



2005-06

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VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PRODUCED AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 8 MAY 2008

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INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Geoff Ellerton on Hobart (03) 6222 5856.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION This publication contains final estimates of gross value of production of selected agricultural commodities for all states, territories and Australia for the year ended 30 June 2006.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE *Move to a new register of agricultural businesses*

Until recently, the ABS had maintained its own register of agricultural establishments. However, it had become increasingly difficult to maintain this list, and users were questioning the accuracy of some of the commodity data published. The ABS investigated a number of alternatives for maintaining the register and it was agreed that the ABS should move to a new frame sourced from the Australian Taxation Office's Australian Business Register (ABR).

The ABR-based frame has been used for the first time to conduct the 2005–06 Agricultural Census. An implication of this strategy is that Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced (VACP) data are not directly comparable with historical time series for most crops and for eggs. This is because, in addition to the change in frame, there have been changes in methodologies used for determining whether agricultural businesses are 'in-scope' of the collection and in some of the ways the data are compiled. (For more information, please see the technical note on page 12.)

Value of hay

The 2004–05 Agricultural Survey included separate questions about production of pastures and grasses cut for hay, and other crops for hay. The 2005–06 Agricultural Census asked only the total production of all crops for hay. An estimated average hay price has been applied to total hay production to derive the value of all crops for hay.

Value of nurseries, cut flowers and cultivated turf

The VACP Market Prices survey collected separate prices for undercover and outdoor production for the first time in 2005-06. This has enabled the ABS to better reflect the value of undercover and outdoor production for nurseries and cut flowers.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

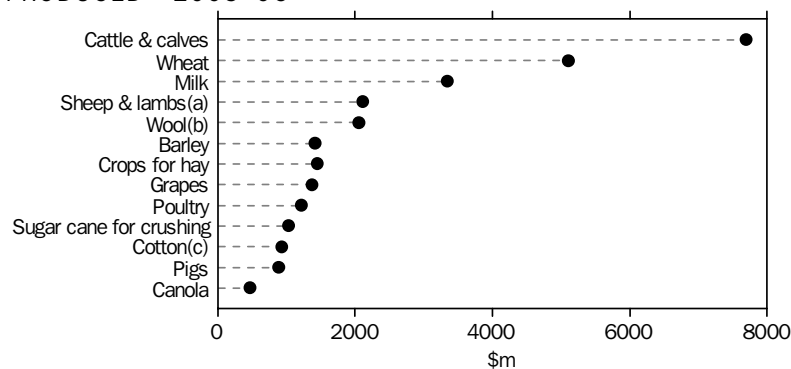
NATIONAL ESTIMATES

The basis of the collection of many agricultural commodities was changed with the introduction of the 2005-06 Agricultural Census. The main effect of the change is that a direct comparison between the 2005-06 estimate of the Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced (VACP) and previous years must be treated with caution. More information concerning the break in the VACP series is included in the Explanatory and Technical Notes.

For VACP purposes, the new basis for commodity production data does not apply to commodities not collected in the 2005-06 Agricultural Census. Production data for apples and pears, grapes, livestock disposals and livestock products (with the exception of eggs) are sourced from other ABS collections and continue to be comparable across time.

The final estimate of the gross VACP for Australia in 2005-06 was \$38.5 billion. Nationally the largest contributors were slaughtering and other disposals of cattle and calves (\$7.7 billion), wheat for grain (\$5.1 billion) and whole milk (\$3.3 billion).

GROSS VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PRODUCED—2005-06



- (a) Excludes value of wool on skins
 (b) Includes value of dead wool and wool on skins
 (c) Includes value of cotton lint and seed

Crops

In 2005-06, the final estimate of the gross value of all crops was \$20.8 billion. The highest contributors were wheat for grain (\$5.1 billion), hay (\$1.5 billion) barley and grapes (each worth \$1.4 billion) and sugar cane (\$1.0 billion). The combined value of nurseries, cut flowers and cultivated turf production was \$1.4 billion in 2005-06 as average prices increased significantly.

Average prices increased moderately for wheat (up by 3%) and hay (up by 4%) in 2005-06. The average price of sugar cane increased by 7% and sorghum's average price rose by 6%, while the average prices of oats and canola increased by 10% and 2% respectively.

However the average price of rice and barley fell significantly (down 12% and 6% respectively) while the average cotton price fell by 1% over the same period. The average prices of field peas and lupins each fell by 5%.

The value of grape production decreased by 9% to \$1.4 billion as production fell by 2% and the average price declined by 7% due to an excess supply of wine grapes. The value of Australian banana production in 2005-06 was \$431 million as the average price increased to nearly \$2,300/tonne due to the effects of Cyclone Larry in Queensland.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Crops continued

Production of apples fell by 15% and average prices decreased by 20%, resulting in a 32% decrease in value to \$360 million in 2005-06.

The average price of most staple vegetables rose significantly during 2005-06 with tomatoes up by 52%, mushrooms (up by 11%) and potatoes increasing by 10%. Other vegetables to report improved prices included capsicum, chillies and peppers (up 65%) carrots (up 13%), lettuce (up 15%), and onions (up 17%).

The value of the Nursery group of commodities (defined as nurseries production, cut flowers and cultivated turf and included as part of 'All other crops' in this publication) increased significantly in 2005-06. This reflected an increase in production and an improved valuation of undercover production for nurseries and cut flowers.

Livestock slaughterings and other disposals

In 2005-06, the final estimate of the gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals was \$12.0 billion, a fall of less than 1% from the previous year.

The total number of cattle disposals in 2005-06 fell by 5%. Average prices rose by 3%, which was not enough to offset the fall in cattle numbers and, as a result, the value of cattle and calves slaughterings and other disposals fell by 2% to \$7.7 billion.

The gross total value of sheep and lambs slaughterings and other disposals rose by \$163m to \$2.1 billion in 2005-06. The total number of sheep and lamb disposals increased by 9% but average prices remained unchanged to result in a net 8% increase in value.

The value of domestic slaughterings of sheep and lambs increased by 4% to \$1.8 billion, with the 6% rise in the number slaughtered slightly offset by a small decrease in average prices (down 1%).

Similarly, the value of Australian live sheep and lambs exported in 2005-06 increased by 41% to \$298 million, as the number exported rose by 31% and average prices increased by 7%.

In 2005-06 the gross total value of pigs slaughterings and other disposals fell by 2% to \$890 million, with the number of total disposals remaining steady and average prices decreasing by 2%.

The gross value of total poultry disposals fell by 6% to \$1.2 billion as production increased marginally (by less than 1%) and prices fell by 6% in 2005-06.

Livestock products

The final estimate of the gross value of livestock products in 2005-06 was \$5.8 billion, up 1% on the previous year.

The value of total wool production fell by \$112m (down 5%) to \$2.1 billion as the average price fell by 7% and production increased by 2%. Production of shorn wool rose slightly (up by 1%) whilst the production of skin wool increased by 7% as more sheep and lambs were slaughtered in 2005-06.

The gross value of whole milk increased by \$148m (or 5%) to \$3.3 billion in 2005-06. Production fell marginally (by less than 1%) due to residual drought conditions, but average prices increased by 5%.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Livestock products continued

Production of eggs was collected in the 2005-06 Agricultural Census and consequently the figures are not comparable with previous years. The gross value of Australian egg production in 2005-06 was \$376 million. Average egg prices decreased by 7% over the same period.

2006 NEW BASIS (a) (b)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Crops									
Cereals for grain									
Barley	279.4	274.7	23.1	403.8	430.2	6.1	na	—	1 417.4
Grain sorghum	117.8	^ 0.1	157.1	^ 0.1	^ 0.5	na	*0.3	—	276.0
Maize	42.1	3.6	24.2	na	^ 0.7	na	*—	—	70.6
Oats	97.0	38.3	1.8	15.7	94.1	1.8	na	*—	248.7
Rice	258.0	2.7	na	na	—	na	—	—	260.7
Triticale	50.9	40.1	^ 0.2	16.6	9.8	1.4	na	—	119.0
Wheat	1 432.7	597.8	241.4	829.3	1 991.6	6.5	na	—	5 099.2
Other	16.9	11.1	7.0	23.0	30.7	^ 0.5	*0.1	—	89.3
Total fruit	794.9	1 013.7	910.8	916.1	261.7	59.7	47.0	0.6	4 004.4
Cotton(c)	574.6	na	358.7	na	—	na	na	na	933.3
Legumes for grain									
Field peas	13.1	38.3	^ 0.1	54.5	23.3	0.5	na	—	129.9
Lupins	22.3	11.6	*—	25.6	191.2	^ 0.3	na	—	251.1
Other	42.0	123.7	19.9	81.6	9.0	*0.3	—	—	276.5
Oilseeds									
Canola	92.8	84.6	^ 0.2	69.3	226.0	0.4	na	—	473.4
Other	44.8	1.4	8.2	^ 0.2	na	na	*—	na	54.7
Crops for hay(d)	354.8	576.9	114.7	164.9	162.3	67.2	^ 9.6	^ 0.4	1 450.7
Total vegetables	358.8	635.6	945.0	388.3	292.4	198.5	14.4	*0.2	2 833.4
Peanuts	^ 0.4	na	16.8	na	—	—	—	—	17.2
Sugar cane for crushing	63.5	na	962.8	na	^ 5.5	na	na	na	1 031.8
Tobacco	na	25.3	*1.7	na	na	na	na	na	27.1
All other crops	391.6	489.6	374.2	104.5	201.2	159.5	9.2	^ 3.1	1 732.7
Total crops	5 048.6	3 969.0	4 167.9	3 093.6	3 930.3	502.7	80.7	4.3	20 797.1
Livestock slaughterings and other disposals									
Cattle & calves	1 603.3	1 268.0	3 606.7	266.1	539.3	178.8	219.4	3.5	7 684.9
Sheep & lambs(e)	475.9	760.6	48.7	307.0	469.4	49.3	0.1	1.2	2 112.4
Pigs	267.1	127.8	230.4	np	np	np	0.9	na	890.1
Poultry	413.8	361.6	223.0	np	np	np	—	0.3	1 222.7
Other	2.1	14.0	16.4	1.5	12.1	—	3.4	—	49.5
Total livestock slaughterings and other disposals	2 762.1	2 532.0	4 125.2	845.8	1 213.4	252.3	223.8	5.1	11 959.6
Livestock products									
Wool(a) (f)	691.5	426.6	106.3	246.6	507.8	73.3	—	1.9	2 053.9
Milk(a)	411.0	2 187.2	218.4	206.4	109.2	209.1	—	—	3 341.3
Eggs	108.5	111.7	91.1	16.8	32.6	7.5	1.8	5.7	375.6
Total livestock products	1 211.0	2 725.5	415.8	469.7	649.6	289.9	1.8	7.6	5 770.8
Total agriculture	9 021.6	9 226.5	8 708.9	4 409.2	5 793.3	1 044.9	306.2	17.0	38 527.6

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

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) New basis does not apply to all estimates. See paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes for further detail.

(b) Used the Australian Business Register-based frame (list of agricultural businesses).

(c) Includes value of cotton lint and cotton seed.

(d) Includes pasture, cereal and other crops cut for hay.

(e) Excludes value of wool on skins.

(f) Includes value of dead wool and wool on skins.

GROSS VALUE, Fruit and Nuts—Year ended 30 June 2006

2006 NEW BASIS(a)(b)									
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
.....									
Citrus									
Lemons & limes	5.6	7.0	15.2	3.8	0.9	na	^ 0.3	—	32.9
Mandarins	9.4	8.6	69.4	27.0	3.8	na	*—	—	118.2
Oranges	114.7	57.6	5.8	93.9	2.9	na	—	—	274.9
Pome									
Apples(a)	69.1	171.1	20.5	41.8	31.8	25.4	na	0.1	359.9
Pears (excl. Nashi)(a)	0.4	65.6	0.8	10.7	7.0	1.4	na	—	85.7
Stone									
Apricots	0.9	11.3	^ 0.8	7.9	1.2	1.7	na	*—	23.8
Cherries	53.1	25.7	^ 0.2	9.1	1.8	8.1	na	—	97.9
Nectarines	18.4	58.4	7.1	8.9	12.5	0.5	na	—	105.7
Peaches	13.2	74.6	6.5	^ 5.3	7.9	0.4	na	*—	107.9
Plums & prunes	14.3	18.8	4.3	4.9	11.2	0.3	—	*—	53.6
Other orchard fruit									
Avocados	13.2	4.5	50.5	4.5	8.9	na	—	—	81.6
Mangoes	0.6	na	58.0	na	9.0	na	30.1	—	97.6
Nuts									
Almonds	^ 6.4	36.0	—	62.2	na	na	na	—	104.5
Macadamia	65.8	na	39.1	na	*—	—	na	—	104.9
Berry fruit									
Blueberries	60.1	5.0	*—	*0.3	^—	^ 1.6	na	—	67.0
Strawberries	^ 1.9	43.6	73.4	21.6	26.9	2.5	—	—	170.0
Tropical									
Bananas	34.8	na	380.0	na	^ 13.2	na	2.6	—	430.7
Papaws / Papaya	^—	na	^ 8.7	na	^ 0.5	na	^ 0.2	—	^ 9.5
Pineapples	—	na	71.3	na	na	na	*0.1	—	71.5
Grapes(a)	274.2	355.9	32.6	597.7	93.9	14.2	8.5	0.5	1 377.5
Other fruit n.e.i.	38.9	70.1	66.4	16.7	28.3	^ 3.8	^ 5.1	^—	229.2
Total fruit	794.9	1 013.7	910.8	916.1	261.7	59.7	47.0	0.6	4 004.4

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

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) New basis does not apply to all estimates. See paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes for further detail.

(b) Used the Australian Business Register-based frame (list of agricultural businesses).

GROSS VALUE, Vegetables—year ended 30 June 2006

2006 NEW BASIS(a)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Asparagus	^ 0.8	43.7	^ 0.9	*—	^ 1.1	^ —	—	—	46.6
Beans, french and runner	5.0	11.3	61.9	^ 0.2	^ 6.1	4.9	*—	—	89.3
Beetroot	^ 0.6	0.3	^ 7.6	*0.2	^ 0.6	*0.1	na	—	9.5
Broccoli	7.1	38.4	16.8	^ 2.1	16.4	5.6	—	—	86.5
Cabbages	13.5	21.0	14.5	^ 5.9	6.3	^ 1.0	*—	—	62.2
Capsicums and chillies	1.7	8.3	143.2	12.5	^ 11.2	*0.9	*0.3	—	178.0
Carrots	6.8	24.0	15.0	49.2	35.1	26.3	—	—	156.4
Cauliflower	8.0	21.0	9.5	^ 7.2	3.8	3.4	na	—	53.0
Celery	*—	25.6	4.7	*4.8	5.6	0.4	—	—	41.1
Cucumbers	11.8	^ 1.1	^ 22.9	10.8	^ 12.8	^ 0.1	0.4	—	59.9
Green peas	^ 0.8	^ 1.3	^ 1.0	^ 0.1	^ 0.3	6.2	—	—	9.6
Lettuces	27.7	49.9	58.1	11.5	8.6	^ 2.7	*0.4	—	159.1
Melons									
Rock and cantaloupe	^ 22.3	^ 5.6	35.5	2.0	23.4	—	4.1	—	92.8
Water	^ 14.3	2.2	39.1	0.7	10.3	—	^ 4.9	—	71.5
Mushrooms	63.4	73.5	57.2	18.7	np	np	—	—	243.8
Onions(b)	12.5	7.8	20.7	62.6	13.9	27.6	0.3	—	145.3
Parsnips	0.6	6.8	—	*6.1	^ 1.9	0.7	—	—	^ 16.0
Potatoes	49.3	117.1	46.9	135.9	40.5	73.7	—	—	463.5
Pumpkins	21.5	2.0	33.4	2.7	19.9	0.9	0.4	—	80.8
Sweet corn	5.8	11.8	36.0	^ 0.6	^ 5.8	0.1	—	—	60.1
Tomatoes	19.7	74.7	145.2	^ 13.6	^ 18.6	^ 0.8	*0.2	*—	272.8
Zucchini and button squash	6.0	^ 3.3	57.5	^ 0.8	^ 4.0	*—	^ 0.1	—	71.7
Other vegetables n.e.i. (c)	59.7	84.8	117.3	^ 40.2	np	np	3.4	*0.2	363.7
Total vegetables	358.8	635.6	945.0	388.3	292.4	198.5	14.4	*0.2	2 833.4

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

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Used the Australian Business Register-based frame (list of agricultural businesses).

(b) Includes brown, red and white onions.

(c) In past years, beetroot, cabbages, celery, cucumbers, parsnips, zucchini and button squash were included in 'Other vegetables n.e.i'.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The value estimates in this publication are derived by the multiplication of price and quantity estimates of agricultural commodities.

2 Price data refers to the average unit value of a given commodity realised in the marketplace. Price information for livestock slaughterings and wool is obtained from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collections. Price information for other commodities is obtained from non-ABS sources, including marketing authorities and industry sources.

3 Quantity data for most crops and for eggs have been collected from the 2005–06 Agricultural Census. The basis of the collection of these agricultural commodities was changed with the introduction of a new frame for the 2005–06 Agricultural Census. Details of the change are included in the Technical Note. Remaining commodity data (apples, grapes, livestock disposals and livestock products excluding eggs) are obtained from other ABS collections, with some information from non-ABS sources, and continue to be comparable across time.

GENERAL

4 Where figures for individual states or territories have been suppressed for reasons of confidentiality, they have been included in relevant totals.

5 The estimates for 2004–05 shown in this publication have been revised where necessary.

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

7 The method of collection of relevant prices and the costs of marketing for agricultural commodities varies considerably between states and between commodities. Where a statutory authority handles marketing of the whole or a portion of a product, data are usually obtained from this source. Information is also obtained from marketing reports, wholesalers, brokers and auctioneers. For all commodities, values are in respect of production during the year (or season) irrespective of when payments are made. For that portion of production not marketed (e.g. hay grown on farm for own use), estimates are made from the best available information and, in general, are calculated on a local value basis.

PERIOD COVERED

8 The production statistics used in deriving the final value estimates for 2004-05 and 2005-06 relate to the years ended 30 June.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

9 The following are brief definitions of the terms used:

- *Gross value of commodities produced* is the value placed on recorded production at the wholesale prices realised in the market place.
- *Market place*, in general, is the metropolitan market in each state. In cases where commodities are consumed locally, or where they become raw material for a secondary industry, these points are presumed to be the market place.
- *Livestock slaughterings and other disposals values* are published as one figure but include two distinct components:
 - value of livestock slaughtered; and
 - value of net exports, i.e. the total value of livestock intended for slaughter in adjacent state(s) where available (at present these can only be identified between the Northern Territory and adjacent states) and livestock exported overseas whether for slaughter or breeding, minus the value of imports of livestock.

SAMPLE ERROR

10 The estimates for 2005–06 gross value of most crops and for eggs are based on information obtained from respondents to the 2005–06 Agricultural Census. Data from the 2005-06 Agricultural Census are based on a response rate of 93%. Since not all units responded, the estimates may differ from those that would have been produced if all units had responded. These estimates are therefore subject to sampling variability; that

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all agricultural businesses had responded to the Agricultural Census.

11 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 was taken or received. 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 establishments had been reported for, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two SEs.

12 The estimates of gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals, wool and milk are based on data obtained from censuses and are therefore not subject to sampling variability.

13 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. Most published estimates have RSEs less than 10%. For some states with limited production of certain commodities, RSEs are greater than 10%. Estimates that have an estimated relative standard error 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 variability 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.

14 A table with RSEs for selected estimates of gross values follows:

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS, Gross values of selected commodities—At 30 June 2006

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Barley for grain	0.8	0.4	2.0	0.4	0.6	3.4	na	—	0.3
Grain sorghum	1.4	12.5	1.2	13.3	23.0	na	26.9	—	0.9
Wheat for grain	0.7	0.4	1.7	0.5	0.4	3.0	na	—	0.3
Lupins for grain	2.9	1.5	29.5	1.1	1.0	18.6	na	—	0.8
Canola	1.2	0.7	21.2	0.9	1.0	7.7	na	—	0.6
Sugar cane for crushing	1.6	na	0.7	na	11.3	na	na	na	0.7
Total crops	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.9	2.6	8.0	0.2
Livestock slaughterings
Livestock products	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	—	—	0.1
Total agriculture	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.7	2.0	0.1

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

15 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 Geoff Ellerton on (03) 6222 5856 or the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

16 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

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the Census and Statistics Act 1905.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

17 A range of publications relevant to the Agriculture sector are produced by the ABS, including:

Agricultural Commodities, Australia, (cat. no. 7121.0)

Livestock and Meat, Australia, (cat. no. 7218.0.55.001)

Livestock Products, Australia, (cat. no. 7215.0)

Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms, (cat. no. 4620.0)

Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary, (cat. no. 7111.0)

Selected Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary, (cat. no. 7112.0)

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

Value of Selected Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, (cat. no. 7502.0)

Water Use on Australian Farms, Australia, (cat. no. 4618.0)

18 The ABS also plans to release a range of other data in conjunction with this publication. Local value, Gross Unit Value and Chain Volume Index information will be released as datacubes attached to this publication on the ABS website. Sub-state geographic level data will be released in *Agricultural Commodities, Small Area Data, Australia* (cat. no. 7125.0).

19 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

ABBREVIATIONS

\$m	million dollars
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AS	Agricultural Survey
Aust.	Australia
EVAO	Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations
n.e.i.	not elsewhere included
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
RSE	relative standard error
SA	South Australia
SE	standard error
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

TECHNICAL NOTE OLD BASIS ESTIMATES

OLD BASIS ESTIMATES

- 1** Prior to running the 2005–06 Agricultural Census, the ABS had maintained its own register of agricultural establishments. However, it was increasingly difficult to maintain this list, and users were questioning the accuracy of some commodity data.
- 2** The ABS investigated a number of alternatives for maintaining an agricultural business register and discussed these with key users of agriculture statistics. As a result of this, it was agreed that the ABS should move to a new frame sourced from the Australian Taxation Office's Australian Business Register (ABR) for the 2005–06 Agricultural Census.
- 3** The ABR-based register consists of all businesses on the ABR coded to an 'agricultural' industry, as well as businesses which have indicated they undertake agricultural activities. All businesses with a turnover of \$50,000 or more are required to register on the ABR. Many agricultural businesses with a turnover of less than \$50,000 have also chosen to register on the ABR.
- 4** Moving to the ABR-based register required changes to many of the methodologies used for compiling agriculture statistics. These included changes to the methods used for determining whether agricultural businesses were 'in-scope' of the collection, and also to ways the data were compiled. Please refer to the Explanatory Notes and the Technical Note of ABS publication *Agricultural Commodities, Australia, 2005–06* (cat. no. 7121.0) for more information about the changes in scope, coverage and production of estimates.

IMPLICATIONS FOR USERS

- 5** The key implication of the move to the new register is that the 2005–06 Agricultural Census data will not be directly comparable with the historical time series of agriculture data. Consequently, the estimates of VACP for 2005–06 are also not directly comparable with the historical VACP time series. To provide users with a way of comparing ('bridging') the 2005–06 estimate of gross VACP data with the historical time series, the ABS has prepared two sets of VACP estimates.
- 6** 'New-basis' Agricultural Census production estimates were prepared for 2005–06 using the new ABR-based register and its associated statistical methodologies. These methodologies have been subjected to rigorous analysis and testing, with the resulting 'new basis' estimates representing the start of the new commodity and livestock series.
- 7** 'Old-basis' Agricultural Census production estimates were also prepared for 2005–06 for selected principal commodities. These estimates are a best judgement approximation to what the 2005–06 estimates may have been if the ABS had continued to use the previous ABS-maintained list of establishments (with its associated statistical methodologies) to conduct the 2005–06 Agricultural Census.
- 8** Estimates of VACP for 2005–06 have been derived on both the 'Old' and 'New' basis (see paragraph 11).

INTERPRETING THE BRIDGED DATA

- 9** Users should exercise a degree of caution in interpreting the tables as both the 'old-basis' and the 'new-basis' estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling variability.
- 10** The non-sampling variability in the 'old-basis' 2005–06 production estimates in particular, is expected to be significant due to difficulties in collecting, processing and estimating 'old basis' Agricultural Census data from a 'new basis' framework. For this reason, the 2005–06 'old-basis' VACP estimates should be used with considerable caution and movements between 2004–05 and 2005–06 considered as indicative only.

TECHNICAL NOTE OLD BASIS ESTIMATES *continued*

INTERPRETING THE BRIDGED
DATA *continued*

11 The following table allows users to compare VACP estimates for 2005 and 2006 subject to the caveats mentioned:

GROSS VALUE—Year ended 30 June

	AUST. OLD BASIS(a)		AUST. NEW BASIS(b)
	2005	2006(c)	2006
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Barley	1 233.3	1 417.1	1 417.4
Grain sorghum	270.1	282.8	276.0
Oats	171.8	250.4	248.7
Rice	100.6	249.6	260.7
Wheat	4 316.5	5 058.6	5 099.2
Cotton	945.1	917.1	933.3
Lupins	192.9	252.1	251.1
Canola	502.7	457.1	473.4
Sugar cane for crushing	979.5	1 053.3	1 031.8
Total crops	17 807.3	20 743.6	20 797.1
Total agriculture(d)	135 525.1	138 474.0	138 527.6

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- (a) Used an ABS-maintained land-based frame (list of farms).
- (b) Used the Australian Business Register-based frame (list of agricultural businesses).
- (c) Data for 2006 old basis are bridged estimates. Caution should be exercised in comparing 2005 and 2006 estimates.
- (d) Revised value of wool production is reflected in total agriculture value for 2005.

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