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**Principal**

**Agricultural Commodities**

**Western Australia**

**Season 1992-93**  
**Preliminary**

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PHONE INQUIRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact Mr Peter Hodgson on (09) 323 5180 for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related statistics.</li> <li>• For information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back of this publication.</li> </ul>
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## MAIN FEATURES

Growers have reported their intentions to sow more wheat in 1993-94 compared with the previous season. The increase is in the order of 3.5 per cent over the area actually sown in 1992-93 and the general trend in recent years has been for actual sowings to exceed intentions by 3-10 per cent.

These preliminary figures show a significant increase in intended plantings of barley for 1993-94, with actual sowings having been within plus or minus 7 per cent of reported intentions over the last 6 years. Lupin plantings are also reported to rise by 6.1 per cent in 1993-94 while oats are the only crop for grain forecasting a decrease. However, in recent years, the area of oats actually sown has consistently been 25 - 32 per cent less than the area reported intended to be sown.

Preliminary figures show the 1992-93 wheat harvest increased by 736 thousand tonnes compared with the previous season. The area sown to wheat for grain increased by 11 per cent with the yield of 1.52 tonnes per hectare being the second highest recorded.

The sheep population declined by 2.3 per cent to 33.27 million in 1993. This follows record sheep numbers in 1990 of 38.4 million. Intended ewe matings are expected to decrease from 13.6 million to 13.3 million in the current lambing season - a decrease of 1.2 per cent.

Meat cattle numbers rose marginally in 1993 to 1.54 million head. Meat cattle numbers reached a peak of almost 2.5 million in 1976, numbers declined by 35 per cent over the next 10 years, but since 1985 have remained fairly stable at around 1.5 to 1.7 million head.

The State's pig population decreased to 295 thousand, a 7.2 per cent decrease. Since the mid 1970s pig numbers have fluctuated between 250 and 300 thousand although an 18 year high of 318 thousand was recorded in 1992.

## SEASONAL REPORT FOR AGRICULTURAL AREAS

### 1992-93 SEASONAL CONDITIONS

Most areas received good opening rainfall to start the growing season, particularly the Northern and Eastern wheat belts and around Esperance. Unseasonal rain across all agricultural areas delayed harvesting and seriously affected the quality of the harvest. Heavy rains in the State's North West have led to delays in farmers returning Census forms from many large cattle stations. Another example of unseasonal climatic conditions was illustrated by hail storms in early December. Extensive damage was reported in areas from Mt Barker to Esperance.

TABLE 1 – AREA INTENDED TO BE SOWN FOR ALL PURPOSES (a), PRINCIPAL CROPS  
(’000 hectares)

Item	Season					
	1987-88 (b)	1988-89 (b)	1989-90 (b)	1990-91 (b)	1991-92 (c)	1992-93 (c)
Barley	489	408	441	466	568	574
Oats	535	521	505	458	500	457
Wheat	3,202	3,121	3,311	3,415	2,944	3,452
Lupins	888	706	687	655	783	801
						901

(a) Represents area intended to be sown as reported at 31 March in the seasons shown. Intended area to be sown during the season 1993-94 is presented as a possible basis for forecasting the total area to be sown for that season but, because of the possibility of subsequent changes in intention caused by unforeseen circumstances such as adverse climatic or economic conditions, this estimate may not necessarily be the area actually sown during the current season. (b) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (c) See explanatory notes 3 and 4.

TABLE 2 – AREA, PRODUCTION AND YIELD PER HECTARE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS FOR GRAIN

		Season						
Item		1986-87 (a)	1987-88 (a)	1988-89 (a)	1989-90 (a)	1990-91 (b)	1991-92 (b)	1992-93p (b)
AREA								
Barley	'000 hectares	469	461	383	421	498	554	587
Oats	"	302	373	389	340	323	367	332
Wheat	"	4,260	3,312	3,297	3,476	3,632	3,230	3,598
Lupins	"	653	876	720	676	664	787	849
Field peas	"	11	42	47	27	23	45	31
PRODUCTION								
Barley	'000 tonnes	601	617	553	628	742	900	1,049
Oats	"	414	502	618	529	496	614	559
Wheat	"	5,377	3,882	5,225	4,800	5,448	4,736	5,472
Lupins	"	673	730	790	619	624	874	855
Field peas	"	10	28	41	18	16	27	21
YIELD								
Barley	t/ha	1.28	1.34	1.44	1.49	1.49	1.62	1.79
Oats	"	1.37	1.35	1.59	1.56	1.53	1.67	1.68
Wheat	"	1.26	1.17	1.58	1.38	1.50	1.47	1.52
Lupins	"	1.05	0.83	1.10	0.92	0.94	1.11	1.01
Field peas	"	0.89	0.65	0.88	0.65	0.71	0.60	0.68

(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (b) See explanatory notes 3 and 4.

TABLE 3 – FARM STOCKS OF CEREAL GRAINS AND FODDER  
(’000 tonnes)

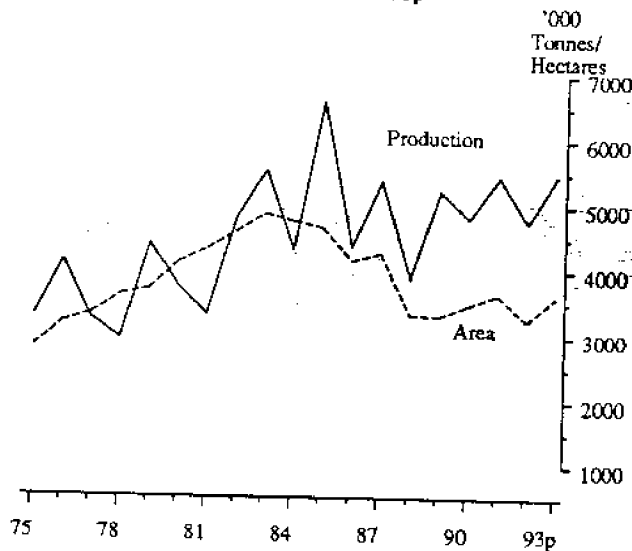
Item	At 31 March					
	1987 (a)	1988 (a)	1989 (a)	1990 (a)	1991 (b)	1992 (b)
Grain stocks—						
Barley	183	147	129	114	127	132
Oats	277	292	335	334	307	329
Wheat	271	249	270	263	301	294
Lupins	219	238	267	252	232	259
Fodder stocks—						
Hay	471	470	582	553	485	558
Silage	45	57	86	89	94	93

(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (b) See explanatory notes 3 and 4.

## WHEAT FOR GRAIN

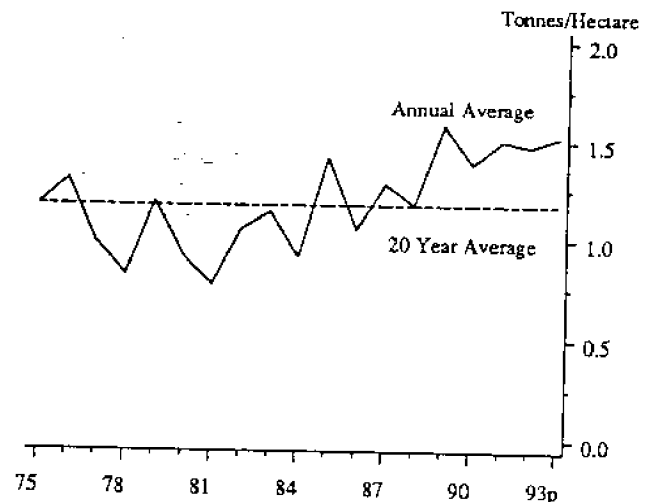
Wheat plantings in 1992-93 were 3.6 million hectares, an increase of 11.4 per cent over the previous year. However, this was the sixth consecutive year in which the crop size was under 4 million hectares, following crops in excess of 4 million hectares for each year between 1979 and 1986. Good growing conditions resulted in 5.47 million tonnes being harvested with a yield of 1.52 tonnes per hectare. This is the second highest wheat yield recorded, the highest being 1.58 tonnes per hectare in the 1988-89 season. Intentions for the 1993-94 season for wheat plantings show an increase of 3.6 per cent over area sown in 1992-93.

**DIAGRAM 1**  
WHEAT FOR GRAIN, AREA AND PRODUCTION(a)  
SEASON 1975 TO 1993p



(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

**DIAGRAM 2**  
WHEAT FOR GRAIN, AVERAGE YIELD PER HECTARE  
COMPARED WITH THE 20 YEAR AVERAGE(a)  
SEASON 1975 TO 1993p

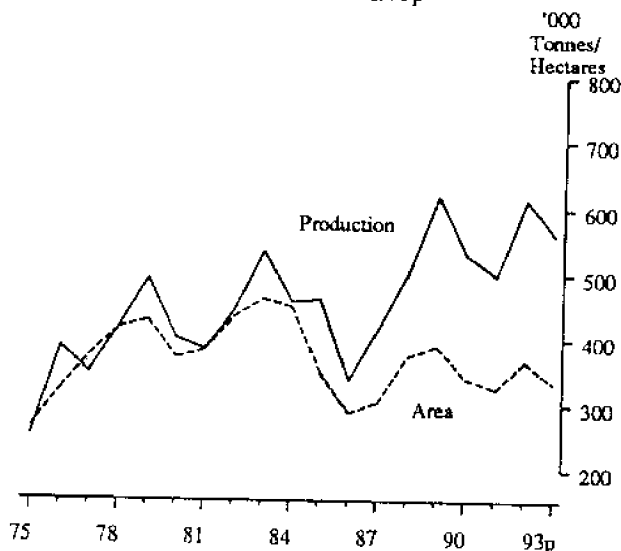


(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

## OATS FOR GRAIN

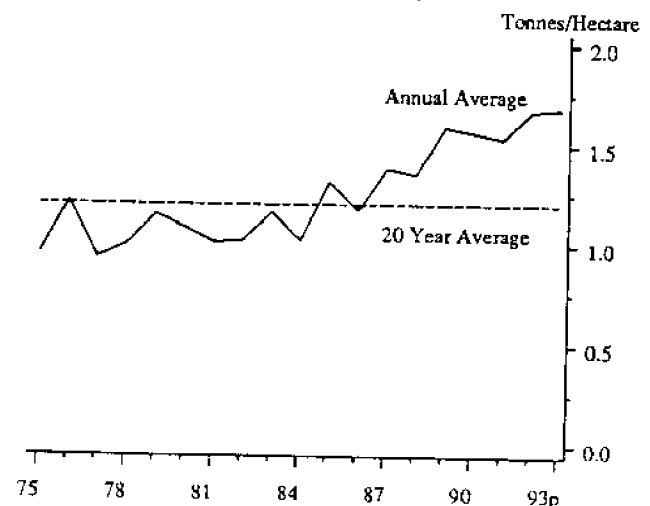
The area of oats sown for grain decreased to 332 thousand hectares. Production decreased by 9 per cent to 559 thousand tonnes. A yield of 1.68 tonnes per hectare was the highest recorded and the 1992-93 crop was the sixth consecutive crop to exceed 1.35 tonnes per hectare. Table 1 shows intended plantings of oats for the 1993-94 season are expected to increase by 26.2 per cent compared to the area sown in 1992-93 but previous experience has highlighted the discrepancy between intended sowings prior to the season and the area eventually sown.

**DIAGRAM 3**  
OATS FOR GRAIN, AREA AND PRODUCTION(a)  
SEASON 1975 TO 1993p



a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

**DIAGRAM 4**  
OATS FOR GRAIN, AVERAGE YIELD PER HECTARE  
COMPARED WITH THE 20 YEAR AVERAGE(a)  
SEASON 1975 TO 1993p

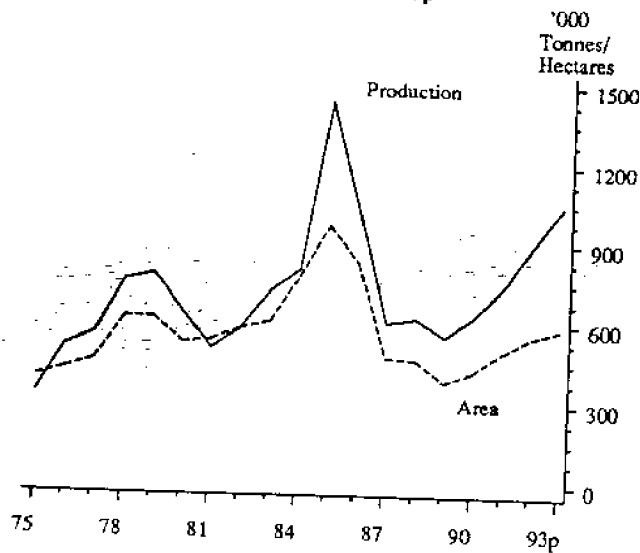


i) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

### BARLEY FOR GRAIN

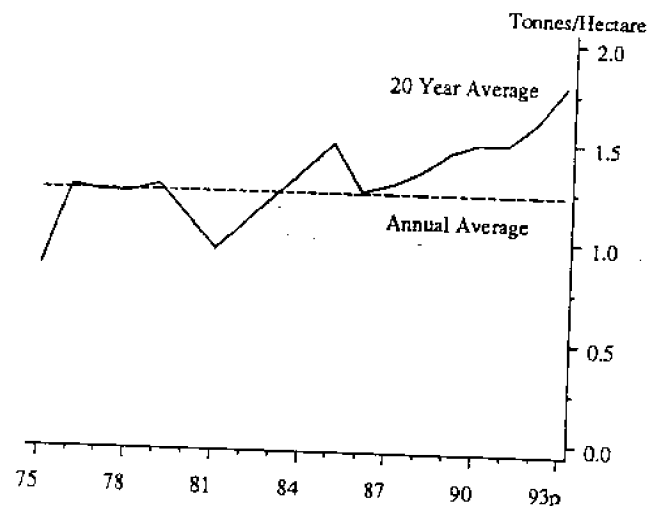
The 587 thousand hectares sown to barley was 6 per cent higher than the previous season and was the largest crop planted since the 1985-86 season. A record yield of 1.79 tonnes per hectare resulted from a harvest of 1,049 thousand tonnes which was 16.5 per cent greater than the previous harvest. As can be seen from table 1, preliminary figures indicate that the area intended to be sown to barley is expected to rise significantly in the 1993-94 season.

**DIAGRAM 5**  
BARLEY FOR GRAIN, AREA AND PRODUCTION(a)  
SEASON 1975 TO 1993p



(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

**DIAGRAM 6**  
BARLEY FOR GRAIN, AVERAGE YIELD PER HECTARE  
COMPARED WITH THE 20 YEAR AVERAGE(a)  
SEASON 1975 TO 1993p

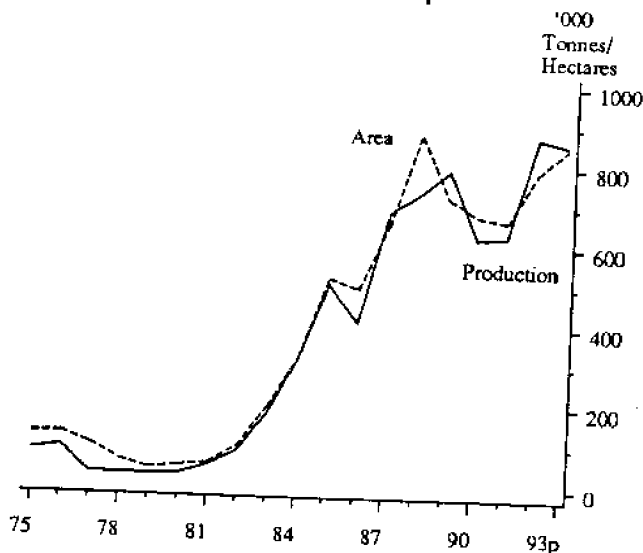


(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

### LUPINS FOR GRAIN

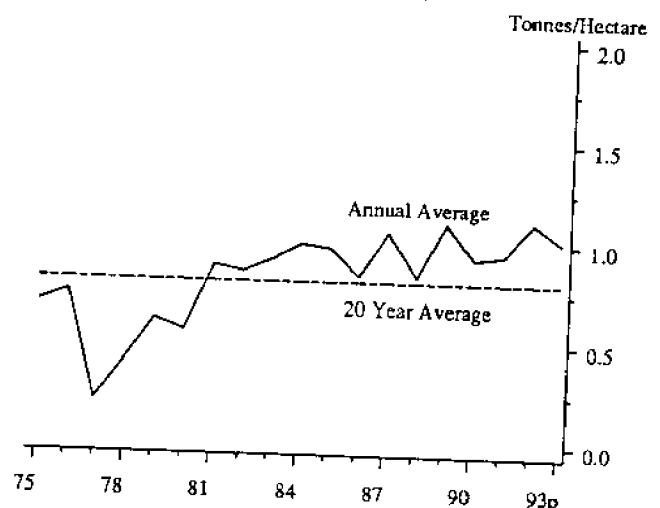
The 1991-92 season saw a resurgence in lupin plantings. The 1992-93 season has continued the trend with the area sown to lupins increasing 7.8 per cent to 849 thousand hectares. As reported in table 1, intended plantings of lupins for the 1993-94 season show an increase of 6.1 per cent over the area sown in 1992-93.

**DIAGRAM 7**  
LUPINS FOR GRAIN, AREA AND PRODUCTION(a)  
SEASON 1975 TO 1993p



(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

**DIAGRAM 8**  
LUPINS FOR GRAIN, AVERAGE YIELD PER HECTARE  
COMPARED WITH THE 20 YEAR AVERAGE(a)  
SEASON 1975 TO 1993p



(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

## SHEEP

Total sheep numbers decreased by 2 per cent from the March 1992 total of 34.06 million to 33.27 million for March 1993. This is the third consecutive reduction in total sheep numbers and reduces the total sheep population to close to 1987 levels. However, this years' reduction is less than in the previous two years indicating that perhaps the decline in flock size has slowed.

The reduction occurred despite a lambing rate of 76 per cent, a significant improvement over the previous seasons' 69 per cent. The reduction in sheep numbers may be the result of a trend away from wool production to meat production. Evidence of this trend can be found in the figures for lambs and hoggets which showed a 10.5 per cent increase to 6.8 million whilst all other categories fell and preliminary slaughtering figures for 1992/93 show increased slaughterings of both sheep and lambs.

TABLE 4 – SHEEP NUMBERS AT 31 MARCH  
(<sup>000</sup>)

Item	1987 (a)	1988 (a)	1989 (a)	1990 (a)	1991 (b)	1992 (b)	1993 <sub>p</sub> (b)
<b>Sheep –</b>							
Rams (one year and over)	423	407	426	415	382	359	355
Breeding ewes (one year and over)	13,961	13,152	13,949	13,104	(c)13,624	(c)14,376	(c)14,051
Maiden ewes (one year and over)	1,983	2,622	2,936	2,883			
Other ewes (one year and over)	1,127	1,210	1,398	1,912	3,205	2,269	2,017
Wethers (one year and over)	7,810	8,111	9,723	10,550	11,200	10,882	10,021
Lambs and hoggets (under one year)	8,159	8,450	8,658	9,555	7,979	6,173	6,826
<b>Total sheep</b>	<b>33,463</b>	<b>33,951</b>	<b>37,090</b>	<b>38,422</b>	<b>36,390</b>	<b>34,060</b>	<b>33,271</b>

(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (b) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (c) Not collected separately from 1991.

DIAGRAM 9  
SHEEP NUMBERS(a)  
AT 31 MARCH



(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4



TABLE 5 - LAMBING NUMBERS, YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH

Item	1987 (a)	1988 (a)	1989 (a)	1990 (a)	1991 (b)	1992 (b)	1993p (b)
	'000						
Ewes mated or intended to be mated (c)	14,424	14,574	14,447	15,547	14,479	11,822	13,572
Ewes actually mated (c)	13,901	14,135	14,159	15,025	13,844	11,376	13,188
Lambs marked	10,190	10,541	10,453	11,716	9,869	7,839	10,025
	PER CENT						
Percentage of—							
Lambs marked to actual matings	73	75	74	78	71	69	76
Actual matings to intended matings	96	97	98	97	96	96	97

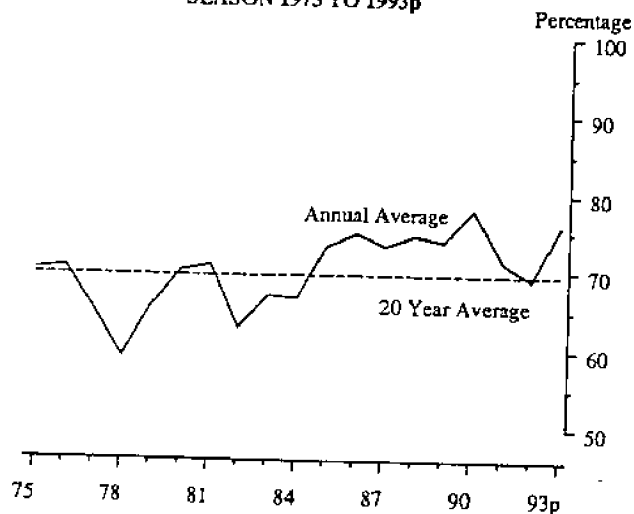
(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (b) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (c) Refers to matings/intended matings for lambing during the year.

TABLE 6 - NUMBER OF INTENDED EWE MATINGS (a), YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH ('000)

Item	1988 (b)	1989 (b)	1990 (b)	1991 (b)	1992 (c)	1993 (c)	1994p (c)
Ewes intended to be mated to —							
Merino rams	12,782	12,731	13,906	12,959	9,878	11,755	11,324
Corriedale and Polwarth rams	241	230	204	190	300		
Shortwool rams	1,275	1,251	1,195	1,134	1,415		
Longwool rams	269	222	233	189	216		
Carpetwool rams	8	13	9	11	12	(d)1,817	(d)2,006
<b>Total intended matings</b>	<b>14,574</b>	<b>14,447</b>	<b>15,547</b>	<b>14,479</b>	<b>11,822</b>	<b>13,572</b>	<b>13,330</b>

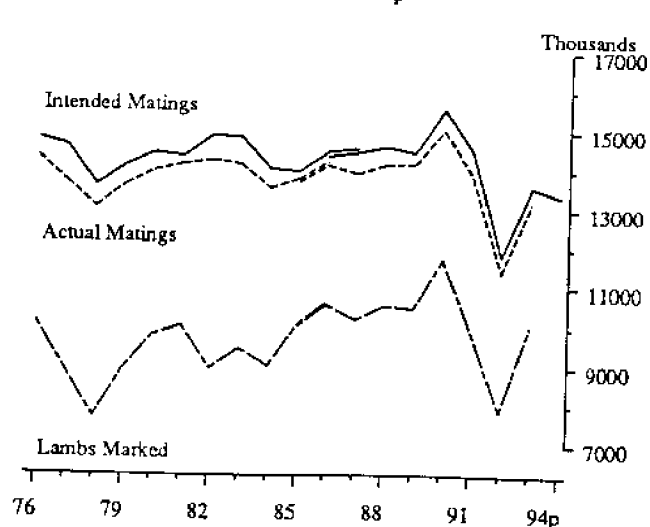
(a) Represents reported intended matings for lambing in seasons shown. Intended matings for lambing during the season 1993-94 are presented as a possible basis for forecasting the number of lambs to be marked for that season. In making such estimates account should be taken of past relationships between intended and actual matings - see Table 5. (b) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (c) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (d) No longer collected separately.

DIAGRAM 10  
LAMBING PERCENTAGE  
COMPARED WITH THE 20 YEAR AVERAGE(a)  
SEASON 1975 TO 1993p



(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

DIAGRAM 11  
LAMBING AND INTENDED MATINGS(a)  
SEASON 1976 TO 1994p



(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

### WOOL PRODUCTION

The 1992-93 wool clip has been estimated at 186,000 tonnes, approximately equalling the preceding season and reflecting the national situation where only a 0.6 per cent decrease in the wool clip has been noted. The number of lambs shorn during the season increased by 12.0 per cent to 6.33 million although the cut per head fell slightly to maintain the shorn wool production figure for lambs at approximately 9,000 tonnes. This partially reflects the fact that lambs were a slightly increased proportion of the WA flock but also lends weight to the conclusion that the primary purpose of increased lamb numbers was for meat production as reflected in increased slaughterings. The decrease in cut per head may be attributed to shearings immediately prior to slaughter.

TABLE 7 - SHEARING AND PRODUCTION (a), YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE

		1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993 <sub>p</sub>
<b>Sheep—</b>							
Number shorn	'000	31,670	33,899	36,471	35,530	33,459	34,080
Shorn wool	'000 tonnes	170	186	215	202	173	174
Average clip	kg	5.37	5.49	5.89	5.68	5.18	5.10
<b>Lambs—</b>							
Number shorn	'000	8,912	8,880	10,111	7,634	5,648	6,328
Shorn wool	'000 tonnes	14	15	17	13	9	9
Average clip	kg	1.58	1.64	1.67	1.66	1.57	1.50
<b>Total sheep and lambs—</b>							
Number shorn	'000	40,582	42,779	46,583	43,165	39,107	40,408
Shorn wool	'000 tonnes	184	201	232	215	182	183
Average clip	kg	4.54	4.69	4.97	4.97	4.65	4.53
<b>Other wool</b>							
produced (b)	'000 tonnes	4	3	4	8	4	3
<b>Total production</b>	<b>'000 tonnes</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>186</b>

(a) Based on the Industry's wool receivals collections conducted by the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia and the ABS. (b) Comprises dead and fellmongered wool and wool exported on skins.

DIAGRAM 12  
WOOL PRODUCTION  
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE

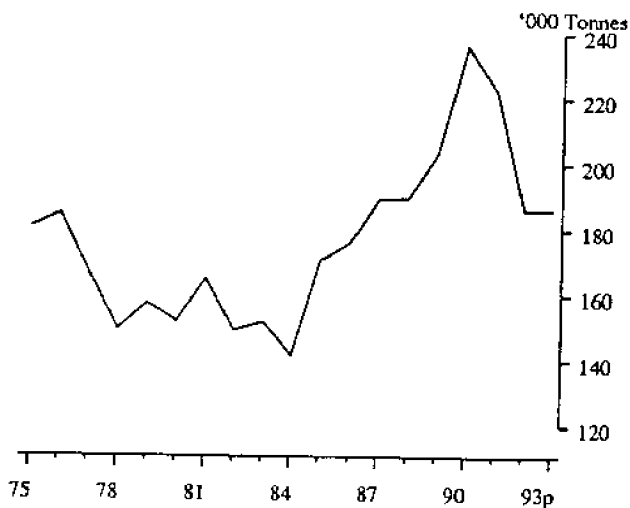
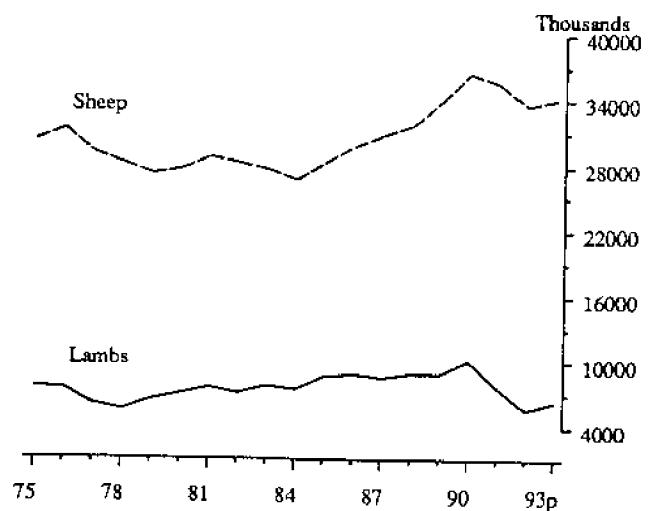


DIAGRAM 13  
SHEEP AND LAMBS SHORN  
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE



## CATTLE

Meat cattle numbers for the 1992-93 season decreased by 6.3 per cent reflecting the effects of extensive flooding in the State's North West. The fall can be attributed to stock losses and reporting difficulties for farmers in these areas. After reaching a peak of just under 2.5 million head in 1976 meat cattle numbers have declined by 35 per cent over the following 9 years but since 1985 have stabilised at around 1.5 to 1.7 million.

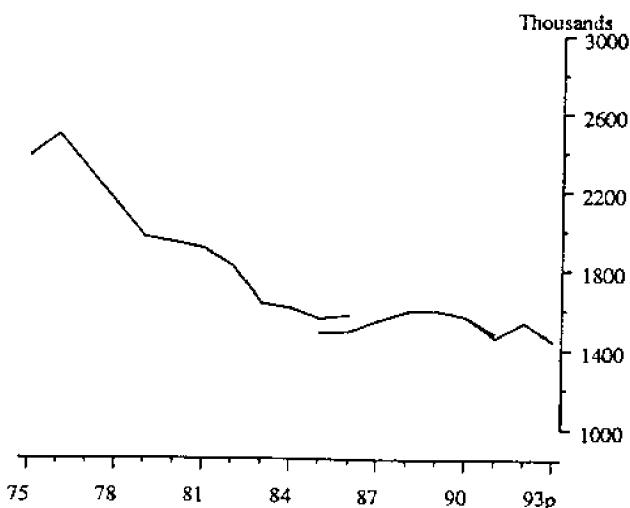
During 1992-93 milk cattle numbers declined after having increased slightly during the 1991-92 season. Milk cattle numbers dropped 6.1 per cent to 106,000. Preliminary indications are that 1992-93 milk production has increased slightly, suggesting an increasingly productive dairy cattle herd.

**TABLE 8 – CATTLE NUMBERS (a), AT 31 MARCH**  
(\*000)

Item	1987 (b)	1988 (b)	1989 (b)	1990 (b)	1991 (c)	1992 (c)	1993 (c)
<b>Milk—</b>							
Bulls/Bull calves used or intended for service—							
One year and over	1	1	1	1	(d)1	(d)1	(d)1
Under one year	—	—	—	—			
Cows in milk and dry	67	65	63	64	65	68	64
Heifers/Heifer calves—							
One year and over	28	27	26	25	(b)42	(d)44	(d)41
Under one year	20	20	19	20			
<b>Total milk cattle</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Meat—</b>							
Bulls/Bull calves used or intended for service—							
One year and over	36	40	43	40	(d)49	(d)47	(d)44
Under one year	10	11	12	12			
Cows and heifers—							
One to two years	201	210	224	199	(d)748	(d)782	(d)731
Over two years	616	643	650	650			
Heifer calves							
(under one year)	159	170	165	173	(d)351	(d)374	(d)350
Other calves							
(under one year)	194	195	196	204			
Other							
(one year and over)	325	321	301	283	310	334	314
<b>Total meat cattle</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>1,562</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,439</b>
<b>Total all cattle</b>	<b>1,658</b>	<b>1,704</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>1,649</b>	<b>1,544</b>

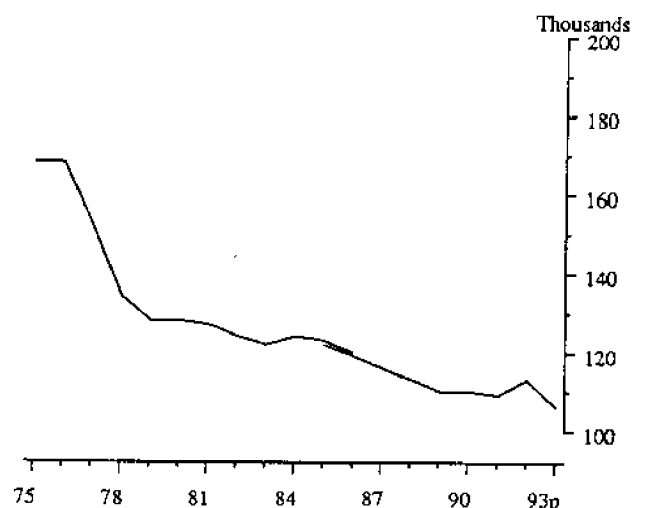
(a) Excludes house cows. (b) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (c) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (d) Not collected separately from 1991.

**DIAGRAM 14**  
**MEAT CATTLE NUMBERS(a)**  
**AT 31 MARCH**



(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

**DIAGRAM 15**  
**MILK CATTLE NUMBERS(a)**  
**AT 31 MARCH**



(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

**PIGS**

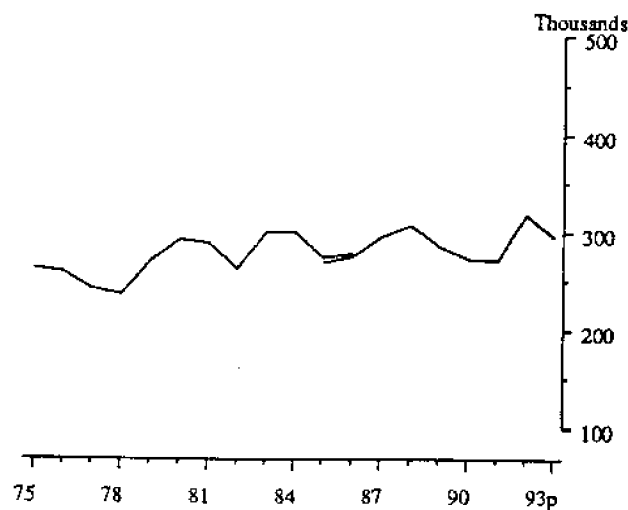
The State's pig population at March 1993 stood at 295,000, a decrease of 7.2 per cent over the record set in the previous year. Since the mid 1970s the State's pig population has fluctuated in a cyclical fashion between 250,000 and 300,000 although a 14 year high in 1988 saw the pig population climb to 307,000. The 1991-92 season also saw the 1988 record surpassed with 318,000 pigs reported. Increased slaughtering are largely responsible for this year's reduction in pig numbers.

**TABLE 9 - PIG NUMBERS, AT 31 MARCH**  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Item	1987 (a)	1988 (a)	1989 (a)	1990 (a)	1991 (b)	1992 (b)	1993 <sub>p</sub> (b)
Pigs—							
Boars	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Breeding sows	36	35	31	30	(c)35	(c)38	(c)36
Gilts intended for breeding	6	5	5	6			
Other pigs	250	264	246	234	233	277	256
<b>Total pigs</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>295</b>

(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (b) See explanatory notes 3 and 4. (c) Not collected separately from 1991.

**DIAGRAM 16**  
**PIG NUMBERS(a)**  
**AT 31 MARCH**



(a) See explanatory notes 3 and 4

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

**Scope and coverage**

This publication contains preliminary agricultural estimates from the 1992-93 season, together with estimates of intended sowings of principal crops and intended ewe matings for the forthcoming season. Comparative data for earlier years are also included.

2. Estimates are based on a proportion of information from the Agricultural Census conducted at 31 March 1993. The Census collects data from establishments with agricultural activity.

3. In order to minimise demands on small operators for statistical information and to reduce the cost of processing the Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) excludes from the Census establishments with an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) less than a certain cut-off level. This cut-off level is reviewed from time to time. From 1981-82 to 1985-86 establishments were excluded from the Census if they had, or were expected to have, an EVAO of less than \$2,500. From 1986-87 to 1990-91, the cut-off value was raised to \$20,000. From the 1991-92 Census, the cut-off has been raised to \$22,500.

4. While the \$2,500 cut-off applying up to 1985-86 resulted in some changes in the counts of numbers of establishments appearing in publications, the effect on production statistics for most commodities was small. The \$20,000 cut-off applying from 1986-87 to 1990-91 had a more significant effect on Census results and Census data for 1984-85 and 1985-86 has been retabulated to exclude establishments with EVAO less than \$20,000. Census results for 1990-91 have also been retabulated to exclude establishments with EVAO less than \$22,500. Comments in the Summary of Findings relate to data based on the \$22,500 cut-off.

5. In addition to the Agricultural Census, the ABS collects a truncated range of data from establishments with an expected EVAO of between \$5,000 and \$22,499. Data for these establishments is available, inquiries should

be made to the contact shown at the front of this publication.

6. Final and more detailed figures will be published in the following series of publications intended for release later in the year and during the early part of 1994 when all Agricultural Census returns have been fully processed.

Publication	Catalogue No.
Agriculture	7113.5
Selected Small Area Data	7120.5
Summary of Crops	7330.5
Livestock and Livestock Products	7221.5

7. As well as the statistics included in this and other related publications, the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to the contact shown at the front of this publication.

8. The ABS also has more detailed agricultural statistics on magnetic tape, microfiche, CD-Rom and floppy disk. Agstats on floppy disk offers a wider range of data aggregated at smaller geographic areas than those generally available in printed publications, together with an easy-to-use, menu driven interrogation facility.

9. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (1101.0) which is available from any ABS Office.

**Symbols and other usages**

EVAO	Estimated value of agricultural operations
p	preliminary - figures or series subject to revision
r	figure or series revised since previous issue
—	nil or rounded to zero
n.a.	not available.

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

## SHIRE LEVEL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS FOR MICROCOMPUTER AVAILABLE FOR 1987-88 TO 1991-92

The ABS Agstats package gives you access to all the data collected in the Agricultural Census, for each individual area (shires, etc) in which farming activity was recorded. Data can be retrieved via a series of very easy to use menu panels. Interrogations can be displayed on screen, sent to the printer, or written to a file suitable for input to packages such as Lotus 1-2-3, MS Word and Multiplan. Data from the 1987-88 to 1991-92 Agricultural Censuses are at present available in this format. Data for years prior to 1987-88 will be progressively released over the next few months.

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