

PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

**AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY**

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 30 NOV 2005

C O N T E N T S

	<i>page</i>
Notes	2
Summary of findings	3

TABLES

1 Production and area of principal crops	7
2 Livestock numbers	8

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Explanatory Notes	9
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I N Q U I R I E S

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Ian Hilly on Hobart (03) 6222 5855.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION This publication contains preliminary estimates of principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers for the 2004–05 season and comparative data for earlier years. The data are based on a response rate of 70% of farms contributing to estimates from the 2005 Agricultural Survey. More comprehensive and updated estimates for the 2004–05 season will be published in June 2006 in *Agricultural Commodities, Australia* (cat. no. 7121.0).

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE There are no changes in this issue.

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ABBREVIATIONS

'000 thousand
ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT Australian Capital Territory
Aust. Australia
cat. no. Catalogue number
EVAO Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations
ha hectare
NSW New South Wales
NT Northern Territory
Qld Queensland
RSE relative standard error
SA South Australia
SE standard error
t tonne
Tas. Tasmania
Vic. Victoria
WA Western Australia

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

For 2004–05, harvests for many of the principal crops fell from the previous year's highs despite increased plantings, with dry conditions reported in many areas during the 2004 winter months. Meat cattle and sheep numbers increased slightly, while milk cattle numbers fell slightly and pig numbers remained steady.

AREA OF CROPS

Preliminary estimates for 2004–05 show increases in area planted for wheat, barley, canola, grain sorghum and cotton. Decreases in area planted were recorded for oats, lupins for grain, sugar cane for crushing and rice.

The total area sown to wheat for grain rose by 5% in 2004–05, to 13.8 million hectares. Increases were reported in the three main growing states, with New South Wales up by 10% (or 387,000 hectares), Western Australia up by 6% (or 271,000 hectares) and South Australia up by 6% (or 108,000 hectares).

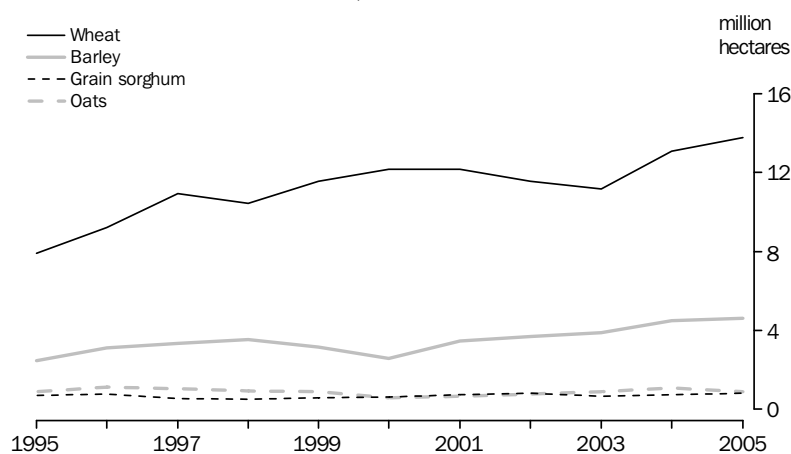
The total area sown to barley for grain increased by 3% in 2004–05, to 4.6 million hectares. The largest increases were reported in South Australia (up 7% or 88,100 hectares), New South Wales (up 5% or 49,400 hectares) and Victoria (up 4% or 35,800 hectares).

The total area of sorghum sown for grain rose by 9% in 2004–05, to 803,000 hectares. In Queensland, the main growing state, the area sown increased by 9% (or 45,400 hectares), while in New South Wales it increased by 12% (or 25,200 hectares).

The total area sown to oats for grain fell by 18% in 2004–05, to 892,000 hectares. The three main growing states all reported decreases. Western Australia fell by 28% (or 95,000 hectares), Victoria fell by 25% (or 49,100 hectares) and New South Wales fell by 9% (or 41,600 hectares).

In 2004–05, the total area sown to canola rose by 12% to 1.4 million hectares, the area planted to sugar cane for crushing fell slightly to 441,000 hectares, and the area planted to cotton rose by 36% to 309,000 hectares. The area sown to lupins for grain fell slightly, to 839,000 hectares, and the area sown to rice fell by 28% to 48,100 hectares.

AREA OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, Australia—1994–95 to 2004–05



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PRODUCTION OF CROPS

Preliminary estimates for 2004–05 show decreased production for all major crops, except grain sorghum, sugar cane cut for crushing and cotton lint. The fall in production reported for winter crops (i.e. wheat, barley, oats, canola and lupins) was largely due to dry conditions during their growing season. In contrast, production for summer crops (i.e. grain sorghum, and cotton) was assisted by an improvement in water availability and timely rainfall.

The production of wheat for grain fell by 13% in 2004–05, to 22.6 million tonnes. Decreases were reported in Western Australia (down 21% or 2.3 million tonnes), Victoria (down 38% or 1.2 million tonnes) and South Australia (down 23% or 803,000 tonnes). New South Wales reported increased wheat production, up by 8% or 547,000 tonnes.

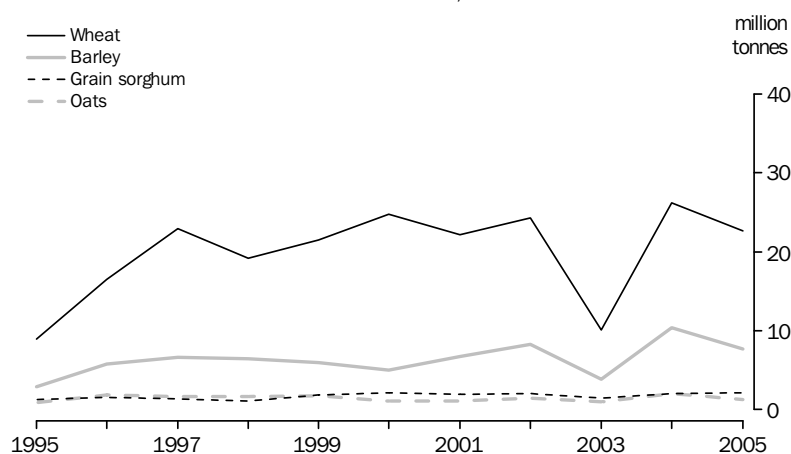
Production of barley for grain fell by 26% in 2004–05, to 7.7 million tonnes. All states, except Tasmania, reported decreased production compared with the previous year. The largest falls were reported in Victoria (down 44% or 999,000 tonnes), Western Australia (down 22% or 692,000 tonnes) and South Australia (down 25% or 673,000 tonnes).

Grain sorghum production rose by 8% in 2004–05, to 2.2 million tonnes. A 34% increase in production in New South Wales (up by 241,000 tonnes) was partly offset by a 5% (or 70,200 tonnes) decrease in production in Queensland, the major growing state.

Production of oats for grain fell by 35% in 2004–05, to 1.3 million tonnes. Decreases were reported in all the major growing states with the largest falls reported in Western Australia (down 37% or 280,000 tonnes), Victoria (down 45% or 229,000 tonnes) and New South Wales (down 23% or 138,000 tonnes).

In 2004–05, canola production fell by 12% to 1.5 million tonnes, lupins for grain production fell by 20% to 948,000 tonnes and rice production fell by 42% to 323,000 tonnes. In contrast, the production of sugar cane cut for crushing increased by 4% to 38.6 million tonnes, while the production of cotton lint rose by 57% to 497,000 tonnes.

PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, Australia—1994–95 to 2004–05



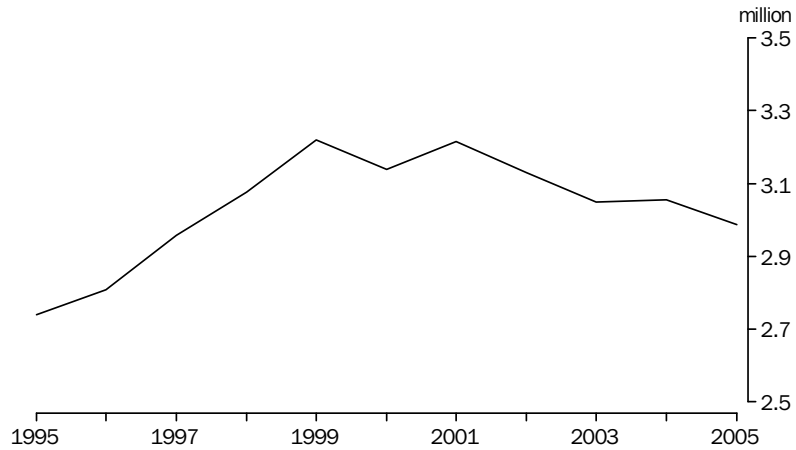
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

LIVESTOCK

Milk cattle

Preliminary estimates indicate that the number of milk cattle in Australia was 3.0 million head at 30 June 2005, down slightly from the previous year. Victoria continued to dominate the dairy industry with its herd of 1.9 million. Decreases in herd numbers were recorded in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, while Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania remained steady.

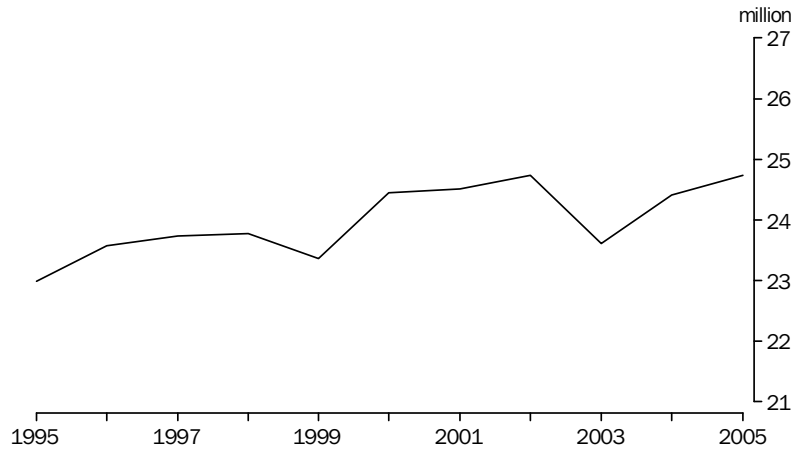
NUMBER OF MILK CATTLE, Australia—Year ended 30 June



Meat cattle

Preliminary estimates indicate the number of meat cattle in Australia increased slightly to 24.7 million head at 30 June 2005. The largest increases were reported in Queensland (up 2% or 266,000 head) and Victoria (up 5% or 115,000 head), while New South Wales was little changed.

NUMBER OF MEAT CATTLE, Australia—Year ended 30 June



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Sheep and lambs

Preliminary estimates indicate the number of sheep and lambs in Australia rose slightly to 103 million head at 30 June 2005. Increases were reported in Western Australia (up 4% or 1.1 million head), Victoria (up 3% or 547,000 head) and New South Wales (up slightly by 343,000 head), while in South Australia numbers fell by 4% or 532,000 head.

The number of lambs marked rose by 4% to 37.7 million in 2004–05.

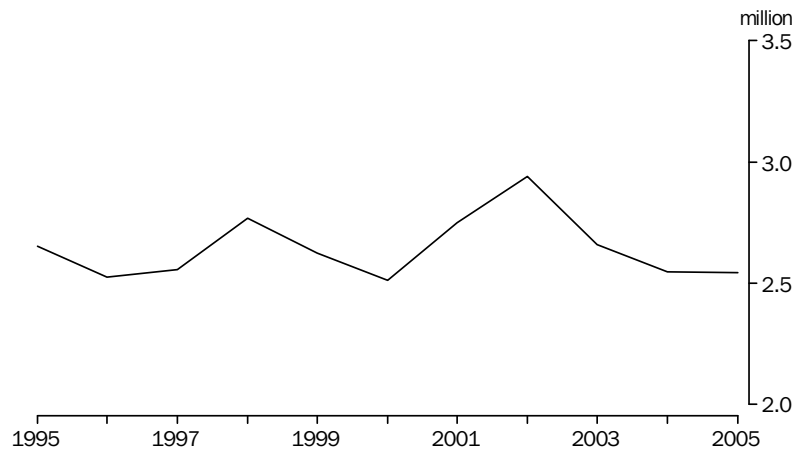
NUMBER OF SHEEP AND LAMBS, Australia—Year ended 30 June



Pigs

Preliminary estimates indicate the number of pigs in Australia remained steady at 2.5 million at 30 June 2005. Increases in pig numbers in New South Wales and Queensland were offset by falls in South Australia and Western Australia, while Victoria was little changed.

NUMBER OF PIGS, Australia—Year ended 30 June



PRODUCTION AND AREA OF PRINCIPAL CROPS (a)

	Aust.			2005							
	2003	2004	2005	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
BARLEY FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	3 865	10 382	7 708	1 711	1 275	195	2 018	2 478	30	na	—
Area ('000 ha)	3 864	4 477	4 617	1 000	907	107	1 304	1 289	8	na	—
CANOLA											
Production ('000 t)	871	1 703	1 496	460	327	**—	238	470	^ 1	na	1
Area ('000 ha)	1 298	1 211	1 351	433	275	**—	227	414	^—	na	—
COTTON LINT											
Production ('000 t)	^ 364	317	^ 497	^ 267	na	^ 230	na	—	na	na	na
Area ('000 ha)	245	227	309	^ 161	na	^ 148	na	—	na	na	na
GRAIN SORGHUM											
Production ('000 t)	1 465	2 009	2 177	950	—	1 226	na	—	na	1	—
Area ('000 ha)	667	734	803	238	**—	565	na	—	na	—	—
LUPINS FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	726	1 180	948	^ 52	^ 19	**—	63	814	^ 1	na	—
Area ('000 ha)	1 025	851	839	58	^ 34	**—	66	680	^—	na	—
OATS FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	957	2 018	1 321	472	278	^ 5	85	471	^ 9	na	—
Area ('000 ha)	911	1 089	892	408	145	^ 12	74	249	^ 4	na	—
RICE FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	438	553	323	319	4	na	na	—	na	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	46	66	48	48	1	na	na	—	na	—	—
SUGAR CANE CUT FOR CRUSHING											
Production ('000 t)	36 995	36 993	38 638	2 266	na	35 964	na	408	na	na	na
Area ('000 ha)	448	448	441	21	na	416	na	3	na	na	na
WHEAT FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	10 132	26 132	22 605	7 835	1 943	1 308	2 688	8 797	31	na	2
Area ('000 ha)	11 170	13 067	13 766	4 370	1 355	777	2 067	5 188	7	na	1

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Data for 2003 and 2004 are final; data for 2005 are preliminary and may be subject to revision.

	Aust.			2005							
	2003	2004	2005	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
MILK CATTLE (b)											
Cows in milk and dry ('000)	2 050	2 038	2 005	250	1 319	145	^ 95	67	130	—	—
Other milk cattle ('000)	999	1 016	983	155	578	78	^ 64	51	57	—	—
Total milk cattle ('000)	3 049	3 054	2 988	405	1 897	223	^ 159	118	187	—	—
MEAT CATTLE											
Bulls and bull calves intended for service ('000)	570	617	645	158	^ 62	289	28	49	12	48	—
Other calves under one year ('000)	5 292	5 260	5 427	1 343	694	2 090	314	440	150	393	2
Cows and heifers one year and over ('000)	12 245	12 570	13 021	2 868	1 233	6 003	562	1 031	254	1 065	5
Other cattle one year and over ('000)	5 508	5 964	5 646	1 059	516	3 129	204	369	118	250	2
Total meat cattle ('000)	23 615	24 410	24 739	5 428	2 505	11 511	1 107	1 889	534	1 756	9
SHEEP AND LAMBS											
Sheep ('000)	73 394	72 365	73 349	25 844	14 679	3 639	8 499	18 229	2 386	na	72
Lambs under one year ('000)	25 858	28 922	29 314	9 726	5 846	^ 1 050	3 887	7 920	866	na	19
Total sheep and lambs ('000)	99 252	101 287	102 663	35 570	20 525	4 690	12 386	26 149	3 253	—	92
LAMBING											
Ewes mated to produce lambs ('000)	43 741	43 772	45 963	16 202	8 917	^ 1 873	5 949	11 602	1 387	—	31
Lambs marked ('000)	33 932	36 313	37 697	13 149	7 642	1 206	4 934	9 466	1 277	—	23
Proportion of lambs marked to ewes mated (%)	77.6	83.0	82.0	81.2	85.7	64.4	82.9	81.6	92.0	—	72.0
Ewes expected to lamb next year ('000)(c)	45 519	46 333	47 256	17 352	9 112	^ 1 701	5 766	11 929	1 360	na	36
PIGS											
Total pigs ('000)	2 658	2 548	2 543	653	545	696	358	274	14	3	na
<p>^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution (a) Data for 2003 and 2004 are final; data for 2005 are preliminary and may be subject to revision.</p> <p>— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells) (b) Excluding house cows.</p> <p>na not available (c) Forecast made at the beginning of each season.</p>											

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains preliminary estimates of principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers for the 2004–05 season, ewes expected to lamb in the forthcoming season, and comparative data for earlier years. These results are based on a response rate of 70% of establishments contributing to estimates from the 2004–05 Agricultural Survey, and are comparable with the response rates of previous years' preliminary estimates.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

2 Estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from the Agricultural Survey conducted at 30 June 2005.

3 The scope of the 2004–05 Agricultural 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 2000–01, and for the Agricultural Surveys from 1997–98 to 1999–2000 and for 2001–02 to 2003–04. Prior to 1993–94 the scope has varied and these 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.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES (SAMPLE ERROR)

6 The estimates in this publication 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 farms had been included in the Agricultural Survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might vary by chance because only a sample was taken. 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 farms had responded, 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 standard error (RSE) which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers.

8 Most published estimates have RSEs less than 5%. For some states with limited production of certain commodities, RSEs are greater than 10%. Estimates that have an estimated RSE between 10% and 25% are annotated with the symbol '^'. These estimates should be used with caution as they are subject to sampling variability too high for some purposes. Estimates with an RSE between 25% and 50% are annotated with the symbol '*', indicating that the estimate should be used with caution as it is subject to sampling error too high for most practical purposes. Estimates with an RSE greater than 50% are annotated with the symbol '**', indicating that the sampling variability causes the estimates to be considered too unreliable for general use. Separate indication of the RSEs of all estimates is available on request.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES
(SAMPLE ERROR) *continued*

9 A table with RSEs for the principal commodities in this publication follows:

RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR OF PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES—At 30 June 2005

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Barley for grain, production	4.2	3.6	9.0	3.5	3.3	8.6	..	—	1.8
Canola, production	5.2	5.3	65.0	5.6	6.8	24.1	..	—	3.0
Cotton lint, production	13.5	..	18.9	..	—	..	..	..	11.4
Grain sorghum, production	8.2	—	5.1	..	—	..	—	—	4.6
Lupins for grain, production	11.2	11.6	79.2	9.6	4.8	12.2	..	—	4.2
Oats for grain, production	6.3	6.3	21.3	9.7	5.8	14.6	..	—	3.4
Rice for grain, production	6.8	—	..	..	—	..	—	—	6.7
Sugar cane cut for crushing, production	8.3	..	4.8	..	—	..	..	..	4.5
Wheat for grain, production	3.7	3.2	6.4	3.2	2.3	9.5	..	—	1.7
Total milk cattle	6.5	4.7	7.2	10.4	8.2	4.8	..	—	3.2
Total meat cattle	3.1	3.7	5.0	4.7	4.5	6.4	—	—	2.5
Total sheep and lambs	2.8	3.1	7.9	3.3	2.7	3.2	—	—	1.5
Total pigs	5.2	5.7	7.5	10.0	6.7	7.8	—	..	3.2

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON
REQUEST

10 As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to either the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Ian Hilly on (03) 6222 5855.

GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

11 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*.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

12 A range of agricultural publications is produced by the ABS, including:

Agricultural Commodities, Australia, cat. no. 7121.0

Livestock and Meat, Australia — Electronic Publication, cat. no. 7218.0.55.001

Livestock Products, Australia, cat. no. 7215.0

Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, cat. no. 7503.0

Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, Preliminary, cat. no. 7501.0

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