



2008-09

7111.0

PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

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INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

- ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** This publication contains preliminary estimates of principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers for 2008–09 presented for states/territories and Australia. National comparative data for the previous two years are also available. The data are based on a response rate of 79% from the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey. More comprehensive and updated commodity estimates for 2008–09 will be published in April 2010 in *Agricultural Commodities, Australia* (cat. no. 7121.0).
- CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE** The 2008–09 Agricultural Survey collected a greater range of agricultural commodities and livestock breakdowns than the 2007–08 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). More detailed livestock data are available for 2008–09 compared to 2007–08. The full range of commodity data will be published in *Agricultural Commodities, Australia* (cat. no. 7121.0) in April 2010.
- Additional state/territory and national data for wheat grain storage and use and grain storage capacity are available for download with this publication.
- INQUIRIES** For further information about these and other related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABN	Australian Business Number
ABR	Australian Business Register
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSBR	Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
Aust.	Australia
BAS	Business Activity Statement
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

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

While improved seasonal conditions saw increases in production of some major broadacre crops in 2008–09, livestock numbers remained flat or continued their falls of recent years.

CROPS

Barley

The total area sown to barley for grain in 2008–09 fell 2% to 4.8 million hectares. Of the major barley producing states, Western Australia was the only state to report increased area sown (up 4% to 1.4 million hectares). The other main growing states were South Australia (1.2 million hectares), Victoria (1.1 million hectares) and New South Wales (1.0 million hectares).

Production of barley for grain in 2008–09 increased 7% to 7.7 million tonnes. Barley production increased in all states with the exception of Victoria (down 22% to 1.4 million tonnes). The other main producing states were Western Australia (2.8 million tonnes), South Australia (1.9 million tonnes) and New South Wales (1.4 million tonnes).

Canola

In 2008–09, the total area sown to canola rose 31% from the previous year to 1.7 million hectares. Canola production rose 53% to 1.9 million tonnes.

Cotton

The area planted to cotton rose 122% in 2008–09, to 153 thousand hectares. The production of cotton lint rose 155% to 303 thousand tonnes, returning to 2006–07 levels.

Grain sorghum

The total area sown to grain sorghum in Australia in 2008–09 decreased by 188 thousand hectares (20%) to 754 thousand hectares. In the main growing states, the area planted to grain sorghum decreased 16% in New South Wales (to 233 thousand hectares) and 21% in Queensland (to 519 thousand hectares).

Production of grain sorghum was down 30% to 2.7 million tonnes. Production decreased in New South Wales (down 25% to 950 thousand tonnes) and Queensland (down 32% to 1.7 million tonnes).

Lupins

The area sown to lupins for grain decreased 23% from 752 thousand hectares in 2007–08, to 578 thousand hectares in 2008–09. Production rose 8% to 716 thousand tonnes.

Oats

The total area sown to oats for grain in 2008–09 fell 31% from the previous year to 856 thousand hectares. The area sown to oats for grain decreased in the major producing states of Western Australia (down 24% to 302 thousand hectares), New South Wales (down 41% to 274 thousand hectares) and Victoria (down 12% to 185 thousand hectares).

Production of oats for grain in 2008–09 decreased 20% to 1.2 million tonnes. Falls were reported in all the major growing states with the exception of New South Wales (up 34% to 258 thousand tonnes). In Western Australia and Victoria, production was down 26% and 29% respectively.

Rice

The area sown to rice increased four-fold from 2007–08, to 8 thousand hectares and production more than tripled to 63 thousand tonnes. However, despite these increases, rice production remained at historically low levels. New South Wales was the only rice producing state in Australia in 2008–09.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Sugar cane

The area planted to sugar cane for crushing decreased 4% from 2007–08 to 367 thousand hectares and production also fell 7% to 30.3 million tonnes in 2008–09.

Wheat

The total area sown to wheat for grain in 2008–09 rose 5% from the previous year to 13.2 million hectares. The area sown to wheat for grain increased in all states except Victoria (down 2% to 1.5 million hectares) and South Australia (down 2% to 2.1 million hectares).

In 2008–09, production of wheat for grain rose 54% to 20.9 million tonnes. Production increased in all major wheat growing states except Victoria (down 14% to 1.7 million tonnes).

LIVESTOCK

Milk cattle

Preliminary estimates for 2008–09 indicate the number of milk cattle in Australia was 2.5 million head, an increase of less than 1% from 2007–08. The number of milk cattle increased in Victoria (up 1%), Tasmania (up 14%) and South Australia (up 6%) with decreases in all other states.

Meat cattle

In 2008–09, the number of meat cattle in Australia was 24.5 million head. The dominant state in the industry continued to be Queensland, accounting for 47% (11.6 million head) of Australia's meat cattle in 2008–09.

Sheep and lambs

In 2008–09, the number of sheep and lambs in Australia was 71.6 million head, the lowest number since 1905. New South Wales (25.0 million head), Western Australia (15.5 million head) and Victoria (14.8 million head) accounted for 77% of the nation's flock of sheep and lambs.

Pigs

Preliminary estimates indicate the number of pigs in Australia in 2008–09 was 2.2 million head, a decrease of 7% from 2007–08 to the lowest herd size since 1978. In 2008–09, Queensland (630 thousand head) and New South Wales (556 thousand head) accounted for approximately half of Australia's pig herd.

PRODUCTION AND AREA OF PRINCIPAL CROPS(a)—Year ended 30 June

	AUST.			2009							
	2007	2008	2009	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
BARLEY FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	4 257	7 160	7 669	1 435	1 387	^ 155	1 855	2 808	28	**—	—
Area ('000 ha)	4 182	4 902	4 790	964	1 083	^ 83	1 210	1 440	10	**—	—
CANOLA											
Production ('000 t)	573	1 214	1 861	^ 256	225	**3	212	1 164	2	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	1 052	1 277	1 670	^ 331	251	**4	191	892	2	—	**—
COTTON LINT											
Production ('000 t)	282	119	303	170	—	^ 133	—	—	—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	163	69	153	85	—	^ 69	—	—	—	—	—
GRAIN SORGHUM											
Production ('000 t)	1 283	3 790	2 671	950	**1	1 719	—	1	*—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	613	942	754	233	**1	519	—	—	*—	—	—
LUPINS FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	470	662	716	^ 40	^ 18	—	^ 56	602	^—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	736	752	578	^ 47	^ 33	—	^ 57	441	^—	—	—
OATS FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	748	1 502	1 205	258	238	*7	72	625	^ 6	—	**—
Area ('000 ha)	1 003	1 238	856	274	185	*7	^ 84	302	4	—	*—
RICE FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	^ 163	18	^ 63	^ 63	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	^ 20	2	^ 8	^ 8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SUGAR CANE CUT FOR CRUSHING											
Production ('000 t)	36 397	32 621	30 284	^ 2 032	—	28 253	—	—	—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	409	381	367	^ 19	—	348	—	—	—	—	—
WHEAT FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	10 822	13 569	20 939	6 861	1 724	1 781	2 376	8 161	^ 35	—	*—
Area ('000 ha)	11 798	12 578	13 151	4 195	1 490	893	2 068	4 496	9	—	*—

^ 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

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Data for 2009 are preliminary and may be subject to revision.

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS(a)—Year ended 30 June

	AUST.			2009							
	2007	2008	2009	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
MILK CATTLE ('000)											
Cows in milk and dry	1 796	1 640	1 645	198	1 044	^ 92	^ 110	49	152	**—	—
All other milk cattle	868	897	903	115	551	^ 62	^ 60	^ 43	73	**—	—
Total	2 663	2 537	2 548	313	1 594	^ 154	^ 170	92	225	**—	—
MEAT CATTLE ('000)											
Bulls and bull calves intended for breeding	767	na	674	143	^ 94	290	^ 36	45	12	54	—
Other calves	5 528	na	5 454	1 314	623	2 272	285	547	110	303	^ 1
Cows and heifers one year and over	12 800	13 472	12 447	2 841	1 071	5 646	568	1 068	188	1 060	4
All other meat cattle	6 277	na	5 883	1 139	401	3 398	193	337	94	321	^ 1
Total	25 373	24 784	24 459	5 437	2 188	11 606	1 082	1 997	404	174	6
SHEEP AND LAMBS ('000)											
Sheep (excluding lambs)	62 291	na	51 906	18 016	10 694	3 123	6 990	11 514	1 527	**—	^ 42
Lambs under one year	23 420	na	19 664	7 011	4 092	^ 978	3 070	4 001	500	—	^ 13
Total	85 711	76 938	71 564	25 021	14 785	4 100	10 060	15 516	2 027	**—	^ 55
LAMBING											
Lambs marked ('000)	34 064	na	31 976	11 200	6 880	^ 1 270	4 664	7 052	888	—	^ 22
Ewes mated to produce lambs ('000)	41 518	na	37 738	13 235	7 672	1 778	5 246	8 735	1 046	—	^ 26
Proportion of lambs marked to ewes mated (%)	82	na	85	85	90	71	89	81	85	—	85
Ewes expected to lamb ('000)(b)	42 028	na	38 308	13 523	7 801	^ 2 096	5 458	8 290	1 114	—	^ 25
PIGS ('000)											
Breeding boars	11	na	9	^ 2	^ 2	^ 2	^ 1	1	*—	—	—
Breeding sows	286	263	241	63	56	54	43	25	^ 2	—	—
Gilts intended for breeding	54	na	35	^ 7	^ 13	^ 7	^ 5	^ 4	^ —	—	—
All other pigs	2 254	2 148	1 951	484	348	567	324	216	^ 12	*—	—
Total	2 605	2 411	2 236	556	418	630	373	246	^ 14	*—	—

^ 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

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) Data for 2009 are preliminary and may be subject to revision.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents preliminary estimates of principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers for the 2008–09 season, and comparative data for the previous two years.

2 The 2008–09 Agricultural Survey collected a greater range of agricultural commodities and livestock breakdowns than the 2007–08 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). The full range of commodity data will be published in *Agricultural Commodities, Australia* (cat. no. 7121.0) in April 2010.

3 More detailed livestock data are available in this publication (cat. no. 7111.0) for 2008–09 compared to 2007–08. Additional data on wheat storage and use and grain storage capacity are also available for download.

4 The estimates for 2006–07 and 2007–08 are the final state/territory and national estimates for principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers collected in the 2006–07 Agricultural Survey and the 2007–08 ARMS.

GENERAL

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

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

6 Estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from the Agricultural Survey for the year ended 30 June 2009.

7 The scope of the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey was all agricultural businesses recorded on the ABS' Business Register (ABSBR) above a minimum size cutoff. The ABSBR is based on the Australian Business Register (ABR) which is administered and maintained by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

8 A minimum size cut-off of \$5,000 was applied to determine whether a business was in-scope for the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey. The measure of size was based on the ABS' Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations (EVAO) or a derived value based on Businesses Activity Statement (BAS) turnover.

9 While the ABSBR does not include all agricultural businesses in Australia, it provides improved coverage from the former ABS-maintained Agricultural Survey frame as most businesses and organisations in Australia need to obtain an Australian Business Number (ABN) from the ATO for their business operations. The ABR-based register is also more up-to-date as it excludes agricultural businesses with cancelled ABNs and incorporates regularly updated information on agricultural businesses from the ATO.

10 The preliminary estimates are based on a response rate of 79% from a sample of approximately 38,000 agricultural businesses selected for the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES (SAMPLE ERROR)

11 The estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample drawn from the total population of agricultural businesses 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 agricultural businesses 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 been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two SEs.

12 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES (SAMPLE ERROR) *continued*

13 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.

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

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF SELECTED ESTIMATES—Year ended 30 June 2009

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Barley for grain - Production (t)	7.2	4.6	11.6	3.1	4.2	5.8	62.9	—	2.3
Canola - Production (t)	13.8	9.8	79.8	7.0	6.0	9.1	—	—	4.5
Cotton lint - Production (t)	7.1	—	11.0	—	—	—	—	—	6.5
Grain sorghum - Production (t)	9.6	99.5	5.9	—	—	42.5	—	—	4.7
Lupins for grain - Production (t)	14.0	16.8	—	15.4	5.2	12.8	—	—	4.5
Oats for grain - Production (t)	8.2	9.5	36.5	7.8	9.3	13.3	—	52.2	5.6
Rice for grain - Production (t)	11.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11.7
Sugar cane cut for crushing - Production (t)	16.2	—	5.5	—	—	—	—	—	5.3
Wheat for grain - Production (t)	4.0	5.0	6.5	2.6	2.8	11.8	—	36.0	1.9
Total milk cattle (no.)	8.0	4.7	11.3	10.4	8.9	7.2	78.8	—	3.4
Total meat cattle (no.)	6.2	4.2	3.5	6.8	5.9	4.2	4.6	9.9	2.3
Total sheep (no.)	3.6	4.5	8.7	3.1	3.5	2.3	65.8	11.4	1.8
Total pigs (no.)	5.4	8.0	6.4	8.2	8.1	11.5	49.3	—	3.1

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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 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 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)
- *Australian Wine and Grape Industry*, (cat. no. 1329.0)
- *Livestock and Meat, Australia* (cat. no. 7218.0.55.001)
- *Livestock Products, Australia* (cat. no. 7215.0)
- *Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, Preliminary* (cat. no. 7501.0)
- *Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia* (cat. no. 7503.0)
- *Vineyards Estimates, Australia* (cat. no. 1329.0.55.002)
- *Water Use on Australian Farms, Australia* (cat. no. 4618.0)
- *Wheat Use and Stocks, Australia* (cat. no. 7307.0)
- *Stocks of Grain Held by Bulk Handling Companies and Grain Traders, Australia* (cat. no. 7122.55.001)

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

continued

18 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed under the *Statistics* and *Themes* pages on the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details products to be released in the week ahead.

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