

CATALOGUE NO. 7111.0

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 24 MAY 1995

**PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
AUSTRALIA (PRELIMINARY) 1994-95,
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND FARMERS' INTENTIONS
FOR THE 1995-96 SEASON**

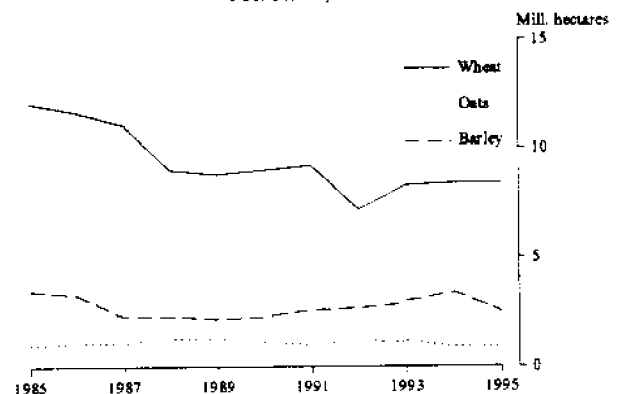
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Preliminary results from the Agricultural Census for the 1994-95 season show:

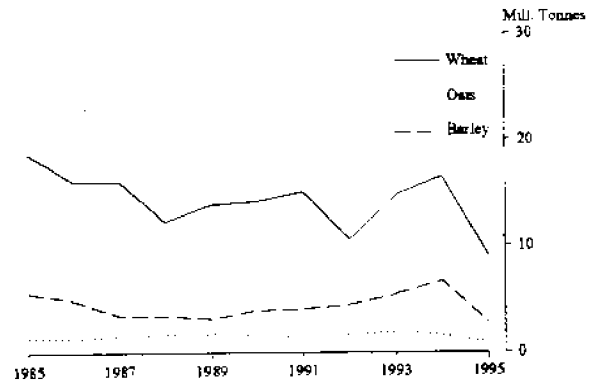
Crops

- Total area of wheat sown for grain remained constant at 8.4 million hectares. A fall of about 25 per cent in New South Wales was offset by rises in plantings in the other States. All States contributed to a 45 per cent fall to 9.0 million tonnes in production of wheat. The biggest drop in production was in New South Wales (85%) with yield falling from 2.6 tonnes per hectare in 1993-94 to 0.5 tonnes per hectare in 1994-95. Victoria's yield also fell considerably, down from 2.6 to 1.1 tonnes per hectare.
- While the area of oats sown for grain was down slightly on the previous year, production fell 46 per cent to 897 thousand tonnes. New South Wales showed the biggest fall, (73%) while Victoria's harvest was reduced by 48 per cent. New South Wales yield fell from 1.7 to 0.4 tonnes per hectare while Victoria's yield declined from 1.9 to 1.2 tonnes per hectare.
- The area of barley sown for grain fell 27 per cent to 2.5 million hectares, with reductions in every State. The fall in production was more substantial, down 58 per cent to 2.8 million tonnes. Production in South Australia fell 49 per cent as yield fell from 2.0 to 1.3 tonnes per hectare. The New South Wales crop fell 82 per cent with yield down from 2.2 to 0.6 tonnes per hectare. Victoria's yield fell from 2.2 to 0.8 tonnes per hectare.
- Rice production showed a different trend to the other major crops with a small increase in plantings (2%) to 127 thousand hectares. Yield improved to produce 1.1 million tonnes, 7 per cent more than the previous year.
- In 1994-95, sugar cane plantings rose 8 per cent to 365 thousand hectares and production rose 7 per cent (to 33.4 million tonnes).

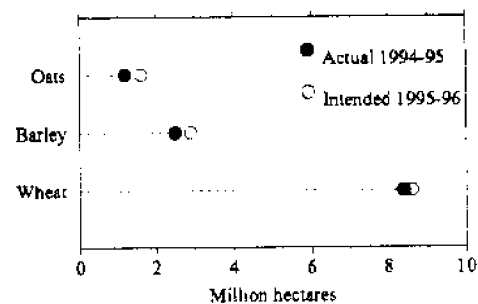
AREA PLANTED TO WHEAT, OATS AND BARLEY FOR GRAIN, 1985-1995



PRODUCTION OF WHEAT, OATS AND BARLEY FOR GRAIN, 1985-1995



ACTUAL SOWINGS FOR 1994-95 AND INTENDED SOWINGS FOR 1995-96 AUSTRALIA (a)



Note: (a) Excludes Queensland.

INQUIRIES

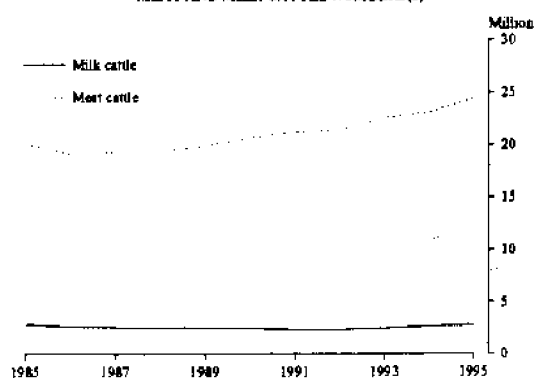
- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Kolin Toivonen on 008 801 520 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 5402, 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

- Intended plantings of grain crops in 1995-96 are higher than actual plantings in 1994-95. (Note that intended planting data are not available for Queensland).
- For the 1995-96 season, farmers indicated a 6 per cent rise in the intended plantings of wheat over their 1994-95 intentions. This would mean 9 per cent more plantings than actually made in 1994-95.
- Intended plantings of oats in 1995-96, if achieved, would exceed the actual plantings in 1994-95 by 34 per cent.
- The planting intentions of barley producers for the 1995-96 season are 20 per cent higher than the actual 1994-95 plantings.

Livestock

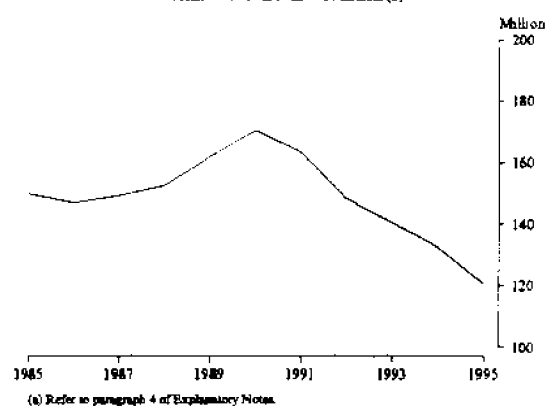
- Australia's dairy herd, at 31 March 1995, numbered 2.8 million, up 4 per cent. The meat cattle herd numbered 23.4 million, an increase of 1 per cent.
- Australia's sheep and lamb flock fell to 120.7 million, down 9 per cent compared with the previous year. Lambs and hoggets decreased 10 per cent to 26.7 million while sheep (including rams, ewes and wethers) fell 9 per cent to 93.9 million.
- Pig numbers remained relatively constant at 2.8 million when compared with 31 March 1994.

MEAT AND MILK CATTLE NUMBERS(a)



(a) Refer to paragraph 4 of Explanatory Notes.

SHEEP AND LAMB NUMBERS(a)

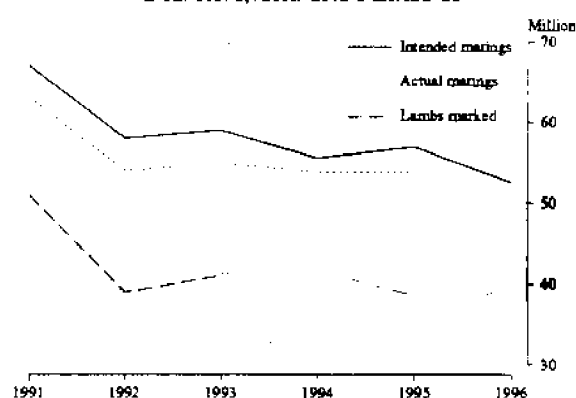


(a) Refer to paragraph 4 of Explanatory Notes.

Ewe mating intentions, matings and lambings

- The number of ewes intended to be mated in the year ending 31 March 1996 is estimated to be 52.5 million, 8 per cent less than the intended matings at 31 March 1995 and 2 per cent lower than the actual matings for the year ended 31 March 1995.
- Actual matings for the year ended 31 March 1995 were 53.7 million, 6 per cent lower than the 56.9 million intended matings reported in the previous year. There were 38.6 million lambs marked during the year compared with 41.5 million in 1993-94, a fall of 7 per cent. The lambing ratio also fell, down from 77 per cent to 72 per cent.

INTENTIONS, MATINGS AND LAMBINGS



PRINCIPAL CROPS

TABLE 1. AREA AND PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1993 TO 1995

	Australia			1995(p)					
	1993	1994	1995(p)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.
AREA ('000 hectares)									
Cereals									
Wheat for grain	8,321	8,383	8,386	1,492	854	596	1,469	3,974	1
for hay	n.c.	17	46	46	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.
Oats for grain	1,167	947	938	405	150	12	99	261	10
for hay	n.c.	233	284	55	51	n.c.	75	103	n.c.
Barley for grain	2,982	3,424	2,502	421	486	80	911	590	14
Rice	107	125	127	127	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.
Sugar cane (cut for crushing)	n.c.	338	365	16	n.c.	349	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.
PRODUCTION ('000 tonnes)									
Cereals for grain									
Wheat	14,822	16,479	9,046	764	898	222	1,507	5,652	3
Oats	1,967	1,647	897	167	187	4	92	435	12
Barley	5,460	6,668	2,791	241	385	53	1,139	945	28
Rice	861	1,042	1,117	1,117	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.
Sugar cane (cut for crushing)	n.c.	31,312	33,434	1,754	n.c.	31,680	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.

n.c. — not collected

TABLE 2. AREA INTENDED TO BE SOWN TO CEREAL CROPS FOR ALL PURPOSES, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1994 TO 1996 ('000 hectares)

		1994		1995		1996(p)
		Intended	Actual	Intended	Actual(p)	Intended
NSW	Wheat	1,912	1,978	1,910	1,538	2,403
	Oats	614	369	572	460	726
	Barley	630	623	542	421	569
Vic	Wheat	789	780	828	854	835
	Oats	243	186	182	201	243
	Barley	631	639	464	486	633
Qld	Wheat	(a)(b)1547	556	(a)(b)386	596	n.y.a
	Oats	n.a.	16	n.a.	12	n.a.
	Barley	(a)(b)234	232	(a)(b)90	80	n.y.a
SA	Wheat	1,347	1,215	1,418	1,469	1,485
	Oats	204	101	200	174	232
	Barley	1,170	1,115	920	911	976
WA	Wheat	3,738	3,852	3,884	3,974	3,826
	Oats	401	268	355	364	398
	Barley	835	799	612	590	717
Australia	Wheat	8,335	8,383	8,427	8,432	(c)8,551
	Oats	(c)1,479	947	(c)1,316	1,222	(c)1,621
	Barley	3,515	3,424	2,643	2,502	(c)2,909

(a) For grain only. (b) Source: Queensland Department of Primary Industries. (c) Excludes Queensland.

TABLE 3. MATINGS AND LAMBINGS, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1993 TO 1995

	Unit	Australia(a)			1995(p)					
		1993	1994	1995p	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.
Actual matings	'000	54,613	53,731	53,686	19,000	9,115	4,442	6,450	13,086	1,563
Lambs marked	'000	41,269	41,464	38,590	13,416	7,431	2,460	4,915	9,095	1,250
Percentage of lambs marked to actual matings	%	76	77	72	71	82	55	76	70	80

(a) Excludes the Northern Territory.

LIVESTOCK

TABLE 4. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS, AT 31 MARCH 1993 TO 1995
(*000)

	Australia			1995(p)						
	1993	1994	1995(p)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT
Milk Cattle(a)—										
Cows in milk and dry	n.c.	1,786	1,875	250	1,144	182	109	75	115	—
Other milk cattle (bulls, heifers, calves)	n.c.	892	914	125	518	93	59	53	66	—
Total (a)	2,532	2,678	2,789	375	1,662	275	168	128	181	—
Meat Cattle—										
Beef bulls and bull calves intended for service	552	557	586	143	74	229	32	46	13	49
Heifers and other calves under 1 year	5,333	5,388	5,791	1,725	732	2,178	295	414	167	276
Cows & heifers 1 yr +	11,733	12,076	11,481	2,901	1,308	4,498	550	958	229	1,037
Other cattle 1 year & over (steers, bullocks, spayed cows)	5,033	5,058	5,540	1,265	518	2,984	203	295	110	163
Total	22,651	23,080	23,398	6,034	2,632	9,889	1,080	1,713	519	1,525
Total cattle and calves (a)	25,183	25,758	26,187	6,409	4,294	10,164	1,248	1,841	700	1,525
Lambs and hoggets < 1 yr	28,799	29,739	26,735	8,768	4,733	2,416	3,085	6,728	989	n.c.
Sheep(incl. rams, ewes & wethers)	111,743	102,831	93,916	31,012	16,228	9,777	10,282	23,645	2,972	n.c.
Total sheep and lambs	140,542	132,570	120,651	39,780	20,961	12,193	13,367	30,373	3,961	n.c.
Total pigs	2,673	2,775	2,750	850	456	609	416	386	30	3

(a) Excludes house cows

TABLE 5. INTENDED MATINGS, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1994 TO 1996

	Unit	Aust.	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.
1994(a)—								
Intended matings at start of season—								
To merino rams	'000	(c)35,807	13,621	5,087	n.c.	4,948	11,150	978
To other rams	'000	(c)16,098	6,661	4,631	n.c.	2,108	1,988	697
Total intended matings	'000	(d)55,520	20,282	9,717	3,615	7,056	13,138	1,675
Total actual matings(b)	'000	(d)53,731	19,393	9,325	3,601	6,752	12,988	1,626
Percent of actual to intended matings	%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1995—								
Intended matings at start of season—								
To merino rams	'000	(c)35,564	13,471	4,987	n.c.	4,599	11,551	930
To other rams	'000	(c)16,976	6,754	4,774	n.c.	2,306	2,398	733
Total intended matings	'000	(d)56,893	20,224	9,761	4,292	6,966	13,948	1,664
Total actual matings(p)	'000	(d)53,686	19,000	9,115	4,442	6,450	13,086	1,563
Percent of actual to intended matings(p)	%	94	94	93	103	93	94	94
1996p—								
Intended matings at start of season—								
To merino rams	'000	(c)34,474	12,603	4,978	n.c.	4,448	11,524	901
To other rams	'000	(c)13,679	5,281	3,803	n.c.	1,955	2,084	548
Total intended matings	'000	(d)52,518	17,884	8,781	4,364	6,403	13,609	1,449
Total actual matings	'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Apart from Total actual matings, data has not been collected from establishments with an EVAO between \$5,000 and \$22,499 (b) Refer to footnote (a). (c) Excludes Queensland. (d) Includes Queensland. Excludes the Northern Territory where lambing information is not collected.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains preliminary agricultural estimates for the 1994-95 season, together with estimates of intended sowings of principal crops and intended ewe matings for the forthcoming season and comparative data for the earlier years. Because of possible changes in intentions caused by unforeseen circumstances, such as adverse climatic or economic conditions, estimates for the forthcoming season may not always agree with reported statistics from the following Agricultural Census.

2. The content of the 1994-95 Census was reduced following a review of the Agriculture Program conducted during 1993. As a result, some data previously included in this publication are not available for 1994-95. These included Farm Stocks of Cereal Grains and Shearing and Wool Production. In addition, the level of detail available for livestock categories has been reduced.

Scope and coverage

3. Estimates are based on a proportion of information obtained in all States, from the Agricultural Census conducted at 31 March 1995.

4. For the 1991-92 and 1992-93 Censuses, the scope was establishments undertaking agricultural activity having an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) of \$22,500 or more. The scope of Censuses from 1986-87 was establishments having an EVAO of \$20,000 or more. The scope of previous Censuses (from 1981-82) was establishments having an EVAO of \$2,500 or more.

5. The 1993-94 and 1994-95 Censuses were based on a scope of \$5,000 or more EVAO. The estimates presented in this publication for 1992-93 have been recalculated to provide data based on the same scope as 1993-94 and 1994-95 to enable direct comparisons to be drawn. Final results from the 1994-95 Census will be based on the \$5,000 EVAO threshold.

6. Information on cereal crop planting intentions is not collected in the Agricultural Census in Queensland and hence is not available for inclusion in this publication. However, information is made available later in the year by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and is included in later ABS publications.

General

7. Final figures will be published during the early part of 1996 when all Agricultural Census returns have been fully processed.

8. The ABS also has more detailed agricultural statistics on floppy disk, compact disk, microfiche and magnetic tape. AgStats on floppy disk and compact 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 and other standard products and services are listed in the Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a Publications Advice (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

n.y.a.	not yet available
p	preliminary - figure or series subject to revision
—	nil or rounded to zero
kg	kilograms
n.c.	not collected
n.a.	not available
r	revised

10. The figures shown in this publication have been revised where necessary and as a consequence may not agree with similar data shown in previous publications.

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

12. Unless indicated otherwise, Australian totals include data for all States and both Territories.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician



For more information ...

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the *ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products* available at all ABS Offices (see below for contact details).

Information Consultancy Service

Information tailored to special needs of clients can be obtained from the Information Consultancy Service available at ABS Offices (see Information Inquiries below for contact details).

National Dial-a-Statistic Line

0055 86 400

(Steadycom P/L: premium rate 25c/21.4 secs.)

This number gives 24-hour access, 365 days a year, for a range of statistics.

Electronic Data Services

A large range of data is available via on-line services, diskette, magnetic tape, tape cartridge and CD ROM. For more details about these electronic data services, contact any ABS Office (see below).

Bookshops and Subscriptions

There is a large number of ABS publications available from ABS bookshops (see below Bookshop Sales for contact details). The ABS also provides a subscription service through which nominated publications are supplied by mail on a regular basis (telephone Subscription Service toll free on 008 02 0608 Australia wide).

Sales and Inquiries

Regional Offices	Information Inquiries	Bookshop Sales
SYDNEY (02)	268 4611	268 4620
MELBOURNE (03)	615 7000	615 7829
BRISBANE (07)	222 6351	222 6350
PERTH (09)	360 5140	360 5307
ADELAIDE (08)	237 7100	237 7582
HOBART (002)	20 5800	20 5800
CANBERRA (06)	252 6627	207 0326
DARWIN (089)	43 2111	43 2111
National Office		
ACT (06)	252 6007	008 020 608

ABS E-mail Addresses

Keylink	STAT.INFO/ABS
X.400	(C:AU,A:TELMEMO,O:ABS,SN:INFO,FN:STAT)
Internet	STAT.INFO@ABS. TELEMEMO.AU



Information Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616

