Issue 5 Harvest – January 2019

Season Summary

The 2018 growing season rainfall (April to October) was well below average with August being the only month experiencing near average falls. Severe frequent spring frosts combined with the dry growing season resulted in grain production at its lowest since 2008. While most of the lower rainfall areas were well below average, some coastal districts including Lower Eyre Peninsula, South East and Kangaroo Island had above average crop production. Strong winds caused soil erosion events in the drought-affected districts. This will continue until sufficient rains stimulate new growth. However, despite the season, crops on Eyre Peninsula harvested much better than expected, resulting in the estimated State production being revised upwards.

Harvest is now complete, with the last crops harvested in the South East and Kangaroo Island. Harvest took longer than expected due to rain interruptions and cool weather during October to December. Viterra’s latest harvest update reports the receipt of 3.98 million tonnes of grain, with much reduced weekly grain receivals now harvest is finished.

Crop area and production for previous five seasons and the new crop

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area sown (ha)</td>
<td>4,038,000</td>
<td>3,899,000</td>
<td>3,821,000</td>
<td>3,894,000</td>
<td>3,565,000</td>
<td>3,499,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production (t)</td>
<td>8,551,000</td>
<td>7,667,000</td>
<td>7,211,000</td>
<td>11,144,000</td>
<td>6,920,000</td>
<td>5,292,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Gate Value</td>
<td>$2.0 billion</td>
<td>$2.0 billion</td>
<td>$1.6 billion</td>
<td>$2.2 billion</td>
<td>$1.7 billion</td>
<td>$2.0 billion</td>
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</table>

Next update for release March 2019 – Final Season Summary

Information accurate as at 15 January 2019.
The season so far...

RAIN – Below average rainfall and above average maximum temperatures across the State during early winter followed by dry, frosty September and October and cool wet November and December.

SUBSOIL MOISTURE – Soils in all districts now have low moisture.

CROP MIX – Area sown to barley increased in most districts by an estimated 15%, mostly replacing area sown to pulses including lentils. Wheat area increased on last season to near average wheat crop size. Around 10% of cereal grain crop cut for hay instead for grain production due to the frost damage.

CROP GROWTH – Dry conditions in September, combined with multiple severe frosts damaged crops during flowering and grain fill. The damaged crops, totalling about 10% of the total crop area, were cut for hay. Harvest commenced in most districts in October and finished in the South East and Kangaroo Island early in 2019. Harvest was slower than normal with some conditions and some interruptions especially in November and December.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION AND FEED – Across all districts, paddock feed levels are extremely low. High levels of livestock supplementary feeding.

Outlook for the year

RAINFALL OUTLOOK – Bureau of Meteorology season update for the remainder of summer is for hotter than normal conditions but rainfall outlook returning closer to average, but early autumn returning to a higher chance of drier and hotter than normal conditions.

Challenges and opportunities

PESTS AND DISEASES – Snail numbers and activity across most of the State is less due to the dry unfavourable conditions for breeding.

ADVERSE EVENTS – Strong winds continue to cause soil erosion in paddocks with dry soil surface and no plant residue cover. Cool wet weather during grain harvest interrupted and slowed grain harvest.

MARKET DRIVERS – Weather related grain supply issues globally are supporting above average pricing. Eastern State drought conditions continue to provide local demand for fodder and feed grains with traders positioning grain into domestic markets, significantly reducing grain traded for export. Uncertainty with the eastern State sorghum crop production is affecting domestic feed grain prices.

REGIONAL ISSUES – Below average crop and pasture production and feed and fodder shortages for animals in some districts. Drought affected districts include eastern and western Eyre Peninsula, upper North, northern Yorke Peninsula, Murray Mallee, eastern Mid North region and the Pastoral zones.

### 2018-19 Crop Production Estimates and comparison with 10-year average (tonnes).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Jan 2019</th>
<th>Mar 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seeding Intentions</td>
<td>Seeding and crop establishment</td>
<td>Winter Crop Performance</td>
<td>Spring Crop Performance</td>
<td>HARVEST</td>
<td>Final summary and estimates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- BARLEY
- WHEAT
- HAY
- DURUM
- LUPINS
- PEA
- TRITICALE
- CHICKPEAS
- VETCH
- RYE CORN

Barley, wheat, hay, durum, lupins, peas, triticale, chickpeas, vetch, and rye corn production estimates and comparison with 10-year average (tonnes).