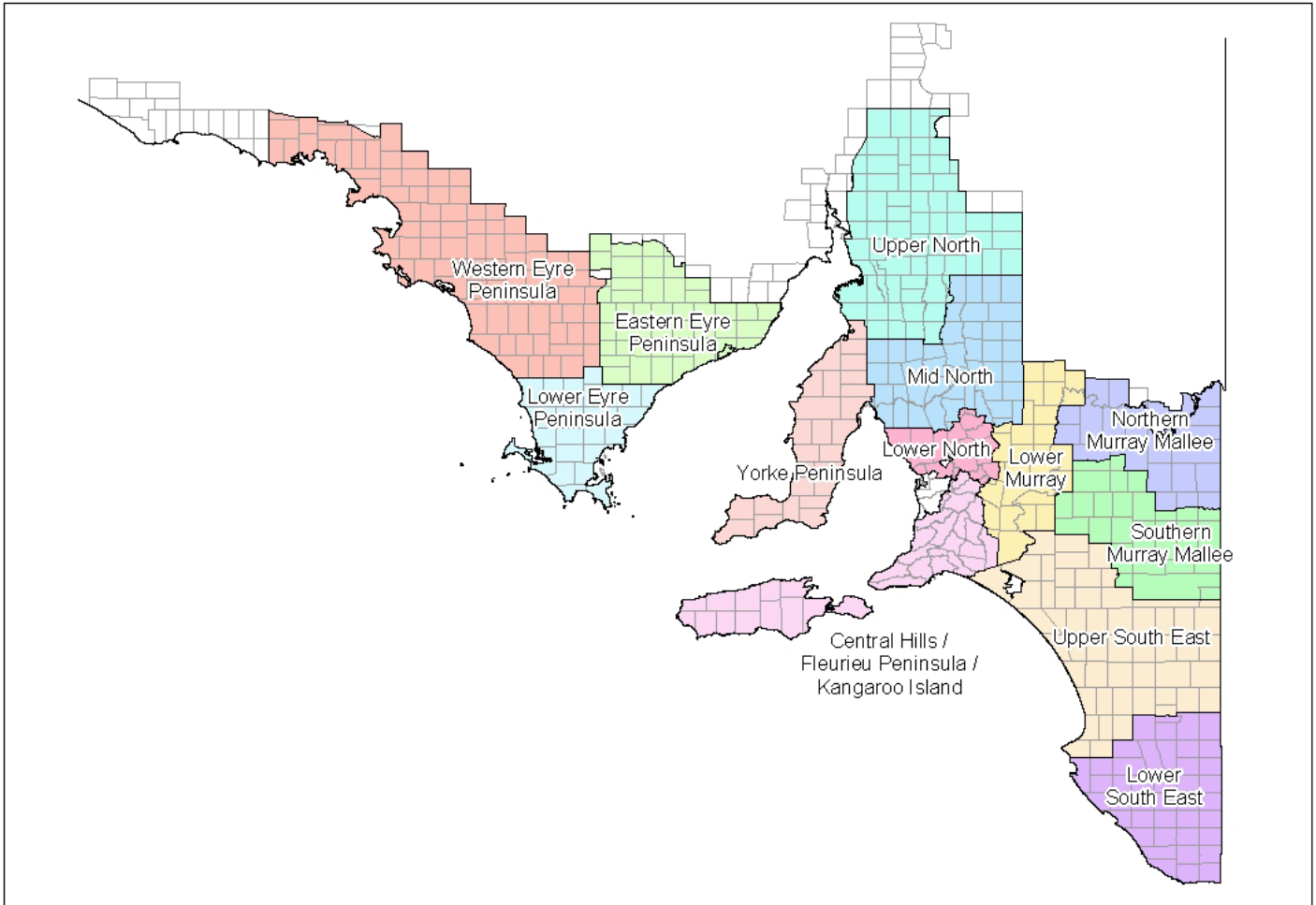
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Crop Reporting Districts



KEY LINKS TO OTHER INFORMATION

South Australia Land Condition: <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/dw/lbc/land/monitoring/index.html>

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>

- Maximum temperatures were average for September and slightly above average for October across the state.
- Several frosts were recorded in inland areas during late September and early October.

RAINFALL

- September rainfall was generally below average across the state, except for the southern parts of the Lower Eyre Peninsula and Lower South East, which were average.
- October rainfall was above average across the state.
- Growing season rainfall (April to October) was well below average for most of the state with most centres recording decile 2 to 4 rainfall and several centres only receiving decile 1 rainfall. The exceptions being the southern part of the Upper North (Decile 6) and parts of Upper Eyre Peninsula (Decile 6 and 7).

CROPS

- Despite the below average growing season rainfall across most of the state, crop yield potential is average to above average.
- The exceptions being the lower rainfall areas of the Upper North, Mid North and Northern Murray Mallee, which suffered severe moisture stress in mid to late September with some areas of below average yields.
- Harvest of a few very early sown (March) barley crops commenced around Pt Germein in late September,
- Harvest of peas, barley and canola commenced in other early districts in mid to late October.
- Yields of cereals have been above average, although quality has been disappointing.
- Canola and pea crops in these early districts suffered from the dry September and yields are below average.
- Canola has been windrowed in all but the later districts of the state.
- Stripe rust was widespread throughout the state. Timely and effective fungicide applications limited crop damage.
- Stem rust has caused only minimal damage to susceptible varieties where fungicides were applied early, with some crop damage noted when application was delayed.
- Leaf rust was widespread in both wheat and barley crops throughout the state, but fungicide applications have kept damage to low levels.
- Powdery mildew has infected pea crops and some cereals late in the season.
- Frost caused severe damage to pea crops from Mallala to Crystal Brook and to a range of other crops in Central Eyre Peninsula, Southern Mallee, Lower Murray and Upper South East districts, with minor damage in other districts.
- Widespread hail caused general minor damage to developing crops. Isolated pockets suffered severe hail damage.
- Snails have increased in some districts and are causing harvesting problems.
- Ryegrass and brome grass populations are higher than normal reducing yield potential in some crops.
- Lentil crops have good yield potential with low levels of disease.
- Mice are still present in many districts at low numbers, but are only causing minimal crop damage.
- Yields of early cut hay have been low and quality affected by rain. Later cut hay should be better.

PASTURES

- The dry conditions in September hastened maturity of pastures in many areas. Feed supplies should be adequate until stubbles become available.
- Livestock are generally in good condition.

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

- Cool nights in late September led to some reports of light frost damage around Mt Cooper and Kyancutta. These frost events are unlikely to have significantly impacted yields in these districts.
- There were also some isolated reports of hail in the Central Eyre districts but damage was minimal.

RAINFALL

- September rainfall was below average across the district. These dry conditions and strong north winds around the 21st of September saw most crops experiencing moisture stress until significant widespread rains were received on the 29th of September.
- October rainfall was well above average in all districts. This has had some impact on grain quality for pulses and early sown cereals but has generally helped to fill grains on cereal crops.
- Growing season rainfall (April to October) was generally average to above average; Penong 215.9 (Decile 5), Ceduna 210.4 mm (Decile 6), Wudinna 196.8 mm (Decile 4) and Streaky Bay 302 mm (Decile 6).

CROPS

- Crops across the region look generally good with high yield potential.
- Paddocks in which summer weeds were effectively controlled look markedly better than those which weren't.
- Grass weeds have been a major issue this season and a number of growers have sprayed out sandy rises to control seed set of brome grass.
- Early applications of fungicide have been largely effective in controlling stem rust. However there have been some serious infestations of leaf rust in barley reported which are likely to have some impact on yield.
- There were widespread reports of Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus affecting crops in late September. The significant summer rainfall in 2010 and subsequent summer weed growth is likely to have enabled the virus to build up over the summer period.
- Around 35% of the landholders in the region have begun harvest with peas and canola being harvested first.
- High levels of snails this season are creating issues with harvesting pea crops
- Canola yields have been good with 1.3 – 1.9 t/ha yields being reported in the more reliable rainfall areas around Mt Cooper and 0.8 – 1.1 t/ha being reported in areas further north.
- All silos in the district are open for operation with most of the stored grain from the 2010/11 harvest being removed by the end of October. Grain quality resulting from a dry September followed by a wet October will determine silo segregations.
- Some growers in the Far West had begun to harvest cereals by the end of October. Early yield figures indicate up to 50% above average yields.
- Quality is of some concern with much of the early sown barley classified F2 or F3 due to poor grain size resulting from a dry September. A large amount of the malting barley has also been delivered as feed due to late rains at crop maturity.

PASTURES

- Feed reserves in pasture paddocks are generally high. October rains have also led to the germination of summer weeds which has increased the amount of green feed available.
- Stock are in excellent condition.

Eastern Eyre Peninsula

WEATHER

- Crops in the Gum Flat, Lock, Rudall and Darke Peake districts were affected by a number of frosts during late September with some affected paddocks being cut for hay.
- A hailstorm in the last week of September caused significant damage on a number of properties in the Verran and Arno Bay districts. A small number of properties suffered significant crop losses.

RAINFALL

- September rainfall was less than 50% of the long term average across most of the region. Early crops in the Buckleboo, Kimba, Miltalie, Mitchellville and Franklin Harbour districts were particularly affected by moisture stress with many crops only developing small heads and rapidly senescing.
- A significant rainfall event was recorded in the Lock, Darke Peak, Kielpa and Cleve district in the week of the 29th of September. This relieved moisture stress and helped to fill grain in most districts.
- Follow up rains were recorded on the 5th, 12th and 21st of October with most districts in the region receiving well in excess of the October average.
- Growing season rainfall (April to October) varied from below average (Cleve 221 mm (Decile 3) and Lock 247 mm (Decile 3)) to above average (Kimba 265 mm (Decile 7)).

CROPS

- Dry conditions throughout September, combined with strong north winds late in the month saw crops mature rapidly and annual pastures dry off.
- Rainfall in late September and October allowed later sown crops in most districts to reach their potential.
- Crops in most regions (particularly west of Cleve) look generally good with above average yield potential.
- Grass weeds have been an issue following two very good seasons. Many growers spray-topped sandy rises in September to control brome grass seed set.
- A large amount of aerial baiting was done for mice in early October with a decrease in mice numbers being reported toward the middle of October in most of the district. There have been minimal reports of damage to maturing crops.
- Windrowing canola began in early October with growers beginning to harvest canola by the end of October. Some growers in the Cleve Hills also windrowed barley crops to minimise potential weather damage.
- Pea crops were desiccated in most districts during mid October with harvesting of peas and early sown cereal crops beginning toward the end of October.
- Reports are of good yields on early harvested barley crops, with some quality issues (mainly relating to grain size) as a result of moisture stress in September.
- Late fungicide applications in September seemed to provide good control of mildew on cereal crops. There was a considerable amount of stem and leaf rust reported.
- By the end of October it was reported that most of the grain from the 2010/11 harvest had been shifted out of silos to make room for the coming harvest.

PASTURES

- Annual pastures dried off considerably with dry conditions in September, but good rains in early October resulted in further growth. Crop stubbles should provide a high amount of feed in the coming months.
- Stock are in excellent condition.

Lower Eyre Peninsula

WEATHER

- Although there were some cooler nights experienced in late September/early October there were few isolated frosts reported and very little damage.

RAINFALL

- September rainfall was generally slightly below average; Ungarra 26 mm (44mm), Cummins 35 mm (43mm), Wanilla 54mm (55 mm) and Tumby Bay 15 mm (36mm).
- Crop growth and grain fill was aided by a significant rainfall events (>10mm) around the 29th September as well as the 5th, 12th and 21st of October which produced above average October rainfall (Decile 6).
- October rainfall was above average across the district (Ungarra 36 mm (33mm) and Cummins 38 mm (31mm)).
- Growing season rainfall (April to October) varied from below average in the north; Ungarra 241 mm (Decile 3), Cummins 281 mm (Decile 3) to above average in the south Pt Lincoln 386 mm (Decile 6).

CROPS

- Below average September rainfall reduced stored subsoil moisture, however most districts did not suffer significant moisture stress
- Yield potential on crops in most districts is very high.
- Early applied fungicide treatments were effective in minimising crop damage by rust and mildew. There has been some stem rust reported where paddocks were too wet to apply late treatments of fungicides.
- Cereal crops finished flowering in early October with later rains helping grain fill.
- Many growers were monitoring canola crops from mid September for Diamond Backed Moth. Numbers remained low with only a few growers requiring insecticide applications under the emergency permit.
- Canola paddocks began to be windrowed in mid October with early pulse crops beginning to be desiccated toward the end of October.
- Although there has been little significant blackleg damage in canola crops it has been reported that those paddocks using a fungicide treatment have had lower incidence of disease than those without.
- Isolated incidents of significant eyespot damage was reported where wheat was grown on wheat stubble.
- There has been minimal hay cut this season owing to most growers having a high level of dry feed in storage.
- Grass weeds have been a significant problem all season. A number of growers crop-topped paddocks to minimise seed set, but late rains made some paddocks too wet to allow this to occur.
- The increased mice numbers that were reported at Ungarra and Tumby Bay early in the season had generally reduce by late October.

PASTURES

- Pastures were spray-topped in early September to reduce seed set on grass weeds.
- Pastures contain a high level of quality feed and stock are in excellent condition.
- Perennial pastures have responded well to October rains with high levels of quality green feed.

Yorke Peninsula**WEATHER**

- Maximum temperatures on Yorke Peninsula for July- September have been 1-2 degrees above average.
- Minimum temperatures have been around average or slightly above

RAINFALL

- Growing Season Rainfall is generally below average across the region grading to well below average on Southern Yorke Peninsula.
- Rainfall for April to October (inclusive) includes Port Broughton 163 mm (Decile 1), Kadina 223.2 mm (Decile 3), Maitland 334.1 mm (Decile 4), Minlaton 233.6 mm (Decile 1), Warooka 237.6 mm (Decile 2).
- Virtually no rainfall was received during a critical six week period between mid- August and late September.

CROPS

- Harvest has either commenced or is about to commence in the northern areas around Port Broughton and coastal regions.

- Early reports are for average yields but there are already reports of black tipping in both wheat and barley. Harvest in the later regions is not likely to commence until about the third week in November.
- Crop growth and prospects vary across Yorke Peninsula. In the more favoured areas around Maitland where growing season rainfall has been near to average, crops are looking good with yield expectations above average.
- South of Minlaton (where rainfall has been well below average) and coastal regions were more affected by the extended dry spell in August/ September. Recent rains have seen these areas recover to where crop prospects are now considered near average.
- Suggestions are that cereal crop yields are likely to be around 1 tonne/ha less than last years excellent yields.
- Deeper soils with good Plant Available Water Capacity have been able to retain substantial moisture from the heavy rains in the 2010/2011 summer and will produce good crops in 2011.
- Shallower soils have suffered greater yield loss potential from the August/September dry period.
- Crop health has been generally good and higher levels of nitrogen fertiliser have been applied following last years good crops.
- Lentil crops are carrying less bulk than last year, but are expected to yield well following recent good rains.
- Field pea harvest has commenced in the northern areas, with yields varying from 1-2 tonne/ha. Some isolated frost damage is evident with losses on affected crops around 0.5 tonne/ha.
- There was a high level of cereal fungal disease early in the season with both leaf rust (in wheat and barley) and stripe rust in wheat being widespread.
- The drier spring conditions helped to reduce the infection level and diseases have been able to be effectively controlled through appropriate fungicide applications.
- Some stem rust has been identified on susceptible varieties but damage has been negligible.
- Hay crops have incurred rain damage during the curing process. Hay crops generally have yielded slightly below average with quality significantly affected.
- Mice damage was a potential threat all year, but actual damage has been minimal. Baiting was widespread early in the season but concern about possible damage to crops at anthesis in spring did not materialise into significant damage.
- The increased area of canola planted this season is likely to yield slightly above average.
- The area planted to Durum wheat on Yorke Peninsula continues to decline slowly as growers react to slightly lower yields (against bread wheats) and marketing challenges.

PASTURES

- The limited pasture areas on Yorke Peninsula have showed good growth with livestock in good condition. Powdery mildew in medic crops was widespread earlier in the season.

Lower North

WEATHER

- Frost was recorded in some areas in early October.
- Thunderstorms brought hail to isolated areas in early October.

RAINFALL

- Rainfall for September was below average across the district; Roseworthy 37 mm (47), Mallala 30 mm (43 mm) and Kapunda 51 mm (55 mm).
- October rainfall varied from average Roseworthy 43mm (43 mm) to below average at Kapunda 38 mm (46 mm).
- Growing season rainfall (April to October) was well below average across the district; Mallala 181 mm (Decile 1), Roseworthy 239 mm (Decile 3) and Kapunda 286 mm (Decile 3).

CROPS

- Crops in the early districts suffered moisture stress during mid to late September with a significant reduction in yield potential.

- Canola crops in the lower rainfall areas were badly affected, particularly on the shallow soils with high levels of boron and sodicity.
- Most crops in the medium to high rainfall areas and better soil types only suffered minor loss in yield potential with the dry September.
- Some dense, early sown crops in the better rainfall areas suffered due to their higher water use.
- Harvest of peas and barley has commenced in the early parts of the district.
- Canola has been windrowed in the early districts and the rest will be windrowed in early November.
- Early cut hay has been damaged by rain, but later cut should be good quality.
- Peas and beans have been crop-topped to control ryegrass seed set.
- Lentils will be wick-wiped or crop-topped in early November.
- Ryegrass levels are higher than normal and very thick in some crops, drastically affected yield potential and increasing seed levels for future years.
- Hay is not being used as a ryegrass management tool, due to risk, low returns and high work load.
- Stripe rust has been well managed by most growers, although severe damage occurred to crops where fungicide application was delayed.
- Stripe rust has infected the heads of Mace crops late in the season, even where sprayed.
- Crown rust infected oat crops late in the season, when it was too late to spray, causing severe damage.
- Leaf rust in both wheat and barley was not as severe as previous seasons.
- Only low levels of native budworm were detected in pea and bean crops, but most were still sprayed with the addition of a late fungicide.
- Earwig and millipede populations appear to be increasing with no-till and stubble retention systems. Some grain contamination is expected.
- Frost and hail in early October damaged approximately half the pea crops throughout the district with yield losses of 10 to 20% expected and possible blemish on the grain.

PASTURES

- Good pasture growth occurred with the early break to the season, and most were spray-topped.
- Sheep are in good condition with adequate feed supply.

Mid North

WEATHER

- Conditions during September were mild to warm with several days of strong northerly winds.
- Several frosts were recorded early in October.

RAINFALL

- September rainfall was well below average Balaklava 18 mm (41 mm); Snowtown 15 mm (43), Burra 20 mm (49) and Mintaro 38 mm (70 mm).
- October rainfall was average to above average; Balaklava 45.8 mm (35 mm); Snowtown 31.2 mm, Burra 70.2 mm (41) and Mintaro 60.7 mm (56 mm).
- Growing season rainfall (April to October) was well below average; Snowtown 196.4 mm (Decile 2), Balaklava 202 mm (Decile 2) and Burra 264 mm (Decile 4).

CROPS

- Dry conditions during September reduced yield potential across the district.
- Moisture stress was evident on the heavier soils in the medium to low rainfall areas with crops beginning to dry off.
- Rain in late September and throughout October enabled crops to recover some of the lost yield potential.
- Yields are expected to be above average in most of the district, although the earlier areas will only be average as they suffered more from the dry September.
- Durum will yield be above average, but the area sown has reduced due to price and quality issues.
- Canola in the early districts was severely affected by the dry conditions in September.

- Most crops are at the ripening phase with harvesting of peas and canola commencing in early to mid November.
- A large number of pea crops from Balaklava through to Crystal Brook were severely damaged by the frost in early October with 30 to 50% yield loss.
- Stripe rust levels were relatively low, due to a combination of preventative fungicide application and dry conditions in September.
- Mace was the worst affected by stripe rust.
- Stem rust levels were also kept low, even on susceptible varieties such as Wyalkatchem, with preventative sprays.
- Leaf rust was widespread in both wheat and barley crops, with Gladius and Wyalkatchem the worst affected.
- Rust has been severe in bean crops.
- Disease levels have been low in lentil crops, due to the dry September and timely fungicide applications.
- Powdery mildew levels have been high in pea crops and also in some cereals.
- Early oaten hay crops have yielded below average, but quality is lower due to weather damage.
- Later hay crops should have reasonable yields with most only be cut in early November.

PASTURES

- Pasture growth has been reasonable, although the dry conditions have hastened maturity.
- Pasture feed is adequate in most areas of the district and should be sufficient until stubbles become available.

Upper North

WEATHER

- Temperatures for September and October were average to below average with many fine days but cooler nights
- September saw a number of frosts recorded in the eastern parts of the region
- A number of warm days with strong winds were recorded in September which caused many crops to go backwards.
- Minor hail was recorded in isolated areas during early October

RAINFALL

- Monthly totals for September were well below average while rainfall for October was closer to average
- September rainfall for selected locations (monthly averages in brackets): Appila 17 (43), Hawker 3 (28), Jamestown 26 (53), Melrose 22 (64), Orroroo 7 (33), Pt Pirie 6 (36), Yongala 12 (39)
- April to October rainfall was generally well below average, except for a pocket around Jamestown and Spalding; Crystal Brook 215 (Decile 2), Booleroo Centre 204 (Decile 3), Orroroo 160 (Decile 3); Jamestown 321 (Decile 6).

CROPS

- Harvest commenced in late September around Pt Germein while growers around Pt Pirie began in early October. Reports of barley making F1 and F2 grade have been encouraging.
- Yield potential for crops west of the ranges is high due to good rainfall through winter, although some crops were damaged by hail in early October.
- Crops on the eastern side of the ranges have flowered and are well into grain fill stage, although yields will be average to below average.
- Stem and leaf rust has been widespread across the region since mid-winter. Impact has varied based on crop variety, disease pressure and timing of infection. Most growers have applied a fungicide to control the disease early to reduce impact.
- Many crops around Jamestown are in head and some have been sprayed for stem and stripe rust.
- Mice have been a problem in isolated parts throughout the region, with the main damage caused by stems being chewed below the head. Some paddocks have been baited.
- A dry September changed a number of growers' intentions to apply in-crop nitrogen and saw some crops become severely moisture stressed.

- Most of the crops on the heavy red soil north of Booleroo Centre showed signs of moisture stress in early September. The rain in late September/October benefited most crops, but was too late for some crops around Quorn and Bruce which will not be harvested
- The benefit of summer weed control was demonstrated when the lack of September rainfall caused many crops to draw on stored moisture.
- Canola crops finished flowering in mid-late September and are now at pod fill stage.
- Some pea crops south of Crystal Brook were severely damaged by frost in early October.
- Some lentil crops were damaged by frost in September, particularly around Appila. Yields for lentil crops in the region are likely to be well below average.
- Some farmers around Appila/Booleroo and west of the ranges have been busy cutting and baling hay.

PASTURES

- Early sown pastures (late March/ April) have been much more productive all season than pastures sown in May
- Livestock are in good condition around the district and sales at Jamestown sheep markets in September and October have been strong

Central Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island

WEATHER

- Daily maximum temperatures were slightly below average for September and October

RAINFALL

- September rainfall was well below average on Kangaroo Island and Fleurieu Peninsula ranging from 23 mm at Kingscote and 31 mm at Strathalbyn.
- October rainfall was well below average on Kangaroo Island and Fleurieu Peninsula, ranging from 26 mm at Kingscote and 36 mm at Strathalbyn.
- April to October rainfall was well below average across Kangaroo Island and Fleurieu Peninsula; Kingscote 240 (Decile 2), Parndana 406 (Decile 2) and Strathalbyn 253 (Decile 2).

CROPS

KANGAROO ISLAND:

- Despite the below average rainfalls in the last two months the stored soil moisture and milder weather conditions are ensuring that one of the best seasons in recent memory is continuing
- Canola is close to windrowing with most cereals in mid to late grain fill
- Powdery mildew continues to be a problem in some wheat crops with yield losses of up to 10-25%.
- Whilst there have been no reports of rust in wheat there has been some in oats with an expected yield loss of 10-20%. Leaf rust in barley may cause losses up to 10%. Fungicides for powdery mildew and rust have been applied by growers - the degree of yield loss will depend on the time of application.
- Late nitrogen applications occurred in September.
- Barley grub is causing some problems in barley. Whilst there are limited numbers of bud worm in canola they are causing some yield losses in peas, beans and lentils
- There have been no reports of damage by mice or frost / hail damage
- There are unlikely to be many issues with carry over storage of grain to be sold. Some graziers with grain on hand from last season have reduced the area planted, or will sell additional grain this harvest.
- There have been some weevil problems in on farm storage for stock feed.
- Summer crops are looking good but safflower is being baiting for slugs and lucerne flea

CENTRAL HILLS/FLEURIEU:

- Crops continue to look good despite the below average rains in the last few months due to excellent sub soil moisture levels.

- Canola windrowing will commence within a couple of weeks and most cereals are in the milky dough to dough stage and harvest is about a month away, depending on weather conditions
- Stem rust has been an issue in cereals and fungicides were applied in September.
- Native budworm have been an issue in peas and are above threshold levels.
- No reports of mice damage
- Where crops have had adequate soil moisture and good nutrition, yields will be average to above, although protein levels will be below average, depending of nitrogen applications.
- Grain storage will be a significant issue with either many cells still full or a lack of receival depots. Farmers are looking at options for on farm storage.

PASTURES

KANGAROO ISLAND:

- Excellent pasture growth on KI and the late rains and sub soil moisture is enabling feed to hang on longer than average. Whilst on the lower rainfall areas of KI the season has about finished there is still some green pick available.
- Summer fodder crops are looking above average but there has been limited need for grazing to date due to the pasture reserves remaining.
- Hay cutting has finished. A number of paddocks have been pasture topped (with a mower) to manage the bulk of feed grown during the spring.
- Newly sown Kikuyu pastures have responded well to the late rains.

CENTRAL HILLS/FLEURIEU:

- Pasture feed quality and quantity remains high. The late rains have kept medics flowering later than usual.
- Hay cutting has been drawn out, with many holding off through the late rains. Most hay is now cut but not all has been baled yet
- Livestock are in good condition.

Northern Murray Mallee

WEATHER

- October temperatures have been 0.4° above average maximum and 1.6° above the minimum long term averages.
- Maximum temperature for October was 34.9°, and there were six days at 30° or above for October
- No frosts were recorded for September or October.

RAINFALL

- Loxton received 6.0 mm and 32.2 mm of rain for September and October respectively; which is 16.5 mm below long term average for these months combined.
- Rainfall for January to October is 300 mm compared to Loxton's long term average of 219 mm for the same period due to the large rainfall events in January and February.
- Growing season rainfall for Loxton is 44 mm below long term average (Decile 3), with only two growing season months (July and October) producing average or better rainfall.

CROPS

- Most cereal crops are changing colour with the early barley varieties very close to harvest. It is expected that harvest will be in full swing by mid November.
- A significant number of canola crops have been windrowed although the strong and gale force winds have not been helpful to the windrows.
- Mice activity has slowed dramatically with few obvious signs of mice such as fresh or active holes, crop damage and visual sightings on roads at night.
- Most growers have been vigilant checking and spraying foliar diseases. Stem rust has been a significant concern this season. Stem rust has spread from volunteer cereals over summer.

- Yitpi wheat has been the worst affected variety with stem rust being found in all inspected Yitpi crops. Some Yitpi has been sprayed multiple times.
- Despite the large amount of information available to growers on stem rust, grain yield loss and quality damage will be apparent from some paddocks.
- Stripe rust is apparent on susceptible varieties of wheat and leaf rust was present in small amounts across the Mallee.
- Other foliar diseases are present at low levels.

PASTURES

- As the temperature warms up pastures are rapidly senescing with barley grass and many medic pastures dried off.
- Growers will be looking to shift stock on to stubbles as soon as possible.
- Less hay was made in 2011 than in 2010. There should be good stocks of hay around the Mallee.

Southern Murray Mallee

WEATHER

- Several days of strong hot winds caused moisture stress to crops.
- Some moderate frosts were also experienced in September.
- Conditions in October were characterised by mild days and mild to cool nights.
- Frosts in early October affecting flowering crops.

RAINFALL

- September was dry with below average rainfall
- Rainfall for October was good across the district; however rainfall totals were varied due to the patchy nature of thunderstorm activity.
- April to October rainfall was average to below average varying from Decile 3 (Pinnaroo) to Decile 5 (Karoonda).

CROPS

- The dry September conditions significantly reduced yield potentials from above average to just average.
- The growth stage of cereals is ranging from nearly ripe for the earliest crops, to late flowering for the later sown.
- Canola and legumes are at grain fill.
- Frost damage is now becoming visible in low lying areas; the percentage loss is hard to determine as yet.
- There are some reports of rusts across the district particularly in susceptible crops. Damage is less evident where paddocks were treated with preventative and curative fungicides earlier on.
- Some reports of *Heliothis* in canola and legumes; farmers have assessed numbers and some have opted to control grubs and some haven't based on economics.
- Snails have been active during canola windrowing.
- Hay was cut during late September and early October with most having some rain damage.
- As the area sown to hay is significantly reduced this year, farmers were less exposed to the risk of rain damaged hay.
- Mice have not been an issue for the past two months.
- The majority of canola has been windrowed with the harvest of cereals just beginning in the earlier areas of the district.
- It is too early to get an accurate indication of yields and quality and many are not sure what to expect after a dry September and wet, cool October.

PASTURES

- Pastures still have some feed on offer although many have been sprayed for grass control and/ or are starting to naturally hay off.
- Livestock are in good condition although sheep producers have had issues with fly strike as a result of the humid conditions.

Lower Murray

WEATHER

- Temperatures were average during September and October.

RAINFALL

- Rainfall for the period was average at around 36mm in both September and October
- Until September, the season was running at decile 1 with crops surviving on stored summer moisture.
- April to October rainfall was below average across the district varying from Decile 2 (Mannum) to Decile 4 (Eudunda).

CROPS

- Many crops were affected by the dry August/September, reducing yield estimates from last year by as much as 60% in some areas.
- Saving rains in late September enabled most crops to recover.
- There is clear evidence of better crop performance where summer weeds were controlled.
- Most canola is in the process or has already been windrowed, most will average between 0.6-0.8t/ha.
- Cereals are between milky dough and ripening most will average 2 to 2.5 t/ha.
- Many barley growers expect to get malt.
- Some crop damage due to locusts with spraying occurring to control numbers.
- Rust and other fungal diseases have not been a major problem.
- Brome grass has been a big problem for many croppers.
- Most of the hay has been cut. Rain every few days is preventing baling in many areas at this stage.
- Concern about the storage capacity of silos in the region.
- Farmers busy spray topping pastures and preparing machinery for harvest.
- A small number of reports of frost damage.

PASTURES

- Pasture reserves are running out and many flocks will be put straight onto the first stubbles.
- Some livestock are receiving supplementary feed in the paddock.
- Flystrike is an issue with treatment occurring throughout the region.
- Farmers busy with spray-topping pastures for thistles and grasses.

Upper South East

WEATHER

- Temperatures for September and October were average with many fine days but cooler nights.
- September and October saw a few frosts of varying severity recorded.

RAINFALL

- Monthly totals for September and October were well below average.
- September and October rainfall for selected locations (monthly averages in brackets):
 - Bordertown September 30.6 (50), October 33.2 (43.9)
 - Keith September 29 (50.8), October 22 (42.2)
 - Coonalpyn September 34.8 (48.2), October 28.8 (41.2)

- Kingston September 55.6 (57.7), October 32 (42.9)
- Growing season rainfall (April to October) was well below average across the district; Coonalpyn 257mm (Decile 2), Keith 256 mm (Decile 2), Bordertown 264 mm (Decile 2) and Kingston 342 mm (Decile 1)).

CROPS

- Canola is currently being windrowed and harvest will commence during the first week in November.
- Other crops will begin to be harvested within the next three weeks.
- Due to the dry start there are no yield potential differences between early and late sown crops.
- Yield potential for all crops is average.
- Stem and leaf rust has been widespread across the region. Impact has varied based on crop variety, disease pressure and timing of infection.
- Rust issues have been prevalent due to the high green leaf carryover from summer.
- Soil moisture is now marginal.
- The extent of frost damage is sporadic with isolated reports of yield penalties of up to 50%.
- Due to the dry spring there has been very little disease issues in legumes.

PASTURES

- Early sown pastures have been far more productive than late sown
- Pastures have been well below average for dry matter production due to the dry spring.
- Livestock are generally in excellent condition.
- Silage and hay yields are down by 45 to 50%, particularly in paddocks that have been grazed by livestock.
- Many producers are choosing to cut less hay and silage this year due to less bulk available in the paddocks, large volumes of hay carried over from last year and large amounts of old season hay available at cheap prices.
- Cape weed has out competed clover in some paddocks.
- Pastures have been topped for grass seed control.
- Spring top dressing and pasture boosters were not been applied during the dry spring.
- Pastures are now in a reproductive phase and growth is marginal.

Lower South East

WEATHER

- Temperatures for September were average and temperatures for October were slightly above average.

RAINFALL

- Monthly rainfall totals for September and October were well below average
- September and October rainfall for selected locations (monthly averages in brackets):
 - Naracoorte September 50.4 (63.4), October 22.6 (49.4)
 - Millicent September 60.8 (74.6), October 43.8 (54.2)
 - Mt Gambier September 62 (72.9), October 42.8 (61.4)
- April to October rainfall varied from well below average (Naracoorte 313 (Decile 2)) to average (Penola 415 (Decile 5) and Mt Gambier 507 (Decile 5)).

CROPS

- Harvest is about 8 weeks away which will be earlier than normal.
- A wet winter has resulted in many crops at different growth stages.
- There will be yield penalties due to water logging on some paddocks.
- Majority of canola and cereal crops not affected by water logging will yield average to above average.
- Milling oats struggling due to the wet winter with possible impacts on quality and grain weights.
- Frost has not been an issue with no significant damage to report.
- Canola has finished flowering.
- Annual pastures have been sown instead of cereal crops in paddocks that are prone to water logging.

PASTURES

- Establishing pastures and fodder crops have struggled due to water logging.
- Many pastures and fodder crops have had to be resown due to snail damage.
- Livestock are in excellent condition to very fat.
- Has been some scouring issues in livestock due to high protein and nitrate content in pastures.
- Grassy based pastures sown early have been very productive.
- Clover is flowering and pasture is starting to enter reproductive phase.
- Many issues with control of fog grass due to the wet summer.
- Pastures have remained green for nearly two consecutive years.
- Fertiliser applications have been decreased in most pastures.
- More than the normal amount of silage has been cut with well above average yields.
- Not much hay being cut due to the good supplies carried over.

Crop Production Estimates

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

November 2011

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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	165,000	250,000	223,000	44,000	1,662,000	<i>ha</i>
	611,000	378,000	525,000	465,000	422,000	570,000	132,000	3,103,000	<i>t</i>
DURUM	0	0	0	43,000	14,000	15,000	6,000	78,000	<i>ha</i>
	0	0	0	130,000	40,000	45,000	23,000	238,000	<i>t</i>
BARLEY	105,000	86,000	105,000	187,000	117,000	110,000	35,000	745,000	<i>ha</i>
	135,000	240,000	157,000	620,000	199,000	297,000	106,000	1,754,000	<i>t</i>
OATS	15,000	3,200	5,000	5,000	9,000	8,000	2,000	47,200	<i>ha</i>
	15,000	6,400	5,000	11,000	11,000	17,000	4,500	69,900	<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	6,300	5,500	5,000	10,000	3,000	34,500	<i>t</i>
PEAS	6,000	6,500	5,500	22,000	28,000	25,000	8,000	101,000	<i>ha</i>
	5,500	10,000	5,500	35,000	34,000	32,000	12,000	134,000	<i>t</i>
LUPINS	1,200	22,000	5,000	1,500	3,000	3,000	900	36,600	<i>ha</i>
	1,200	26,000	5,000	2,200	4,000	4,200	1,100	43,700	<i>t</i>
BEANS	0	6,600	200	12,000	7,000	14,000	5,500	45,300	<i>ha</i>
	0	8,000	150	21,000	11,000	24,000	9,000	73,150	<i>t</i>
CHICKPEAS	0	200	200	5,000	2,400	4,000	200	12,000	<i>ha</i>
	0	300	150	7,000	3,200	5,200	250	16,100	<i>t</i>
LENTILS	0	2,000	0	78,000	4,700	12,000	6,000	102,700	<i>ha</i>
	0	2,600	0	125,000	5,500	19,000	9,000	161,100	<i>t</i>
VETCH	200	1,000	500	2,000	5,000	2,600	300	11,600	<i>ha</i>
	150	800	400	2,000	3,500	2,600	300	9,750	<i>t</i>
CANOLA	1,500	58,000	3,800	23,000	19,000	44,000	11,000	160,300	<i>ha</i>
	1,800	86,000	3,500	41,000	27,000	66,000	17,000	242,300	<i>t</i>
HAY	7,000	5,000	7,500	20,000	18,000	21,000	7,000	85,500	<i>ha</i>
(not included in total)	14,000	17,000	18,000	80,000	68,000	85,000	28,000	310,000	<i>t</i>
TOTAL ha	600,700	321,400	504,700	545,500	461,900	464,600	119,900	3,018,700	<i>ha</i>
TOTAL t	771,850	760,600	708,000	1,464,700	765,200	1,092,000	317,150	5,879,500	<i>t</i>

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

November 2011

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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	200,000	131,000	72,000	25,000	2,168,100	ha
	13,800	14,500	92,000	210,000	230,000	158,000	77,000	3,898,300	t
DURUM	0	300	800	500	0	4,800	0	84,400	ha
	0	600	1,000	300	0	11,000	0	250,900	t
BARLEY	2,700	8,500	55,000	55,000	115,000	85,000	17,500	1,083,700	ha
	6,800	20,000	82,000	60,000	200,000	170,000	51,000	2,343,800	t
OATS	3,300	1,800	3,000	3,000	4,000	9,500	4,000	75,800	ha
	8,000	4,500	3,600	1,700	6,500	14,000	8,000	116,200	t
RYE	0	0	1,500	4,000	3,000	1,000	0	9,500	ha
	0	0	1,400	2,200	4,500	850	0	8,950	t
TRITICALE	600	2,100	10,000	18,000	22,500	8,000	2,000	80,200	ha
	1,500	4,500	14,000	13,000	35,000	11,000	5,500	119,000	t
PEAS	400	1,500	1,500	50	1,500	3,500	400	109,850	ha
	600	2,600	1,100	35	1,500	4,500	1,000	145,335	t
LUPINS	1,500	1,300	1,000	1,500	5,000	15,000	3,000	64,900	ha
	2,400	2,400	700	700	5,000	18,000	5,000	77,900	t
BEANS	200	400	100	0	1,200	12,000	13,000	72,200	ha
	300	800	70	0	1,200	18,000	28,000	121,520	t
CHICKPEAS	0	0	0	0	0	200	200	12,400	ha
	0	0	0	0	0	250	300	16,650	t
LENTILS	0	0	0	20	200	3,000	200	106,120	ha
	0	0	0	5	200	3,000	350	164,655	t
VETCH	0	0	100	0	1,000	400	0	13,100	ha
	0	0	70	0	800	400	0	11,020	t
CANOLA	4,800	2,000	4,000	25,000	8,500	33,000	12,000	249,600	ha
	8,500	3,400	3,200	16,000	9,000	47,000	23,000	352,400	t
HAY (not included in total)	6,500	23,000	6,000	2,500	5,000	47,000	40,000	215,500	ha
	32,000	103,000	21,000	4,400	20,000	190,000	200,000	880,400	t
TOTAL ha	19,000	24,500	143,000	307,070	292,900	247,400	77,300	4,129,870	ha
TOTAL t	41,900	53,300	199,140	303,940	493,700	456,000	199,150	7,626,630	t

South Australian Field Crops

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

Crop	Unit	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	5yr Av	2011/12
Wheat	Area (ha)	2,035,781	2,101,227	2,043,000	2,111,100	2,237,100	2,105,600	2,168,100
	Prod (t)	1,481,974	2,250,970	2,347,000	4,032,500	5,818,500	3,186,200	3,898,300
Durum	Area (ha)	50,250	54,750	59,100	60,000	69,800	58,800	84,400
	Prod (t)	25,700	95,400	88,700	157,200	240,600	121,500	250,900
Barley	Area (ha)	1,154,060	1,225,163	1,210,500	1,152,300	965,200	1,141,400	1,083,700
	Prod (t)	1,029,030	1,776,660	1,795,000	2,544,100	2,839,100	1,996,800	2,343,800
Oats	Area (ha)	82,383	85,659	72,100	79,700	75,300	79,000	75,800
	Prod (t)	44,362	95,457	80,200	136,600	152,300	101,800	116,200
Rye	Area (ha)	8,600	9,000	11,000	9,400	9,500	9,500	9,500
	Prod (t)	2,700	4,800	7,300	8,200	11,600	6,900	8,950
Triticale	Area (ha)	89,880	93,967	85,700	85,900	85,700	88,200	80,200
	Prod (t)	53,379	97,649	86,600	117,700	167,100	104,500	119,000
Peas	Area (ha)	145,190	146,874	128,500	127,700	126,300	134,900	109,850
	Prod (t)	91,084	152,909	129,100	181,150	238,500	158,500	145,335
Lupins	Area (ha)	84,792	83,372	74,000	66,500	64,900	74,700	64,900
	Prod (t)	46,795	77,898	69,600	97,200	120,100	82,300	77,900
Beans	Area (ha)	73,607	70,877	72,400	71,200	71,500	71,900	72,200
	Prod (t)	39,398	105,494	82,880	144,350	168,600	108,100	121,520
Chickpeas	Area (ha)	4,640	5,993	11,550	13,200	10,700	9,200	12,400
	Prod (t)	2,173	5,075	9,200	17,150	16,000	9,900	16,650
Lentils	Area (ha)	57,620	54,603	46,500	52,100	97,700	61,700	106,120
	Prod (t)	23,456	55,952	36,870	89,450	174,350	76,000	164,655
Vetch	Area (ha)	16,431	15,756	15,900	12,900	12,800	14,800	13,100
	Prod (t)	3,639	8,629	4,980	10,650	12,900	8,200	11,020
Canola	Area (ha)	157,672	163,351	178,200	182,700	196,500	175,700	249,600
	Prod (t)	72,938	152,989	192,600	297,100	381,700	219,500	352,400
Hay (not included in total)	Area (ha)	170,000	220,000	288,000	274,100	244,200	239,300	215,500
	Prod (t)	250,000	520,000	831,000	1,004,000	1,066,000	734,200	880,400
TOTAL	Area (ha)	3,960,900	4,110,600	4,008,500	4,024,700	4,023,000	4,025,500	4,129,900
TOTAL	Prod (t)	2,916,600	4,879,900	4,930,000	7,833,400	10,341,400	6,180,300	7,626,600

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 4 November 2011