

1999–2000

7111.0



PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 31 OCT 2000

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- For more information about these and related statistics, contact Debbie Thomas on Hobart 03 6222 5948, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION This publication contains preliminary estimates of principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers for the 1999–2000 season, intended ewe matings for the forthcoming season and comparative data for earlier years.

Final estimates for the 1999–2000 season will be published in July 2001 in *Agricultural Commodities, Australia* (Cat. no. 7121.0).

CHANGES TO THIS ISSUE The most recent statistics in this publication have been collected for the year ended 30 June 2000. Prior to this, agricultural commodity statistics were collected for years ended 31 March.

Tables showing lambing and intended matings have been consolidated into the livestock numbers table (Table 2) and no longer appear separately.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACS	Agricultural Commodity Survey
EVAO	Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations
ha	hectare
IRDB	Integrated Regional Data Base
p	preliminary
SE	standard error
r	figure or series revised since previous issue
t	tonne
*	relative SE of 25% to 50%
**	relative SE over 50%, estimate is not published
—	nil or rounded to zero
..	not applicable

D. Trewin
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

AREA OF CROPS

Preliminary estimates for 1999–2000 show increases in the area of wheat, canola and grain sorghum planted but decreases in other major crops including barley and oats.

The estimated area of wheat sown in Australia during 1999–2000 increased by 7% from 11.5 million hectares in 1998–99 to 12.3 million hectares in 1999–2000. This was a result of significant increases in plantings in New South Wales and Victoria (up by 308,000 hectares and 273,000 hectares) respectively.

The total area of barley planted for grain decreased by 18% from 3.2 million hectares in 1998–99 to 2.6 million hectares in 1999–2000. Significant falls were recorded in all States apart from Victoria, which was up slightly. The biggest decrease in area planted was recorded in Western Australia, down by 33% to 545,000 hectares.

The total area of sorghum planted for grain increased by 10% from 587,000 hectares in 1998–99 to 648,000 hectares in 1999–2000. Increased plantings in Queensland more than offset decreases in all other growing States.

The total area sown to oats fell by 36% to 578,000 hectares in 1999–2000 with decreased plantings recorded in all States.

The area planted to canola in Australia increased by 54%, from 1.2 million hectares in 1998–99 to an estimated record of 1.9 million hectares in 1999–2000. Significant increases were recorded in all major growing States. The biggest increase in plantings was in Western Australia, with the area sown up by 70% to 909,000 hectares.



PRODUCTION OF CROPS

Wheat production increased by 17% to a record 25.0 million tonnes in 1999–2000.

Improved average yields in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia combined with increased plantings in New South Wales and Victoria resulted in a significant increase in production in these States.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PRODUCTION OF CROPS *continued*

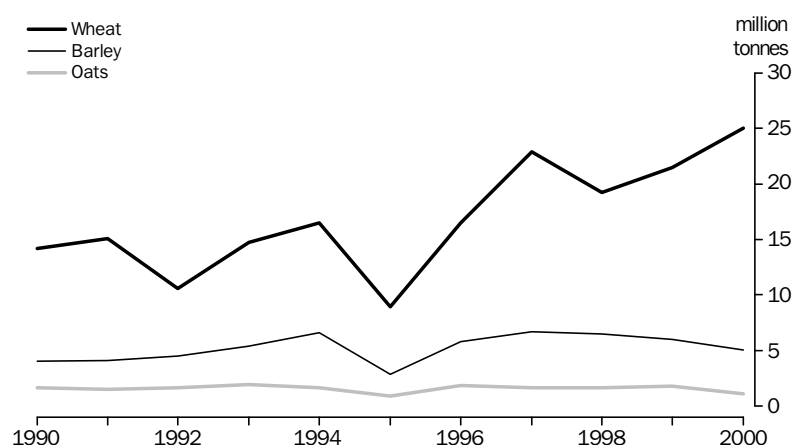
Dry conditions in South Australia resulted in lower average yields which more than offset increased plantings. As a result wheat production fell by 21% to 2.6 million tonnes. Western Australia was again the largest wheat producing State in Australia, with a record 9.2 million tonnes. This represented 37% of the total Australian harvest.

Barley production continued to fall, decreasing by 16% to 5.0 million tonnes in 1999–2000. Falls in barley production were recorded in all States apart from Victoria. The Victorian crop showed a significant increase in production following a return to better yields after a poor season in 1998–99. Improved yields were also reported in New South Wales and Western Australia but these were not enough to overcome the reduction in the area planted in these States. South Australia was the main barley producing State but reduced plantings and lower than average yields (due to poor seasonal conditions) resulted in a 31% fall in production, to 1.4 million tonnes.

Grain sorghum production increased by 14% to 2.2 million tonnes as a result of increased production in Queensland, the main producing State with 1.3 million tonnes.

The production of oats fell by 39% to 1.1 million tonnes with decreases being recorded in all States. Western Australia was the largest producing State with 432,000 tonnes or 40% of the national harvest. The largest falls in production were recorded in New South Wales and Victoria, down by 389,000 tonnes (or 58%) and 178,000 tonnes (or 39%) respectively.

The production of canola increased by 44% to a record of 2.4 million tonnes in 1999–2000 with all of the major growing States recording increases. Western Australia recorded the greatest increase in production (up by 61% to 989,000 tonnes) to become Australia's biggest canola producing State, ahead of New South Wales.

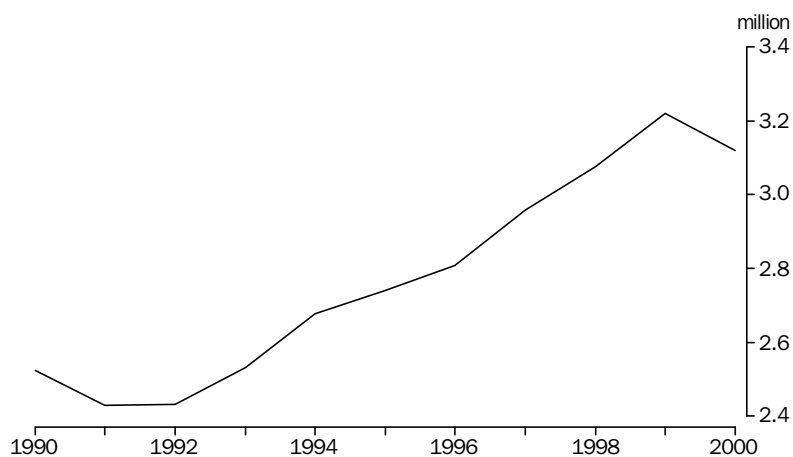


SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

LIVESTOCK

Milk cattle

Preliminary estimates of dairy cattle numbers indicated a slight reduction in the national herd, with numbers down 3% to 3.1 million cattle at 30 June 2000. This was a result of a fall in the estimated number of dairy bulls, heifers and calves, since the number of cows in milk and dry was little changed. Victoria continues to dominate the industry with 1.9 million dairy cattle, or 61% of the nation's herd.



Beef cattle

Preliminary estimates revealed little change in beef cattle numbers with the national herd estimated to be 23.6 million head at 30 June 2000. Increases in beef cattle numbers in Queensland were offset by decreases in New South Wales and Tasmania. The Queensland beef cattle herd of 11.2 million head represented 47% of the total herd, while the New South Wales herd of 5.3 million head represented 22% of the total herd.

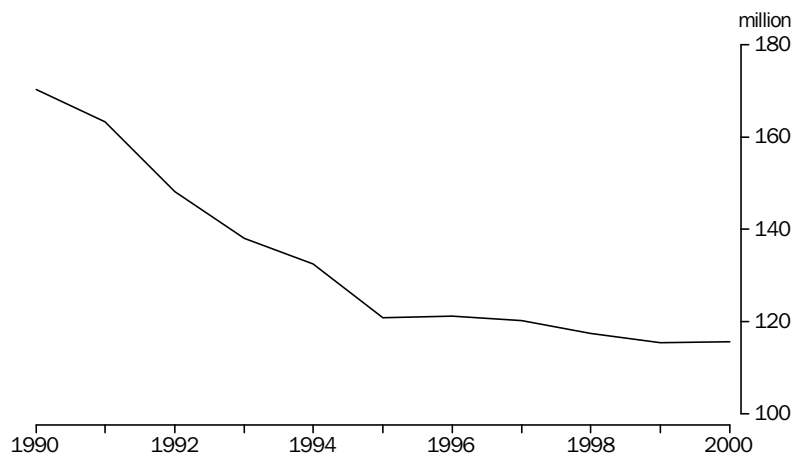


SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

LIVESTOCK *continued*

Sheep and lambs

The estimated size of the sheep and lamb flock was 116 million at 30 June 2000. This was little changed from the previous year. The New South Wales flock of 42.2 million represented 36% of the national total.



The number of ewes intended to be mated during the year ended 30 June 2001 was estimated to be 49.6 million head. Actual matings for the year ended 30 June 2000 (48.6 million) were 2% lower than actual matings reported the previous year.

There were 41.3 million lambs marked during the year, an increase of 3% over the previous year.

Pigs

Preliminary estimates showed a drop in pig numbers, down by 7% to 2.4 million head at 30 June 2000, with falls reported in all States.



1

AREA AND PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS(a)

	AUSTRALIA.....			2000p.....							
	1998	1999	2000p	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
WHEAT FOR GRAIN											
Area ('000 ha)	10 441	11 543	12 338	3 482	1 222	1 130	1 872	4 625	6	—	—
Production ('000 t)	19 227	21 465	25 012	8 641	2 595	1 969	2 600	9 189	18	—	—
OATS FOR GRAIN											
Area ('000 ha)	937	909	578	161	133	11	71	195	6	—	**
Production ('000 t)	1 634	1 798	1 092	280	280	13	77	432	10	—	**
BARLEY FOR GRAIN											
Area ('000 ha)	3 521	3 167	2 589	477	580	132	846	545	9	—	—
Production ('000 t)	6 482	5 987	5 043	1 052	1 181	259	1 410	1 120	20	—	—
LUPINS FOR GRAIN											
Area ('000 ha)	1 425	1 406	1 366	125	36	**	71	1 133	*—	—	—
Production ('000 t)	1 561	1 696	1 991	229	45	**	79	1 637	*—	—	—
CANOLA											
Area ('000 ha)	698	1 247	1 917	523	283	*1	200	909	*1	—	**
Production ('000 t)	855	1 690	2 427	800	397	*1	238	989	*1	—	**
CEREALS FOR HAY											
Area ('000 ha)	401	425	359	47	86	22	86	115	2	—	—
Production ('000 t)	1 567	1 827	1 445	168	357	89	298	523	10	—	—
SUGAR CANE CUT FOR CRUSHING											
Area ('000 ha)	415	402	435	24	(b)	409	(b)	2	(b)	(b)	(b)
Production ('000 t)	39 531	38 534	38 343	2 531	(b)	35 592	(b)	220	(b)	(b)	(b)
GRAIN SORGHUM											
Area ('000 ha)	507	587	648	207	*1	437	—	*2	—	1	—
Production ('000 t)	1 081	1 891	2 161	828	*2	1 328	—	*2	—	2	—

(a) The reference period for 2000 is the year ended 30 June. The reference period for previous years is the year ended 31 March (refer to Explanatory Notes, paragraph 2).

(b) Data not collected.

2

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS(a)

	AUSTRALIA.....			2000p.....							
	1998	1999	2000p	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
MILK CATTLE											
Cows in milk and dry ('000)	2 060	2 155	2 170	289	1 377	194	105	65	139	1	—
Other milk cattle ('000)	1 015	1 065	950	169	514	101	60	49	57	—	—
Total milk cattle ('000)(b)	3 076	3 220	3 120	459	1 890	294	166	114	196	1	—
MEAT CATTLE											
Bulls and bull calves intended for service ('000)	547	528	546	137	64	224	27	43	10	41	—
Other calves under one year ('000)	6 026	5 740	5 903	1 502	716	2 398	307	519	122	337	1
Cows and heifers one year and over ('000)	11 783	11 621	11 746	2 590	1 070	5 537	481	981	183	899	4
Other cattle one year and over ('000)	5 420	5 469	5 401	1 076	441	3 024	170	324	80	285	*2
Total meat cattle ('000)	23 776	23 358	23 596	5 305	2 291	11 183	986	1 868	396	1 561	7
SHEEP AND LAMBS											
Sheep ('000)	87 534	85 960	85 633	30 679	16 348	7 655	9 781	18 531	2 564	(c)	75
Lambs under one year ('000)	29 957	29 496	30 060	11 526	5 385	1 700	3 894	6 662	877	(c)	17
Total sheep and lambs ('000)	117 491	115 456	115 693	42 205	21 733	9 355	13 675	25 193	3 441	..	91
LAMBING											
Ewes actually mated ('000)(d)	51 350	49 882	48 641	17 996	8 850	3 001	6 205	11 126	1 437	(c)	26
Lambs marked ('000)	40 124	40 081	41 338	15 863	7 883	2 069	5 341	8 830	1 331	(c)	22
Proportion of lambs marked to ewes mated (%)	78.1	80.4	85.0	88.1	89.1	68.9	86.1	79.4	93.0	..	83.3
Ewes intended to be mated ('000)(e)	52 004	r52 062	49 552	18 442	9 029	3 365	6 155	11 146	1 384	(c)	31
PIGS											
Total pigs ('000)	2 768	2 626	2 433	726	464	550	402	271	19	2	—

(a) The reference period for 2000 is the year ended 30 June. The reference period for previous years is the year ended 31 March (refer to Explanatory Notes, paragraph 2).

(b) Excluding house cows.

(c) Data not collected.

(d) Ewes mated to produce lambs marked in the season shown.

(e) Forecast made at the beginning of each season.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains preliminary estimates of principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers for the 1999–2000 season, intended ewe matings for the forthcoming season, and comparative data for earlier years.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

2 Preliminary estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from the Agricultural Commodity Survey (ACS) conducted at 30 June 2000. Prior to this, agricultural commodity statistics were collected for years ended 31 March.

3 The scope of the 1999–2000 Survey is establishments undertaking agricultural activity having an Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations (EVAO) of \$5,000 or more. This is the same as the scope for Agricultural Censuses from 1993–94 to 1996–97 and for the ACS in 1997–98 and 1998–99. Prior to 1993–94 the scope has varied. Details are available on request.

GENERAL

4 The estimates for earlier years shown in this publication have been revised where necessary.

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

SAMPLE ERROR

6 The estimates are based on information obtained from a sample drawn from the total farm population in scope of the collection, and are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all farm businesses had been included in the ACS. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of farm businesses were included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the figure that would have been obtained if all farm businesses had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two SEs.

7 In this publication, sampling variability of the estimates is measured by the relative SE which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. Most published estimates have relative SEs less than 5%. For some States with limited production of certain commodities, some relative SEs are greater than 25%. If an estimate is identified by a single asterisk (e.g. *2) the relative SE lies between 25% and 50%. If an estimate is identified by a double asterisk (i.e. **) the relative SE is above 50% and the estimate is not published. Separate indication of the relative SEs of all estimates is available on request.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR OF SELECTED COMMODITIES—As at 30 June 2000

Commodity	NSW %	Vic. %	Qld %	SA %	WA %	Tas. %	NT %	ACT %	Aust. %
Wheat for grain production	2.2	2.1	5.7	2.1	1.6	6.9	—	—	1.1
Oats for grain production	5.8	6.0	24.8	8.3	6.3	7.5	—	66.1	3.3
Barley for grain production	4.0	2.8	7.9	3.2	3.4	5.1	—	—	1.6
Lupins for grain production	6.3	10.0	52.6	7.1	2.9	34.3	—	—	2.5
Canola production	4.2	4.5	36.5	4.8	3.4	30.3	—	72.8	2.1
Cereals for hay production	9.9	9.5	18.0	8.5	7.3	12.7	—	—	4.3
Sugar cane cut for crushing production	5.7	..	4.2	..	19.7	3.9
Grain sorghum production	5.9	49.2	5.7	—	39.1	—	—	—	4.2
Total milk cattle	5.8	3.4	4.3	6.9	6.3	3.6	—	—	2.3
Total meat cattle	2.4	4.0	2.6	4.8	3.7	2.7	3.6	11.0	1.5
Total sheep and lambs	2.4	2.1	6.3	2.4	1.9	2.6	—	7.6	1.2
Total pigs	3.3	8.0	6.4	6.1	5.7	5.8	1.0	—	2.6

UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

8 Unpublished statistics and customised output are available as a special data service and can be obtained by contacting Debbie Thomas on (03) 6222 5948 or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

9 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated. Without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

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