



2009–10

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 2009–10, 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 84% from the 2009–10 Agricultural Resource Management Survey. More comprehensive and updated commodity estimates for 2009–10 will be published in April 2011 in *Agricultural Commodities, Australia* (cat. no. 7121.0). Further information collected on the Agricultural Resource Management Survey will be published in May 2011 in *Water Use on Australian Farms* (cat. no. 4618.0) and in June 2011 in *Land Management and Farming in Australia* (cat. no. 4627.0).

Additional state/territory and national data for wheat grain storage and use and grain storage capacity are available for download with this publication.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

In comparison to the Agricultural Survey and Agricultural Census, less detail is collected in the Agricultural Resource Management Survey in respect to agricultural commodities and livestock breakdowns. Consequently the range of livestock estimates in this issue, compared to the 2008-09 release, is less extensive. Further commodity data collected in the Agricultural Resource Management Survey will be published in *Agricultural Commodities, Australia* (cat. no. 7121.0) in April 2011.

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
ABARE - BRS	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics - Bureau of Rural Sciences
ABN	Australian Business Number
ABR	Australian Business Register
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSBR	Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ARMS	Agricultural Resource Management Survey
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

Despite periods of unfavourable weather in some regions, there were slight increases in production for a range of broadacre crops in 2009-10, including wheat, oats and canola.

Cotton and rice production continued to increase although rice production was still well below pre-2007 levels.

There were small declines in numbers across most of the major livestock categories.

CROPS

Barley

The total area of barley sown for grain in 2009-10 fell by 11% from the previous year to 4.4 million hectares. The largest area of barley sown was in Western Australia with 1.4 million hectares.

Production of barley for grain in 2009-10 fell by 1% to 7.9 million tonnes. The majority of production was in Western Australia (2.6 million tonnes), South Australia (2.1 million tonnes) and Victoria (1.9 million tonnes).

Canola

In 2009-10, the total area of canola sown rose by 1% from the previous year to 1.7 million hectares. Canola production rose by 4% to 1.9 million tonnes.

Cotton

Increases in area planted and production continued for cotton, approaching pre-2008 levels. The area of cotton planted rose by 35% from the previous year to 214,000 hectares. The production of cotton lint rose by 22% to 376,000 tonnes.

Grain sorghum

Unfavourable weather conditions during the main planting window saw the total area of grain sorghum sown in 2009-10 fall 33% from the previous year to 516,000 hectares. The largest area of sorghum grown was in Queensland (346,000 hectares), down 36% on 2008-09. The area in New South Wales also fell, down 25% to 169,000 hectares.

Production of sorghum for grain in 2009-10 fell 41% to 1.6 million tonnes. Production in Queensland was 975,000 tonnes, while in New South Wales it was 623,000 tonnes.

Lupins

The area of lupins sown for grain rose 21% from the previous year to 698,000 hectares and production rose by 16% to 823,000 tonnes.

Oats

Despite New South Wales and Queensland increasing the area of oats for grain sown in 2009-10, the total area decreased by 1% to 863,000 hectares. This was primarily due to a 13% decrease in Victoria and a 9% decrease in Western Australia.

Total production of oats for grain in 2009-10 rose by 2% to 1.2 million tonnes, despite drought conditions impacting on yields in New South Wales. In Western Australia, production was 506,000 tonnes, in Victoria 297,000 tonnes and in New South Wales 219,000 tonnes.

Rice

The area of rice sown rose by 171% from the previous year to 19,000 hectares. Rice production rose by 226% to 198,000 tonnes. New South Wales remained Australia's primary rice producing state.

Sugar cane

The area of sugar cane planted for crushing fell by 1% from the previous year to 386,000 hectares. Production of sugar cane cut for crushing fell by 1% to 31.0 million tonnes.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Wheat

The total area of wheat sown for grain in 2009-10 rose 4% from the previous season to 14.0 million hectares. Western Australia had the largest area with 5.0 million hectares, whilst New South Wales had 4.1 million hectares and South Australia had 2.1 million hectares.

Despite lower yields of wheat for grain in Western Australia, New South Wales and Queensland compared to 2008-09, total production rose 2% this year to 22.0 million tonnes. As was the case last year, most production took place in Western Australia (8.1 million tonnes), followed by New South Wales (5.3 million tonnes) and South Australia (4.1 million tonnes).

LIVESTOCK

Milk cattle

The number of milk cattle in Australia was 2.5 million head at 30 June 2010, a 5% fall from 2008-09. With more than 60% of the national herd, Victoria continued to dominate the dairy industry with a herd of 1.6 million.

Meat cattle

The number of meat cattle in Australia was estimated at 24.3 million head at 30 June 2010. A slight increase in cows and heifers contrasted with falls in other meat cattle. The dominant states in the industry were Queensland with 11.3 million head and New South Wales with 5.1 million head, each reported smaller closing stocks than the year before.

Sheep and lambs

The number of sheep and lambs in Australia continued to fall in 2009-10, down to 67.7 million head at 30 June 2010, the lowest number since 1905. The dominant states in the industry were New South Wales with 23.9 million head, Western Australia with 14.7 million head and Victoria with 14.4 million head.

Pigs

The number of pigs in Australia was 2.3 million head at 30 June 2010. The dominant states in the industry were New South Wales with 603,000 head, Queensland with 557,000 head and Victoria with 516,000 head.

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

	AUST.			2010							
	2008	2009	2010	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
BARLEY FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	7 160	7 997	7 909	^ 1 254	1 891	113	2 071	2 552	27	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	4 902	5 015	4 446	972	985	69	1 012	1 400	9	—	—
CANOLA											
Production ('000 t)	1 214	1 844	1 920	281	^ 335	**1	263	1 037	2	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	1 277	1 693	1 712	303	232	**3	184	988	1	—	—
COTTON LINT											
Production ('000 t)	119	309	376	^ 233	—	144	—	—	—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	69	159	214	^ 119	—	94	—	—	—	—	—
GRAIN SORGHUM											
Production ('000 t)	3 790	2 692	1 598	^ 623	—	975	—	—	—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	942	767	516	169	—	346	—	^ 1	—	—	—
LUPINS FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	662	708	823	^ 77	^ 31	—	75	639	*1	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	752	577	698	^ 103	^ 35	—	53	506	—	—	—
OATS FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	1 502	1 160	1 180	219	^ 297	*5	146	506	7	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	1 238	870	863	314	167	^ 13	99	268	4	—	—
RICE FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	18	^ 61	198	196	—	^ 2	—	—	—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	2	^ 7	19	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SUGAR CANE CUT FOR CRUSHING											
Production ('000 t)	32 621	31 457	31 027	^ 1 854	—	29 173	—	—	—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	381	391	386	^ 19	—	368	—	—	—	—	—
WHEAT FOR GRAIN											
Production ('000 t)	13 569	21 420	21 923	5 348	2 974	^ 1 374	4 052	8 148	27	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	12 578	13 530	14 028	4 095	1 793	984	2 148	5 001	7	—	—

^ 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 2010 are preliminary and may be subject to revision

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS(a)—Year ended 30 June

	AUST.			2010							
	2008	2009	2010	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
MILK CATTLE ('000)											
Cows in milk and dry	1 640	1 676	1 553	^ 198	997	91	86	^ 64	118	—	—
All other milk cattle	897	936	929	141	556	66	^ 50	50	66	—	—
Total	2 537	2 612	2 482	339	1 553	157	136	^ 113	183	—	—
MEAT CATTLE ('000)											
Cows and heifers one year and over	13 472	12 903	12 933	2 800	1 030	5 916	540	1 238	222	1 179	*7
All other meat cattle	11 312	12 392	11 318	2 328	1 081	5 407	448	1 072	234	743	**4
Total	24 784	25 294	24 251	5 128	2 111	11 324	988	2 310	456	1 923	*11
SHEEP AND LAMBS ('000)											
Breeding ewes one year and over	45 411	40 867	42 019	14 963	8 958	1 882	5 776	9 222	1 192	—	^ 27
All other sheep	31 526	31 873	25 693	8 909	5 431	^ 1 756	3 313	5 432	828	—	^ 24
Total	76 938	72 740	67 712	23 872	14 389	3 637	9 089	14 654	2 020	—	^ 51
LAMBING ('000)											
Lambs marked	na	32 543	30 300	10 657	7 100	877	4 551	6 179	920	—	^ 17
PIGS ('000)											
Breeding sows	263	242	233	59	^ 55	51	43	23	1	—	—
All other pigs	2 148	2 060	2 067	^ 544	461	507	346	200	10	—	—
Total	2 411	2 302	2 301	^ 603	516	557	389	224	11	—	—
^ 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 2010 are preliminary and may be subject to revision											

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents preliminary estimates of principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers for the 2009-10 season, and comparative data for the previous two years. The preliminary estimates are based on data collected in the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

2 The ARMS and the Agricultural Survey are conducted in alternate years, with an Agricultural Census conducted every five years.

3 The ARMS collects less detail on crops, livestock and other agricultural commodities compared to the Agricultural Survey and Agricultural Census. Table 2 of this publication reflects this reduction in commodity data in a less detailed range of livestock estimates.

4 Additional commodity estimates from the 2009-10 ARMS will be published in *Agricultural Commodities, Australia* (cat. no. 7121.0) in April 2011. In addition, the ARMS collects a range of detailed information in respect of land management practices and farmers' responses to adverse seasonal conditions. These data will be released in *Land Management and Farming in Australia* (cat. no. 6427.0) in June 2011.

5 The estimates for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are final national estimates for principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers collected in the 2007-08 ARMS and the 2008-09 Agricultural Survey. Estimates for 2009-10 are preliminary and may be subject to revision.

GENERAL

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

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

7 Estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) for the year ended 30 June 2010.

8 The scope of the 2009-10 ARMS 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).

9 A minimum size cut-off of \$5,000 was applied to determine whether a business was in-scope for the 2009-10 ARMS. 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.

10 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.

11 The 2009-10 preliminary estimates are based on a response rate of 84% from a sample of 38,000 agricultural businesses selected for the 2009-10 ARMS.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES (SAMPLE ERROR)

12 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 ARMS. 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES (SAMPLE ERROR) *continued*

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.

14 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.

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

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF SELECTED ESTIMATES—year ended 30 June 2010

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Barley for grain - Production (t)	12.1	4.7	8.1	2.8	4.7	5.7	—	—	2.9
Canola - Production (t)	5.5	11.4	69.0	6.1	6.1	2.0	—	—	4.1
Cotton lint - Production (t)	13.1	—	5.3	—	—	—	—	—	8.2
Grain sorghum - Production (t)	10.8	—	6.6	—	—	—	—	—	5.7
Lupins for grain - Production (t)	10.6	17.8	43.7	6.7	5.1	25.4	—	—	4.4
Oats for grain - Production (t)	8.2	10.6	27.9	9.3	7.3	6.7	—	46.2	4.3
Rice for grain - Production (t)	5.5	68.5	11.2	—	—	—	—	—	5.5
Sugar cane cut for crushing - Production (t)	13.4	—	4.1	—	—	—	—	—	4.0
Wheat for grain - Production (t)	3.7	5.0	10.0	2.6	2.9	5.5	—	38.8	1.9
Total milk cattle (no.)	9.5	5.4	8.1	9.2	11.1	5.4	39.5	23.6	3.7
Total meat cattle (no.)	3.8	5.1	3.5	4.6	6.5	6.8	2.9	42.3	1.8
Total sheep and lambs (no.)	3.7	6.2	9.9	4.1	4.2	3.2	47.4	11.7	2.1
Total pigs (no.)	20.3	9.8	6.1	8.9	7.1	9.0	18.9	—	6.8

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

16 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

17 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

18 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)
- *Vineyards Estimates, Australia* (cat. no. 1329.0.55.002)
- *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)

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

continued

- *Water Use on Australian Farms, Australia* (cat. no. 4618.0)
- *Land Management and Farming in Australia* (cat. no. 4627.0)
- *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)

19 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed under the *Statistics and Topics @ a Glance* 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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