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**PIRSA**

# Crop and Pasture Report South Australia

2013-14 SPRING CROP PERFORMANCE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2013

**PREMIUM**  
FOOD AND WINE FROM OUR  
**CLEAN**  
ENVIRONMENT



Government  
of South Australia

Primary Industries  
and Regions SA

Crop and Pasture Report - South Australia

This is a bimonthly report prepared by Rural Solutions SA, for the Agribusiness and Regions Division of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA).

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# State Summary

## WEATHER

- Rainfall for September was average to below average across the State.
- October rainfall varied from below average in most of the cropping districts to average on Lower Eyre Peninsula and well above average in the Lower South East.
- Maximum temperatures ranged from well above average (4°C) on Upper Eyre Peninsula, Mid North and Northern Mallee, to above average (2°C) in southern areas.
- Strong to gale force winds were recorded across large areas of the State during September and October.
- There were several significant frost events in parts of inland districts from early to late October.
- Thunderstorms in late September and early October brought heavy rain and hail to isolated areas.

## CROPS

- Harvest is now well underway in the earlier maturing districts of the State and is one to two weeks earlier than normal with peas, canola and barley the first crops to be reaped.
- Wheat harvest is well advanced on the Far West Coast but has only just started in other early districts and will not start until early December in the later districts.
- Yields are likely to vary from average to well above average but are now significantly lower than earlier estimates due to a range of extreme weather events during spring.
- Strong to gale force winds in early to mid-October caused significant flattening of plants and head loss in ripe barley crops in several areas of the State with losses of 30 to 50% reported in some paddocks.
- Grain loss from wind damage was also reported in ripe wheat crops on Upper Eyre Peninsula.
- Wind also knocked canola crops down and caused significant grain shattering in crops planned to be direct headed.
- Bean crops in the Mid and Lower North were damaged by the strong winds, with stems being kinked half way down the stem reducing grain fill of the upper pods.
- Frost in early October damaged some early sown pea crops.
- A relatively widespread frost in mid-October caused severe damage to wheat, barley, pulse and canola crops. The worst affected areas were the Upper and Mid North, and Southern Mallee.
- Some frosted wheat crops in the Upper and Mid North were cut for hay, but crops in other districts were generally too far advanced to cut.
- Leaf diseases have generally been at relatively low levels with preventative fungicides ensuring stripe rust levels were controlled in susceptible wheat varieties.
- Preventative fungicide applications to pulse crops kept disease levels relatively low and the warm dry spring reduced the build-up of diseases.
- Snail levels were high in parts of the Upper Eyre Peninsula but relatively low in most other areas of the State as a result of good snail management.
- Native budworm numbers were generally higher than normal in most areas of the State with some pulse crops requiring two insecticide applications and more canola sprayed than normal.
- Crown rot and Take-all levels have been higher than normal in some districts.
- Yields of export oaten hay crops have generally been above average, although quality (digestibility) has been low and most growers are only achieving poorer quality grades with significant price penalties.

## PASTURES

- Pastures have adequate to good levels of feed in most areas, although the dry finish in the Mallee and cold wet conditions in the Lower South East have reduced pasture growth.
- Livestock are in good condition in most areas of the State, although cows and young stock in the Lower South East are in poorer condition.
- There has been an increased area of pasture hay cut in many districts to replenish on-farm fodder reserves with reports of high yields of good quality hay in most areas.

## KEY LINKS TO OTHER INFORMATION

Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources - Soil and Land Condition monitoring:  
[www.environment.sa.gov.au/Knowledge\\_Bank/Science\\_research/Monitoring\\_evaluation\\_analysis/Monitoring/Soil\\_and\\_land\\_condition](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Knowledge_Bank/Science_research/Monitoring_evaluation_analysis/Monitoring/Soil_and_land_condition)

Bureau of Meteorology - Weather and rainfall observations:  
[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

## NOTES ON CALCULATION OF CROP ESTIMATES

Crop estimates for the current year assume average rainfall and temperature conditions for the remainder of the growing season.

Grain estimates are for total grain production and include grain delivered for immediate sale and warehousing plus grain retained on farm for seed, feed and future sale.

Hay estimates are for total hay production and include all pasture, cereal and other crops cut for hay, both dry-land and irrigated.

The estimates are based on information provided by Rural Solutions SA District Reporters from a variety of sources and are updated throughout the season as conditions change and further information becomes available. They are intended to provide an indication of crop potential at the time the report is prepared.

The estimates are updated using ABS census data as available.

# Crop Estimates

TABLE 1 CROP ESTIMATES BY DISTRICT

		Western Eyre Peninsula	Lower Eyre Peninsula	Eastern Eyre Peninsula	Yorke Peninsula	Upper North	Mid North	Lower North	Kangaroo Island
Wheat	<i>ha</i>	503 000	142 000	405 000	161 000	252 000	245 000	48 500	4 600
	<i>t</i>	805 000	539 000	791 000	644 000	517 000	759 000	141 000	13 000
Durum	<i>ha</i>	0	0	0	24 000	12 500	12 500	5 900	0
	<i>t</i>	0	0	0	77 000	31 000	40 000	18 000	0
Barley	<i>ha</i>	77 000	72 000	78 000	154 000	91 000	88 000	30 500	2 700
	<i>t</i>	127 000	274 000	171 000	585 000	178 000	283 000	86 000	8 000
Oats	<i>ha</i>	15 000	3 200	5 000	5 000	9 000	8 000	2 000	3 300
	<i>t</i>	19 500	8 000	7 000	14 000	14 000	17 000	4 500	10 000
Rye	<i>ha</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<i>t</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Triticale	<i>ha</i>	1 500	500	4 000	2 000	2 500	3 000	500	300
	<i>t</i>	2 100	1 800	7 200	7 000	5 800	10 000	1 500	900
Peas	<i>ha</i>	5 000	5 500	5 500	21 000	26 600	24 000	7 700	400
	<i>t</i>	4 750	8 500	5 500	38 000	37 000	36 000	14 000	700
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	1 200	23 000	5 000	1 500	2 700	3 000	900	1 500
	<i>t</i>	1 000	44 000	5 500	2 500	3 400	4 500	1 400	2 700
Beans	<i>ha</i>	0	6 000	200	12 000	6 500	14 200	6 000	600
	<i>t</i>	0	12 000	200	26 500	10 000	34 000	10 500	1 300
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	0	200	200	10 000	3 200	5 000	1 000	0
	<i>t</i>	0	280	100	18 000	3 800	7 000	2 000	0
Lentils	<i>ha</i>	0	2 000	0	68 000	4 000	12 000	5 400	0
	<i>t</i>	0	3 300	0	137 000	5 400	19 000	7 500	0
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	200	1 500	500	2 000	5 000	2 600	300	0
	<i>t</i>	100	1 500	300	3 000	3 500	4 000	350	0
Canola	<i>ha</i>	5 400	60 000	8 500	30 000	23 000	50 600	10 000	4 100
	<i>t</i>	5 400	104 000	9 000	64 000	37 000	91 000	15 000	8 000
Hay (not in total)	<i>ha</i>	7 700	4 500	6 700	21 000	22 000	27 000	7 000	7 200
	<i>t</i>	19 000	18 000	21 000	166 000	95 000	143 000	35 000	37 000
Total	<i>ha</i>	608 300	315 900	511 900	490 500	438 000	467 900	118 700	17 500
	<i>t</i>	964 850	996 380	996 800	1 616 000	845 900	1 304 500	301 750	44 600

**TABLE 1 CROP ESTIMATES BY DISTRICT (CONT)**

		Central Hills & Fleurieu	Lower Murray	Nth Murray Mallee	Sth Murray Mallee	Upper South East	Lower South East	State Total
Wheat	<i>ha</i>	5 800	69 000	245 000	126 000	69 000	26 000	2 301 900
	<i>t</i>	15 000	114 000	352 000	190 000	180 000	83 000	5 143 000
Durum	<i>ha</i>	300	800	500	0	11 800	0	68 300
	<i>t</i>	600	880	500	0	29 000	0	196 980
Barley	<i>ha</i>	8 200	53 000	50 000	84 000	75 000	16 000	879 400
	<i>t</i>	22 000	85 000	65 000	117 000	195 000	52 000	2 248 000
Oats	<i>ha</i>	1 800	3 000	2 000	3 200	19 500	4 000	84 000
	<i>t</i>	4 500	3 600	2 000	5 100	39 000	10 000	158 200
Rye	<i>ha</i>	0	1 500	2 000	2 600	1 000	0	7 100
	<i>t</i>	0	1 350	1 500	3 100	900	0	6 850
Triticale	<i>ha</i>	1 500	6 500	3 000	16 000	7 000	1 000	49 300
	<i>t</i>	3 200	8 000	3 000	21 000	13 000	3 500	88 000
Peas	<i>ha</i>	1 500	1 500	1 000	3 000	3 000	400	106 100
	<i>t</i>	3 100	1 300	1 000	2 500	4 500	900	157 750
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	1 300	1 000	1 200	10 000	14 000	3 000	69 300
	<i>t</i>	2 700	900	1 200	10 000	21 000	5 000	105 800
Beans	<i>ha</i>	400	100	0	1 000	12 000	10 000	69 000
	<i>t</i>	800	100	0	1 000	19 000	22 000	137 400
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	0	0	200	500	200	200	20 700
	<i>t</i>	0	0	150	500	200	250	32 280
Lentils	<i>ha</i>	0	0	0	200	3 000	200	94 800
	<i>t</i>	0	0	0	200	3 750	350	176 500
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	0	400	600	3 500	400	0	17 000
	<i>t</i>	0	120	250	3 000	500	0	16 620
Canola	<i>ha</i>	1 400	4 000	18 000	9 000	34 000	16 300	274 300
	<i>t</i>	3 000	3 600	11 000	7 800	55 000	33 000	446 800
Hay (not in total)	<i>ha</i>	24 000	6 000	7 200	6 500	47 500	28 000	222 300
	<i>t</i>	121 000	18 600	14 500	20 000	190 000	129 000	1 027 100
Total	<i>ha</i>	22 200	140 800	323 500	259 000	249 900	77 100	4 041 200
	<i>t</i>	54 900	218 850	437 600	361 200	560 850	210 000	8 914 180



**TABLE 2 CROP ESTIMATES AGAINST FIVE YEAR AVERAGE**

		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	5 year ave	2013/14
Wheat	<i>ha</i>	2 043 000	2 111 100	2 237 100	2 226 100	2 176 300	2 158 700	2 301 900
	<i>t</i>	2 347 000	4 032 500	5 818 500	4 444 800	3 556 500	4 039 900	5 143 000
Durum	<i>ha</i>	59 100	60 000	69 800	74 600	77 200	68 100	68 300
	<i>t</i>	88 700	157 200	240 600	223 950	181 240	178 300	196 980
Barley	<i>ha</i>	1 210 500	1 152 300	965 200	987 700	907 100	1 044 600	879 400
	<i>t</i>	1 795 000	2 544 100	2 839 100	2 031 800	1 912 900	2 224 600	2 248 000
Oats	<i>ha</i>	72 100	79 700	75 300	75 800	85 800	77 700	84 000
	<i>t</i>	80 200	136 600	152 300	117 400	128 740	123 000	158 200
Rye	<i>ha</i>	11 000	9 400	9 500	9 500	9 500	9 800	7 100
	<i>t</i>	7 300	8 200	11 600	7 900	7 500	8 500	6 850
Triticale	<i>ha</i>	85 700	85 900	85 700	80 200	69 200	81 300	49 300
	<i>t</i>	86 600	117 700	167 100	117 500	95 920	117 000	88 000
Peas	<i>ha</i>	128 500	127 700	126 300	109 900	103 700	119 200	106 100
	<i>t</i>	129 100	181 150	238 500	144 400	116 100	161 900	157 750
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	74 000	66 500	64 900	64 900	63 200	66 700	69 300
	<i>t</i>	69 600	97 200	120 100	78 900	75 110	88 200	105 800
Beans	<i>ha</i>	72 400	71 200	71 500	72 200	69 400	71 300	69 000
	<i>t</i>	82 880	144 350	168 600	121 220	105 510	124 500	137 400
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	11 550	13 200	10 700	12 200	19 700	13 500	20 700
	<i>t</i>	9 200	17 150	16 000	19 550	21 810	16 700	32 280
Lentils	<i>ha</i>	46 500	52 100	97 700	106 100	88 800	78 200	94 800
	<i>t</i>	36 870	89 450	174 350	181 600	97 720	116 000	176 500
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	15 900	12 900	12 800	13 100	13 100	13 600	17 000
	<i>t</i>	4 980	10 650	12 900	11 120	6 800	9 300	16 620
Canola	<i>ha</i>	178 200	182 700	196 500	269 500	302 700	225 900	274 300
	<i>t</i>	192 600	297 100	381 700	435 700	398 700	341 200	446 800
Hay (not in total)	<i>ha</i>	288 000	274 100	244 200	201 500	204 500	242 500	222 300
	<i>t</i>	831 000	1 004 000	1 066 000	774 400	769 000	888 900	1 027 100
Total	<i>ha</i>	4 008 500	4 024 700	4 023 000	4 101 800	3 985 700	4 028 700	<b>4 041 200</b>
	<i>t</i>	4 930 000	7 833 400	10 341 400	7 935 800	6 704 600	7 549 000	<b>8 914 200</b>



# District Reports

## Western Eyre Peninsula

### WEATHER

- September and October rainfall was below average.
- Maximum temperatures were well above average (4 to 5°C) for September and slightly above average for October.
- A number of hot windy days were experienced during October.

### CROPS

- Harvest is well advanced across the region. Growers in the Far West have harvested around 65% of their crop area whilst growers in the Central Eyre district have reaped most of their barley and some wheat.
- Crop yields are generally well above average, but are less than previously estimated due to dry conditions at grain fill and extreme weather events.
- Canola yields have been variable with reports of 0.8 t/ha near Wudinna and 1.5 t/ha around Mt Cooper/Port Kenny. Oil content has been generally good.
- Pea yields have varied, averaging less than 0.5 t/ha in areas affected by frost, and around 1.6 t/ha in frost-free districts that received adequate September rainfall.
- Well above average wheat yields of 1.5 to 1.6 t/ha have been reported in Far West districts and 2 to 2.5 t/ha in Central Eyre districts.
- Strong winds in October flattened some barley crops and resulted in head and grain loss in both barley and wheat crops.
- Estimates of yield losses from wind range from 0.2 to 1 t/ha with early-sown crops and those affected by eyespot and net blotch appearing to be the most affected.
- The high amount of post emergent nitrogen applied to crops across the district is reflected in good protein levels despite the above average yields. Most of the wheat delivered has been achieving Australian Premium White (APW) with some higher-protein Australian Hard (AH).
- Dry conditions during grain fill in many districts have resulted in variable proportions of “screenings” (small, shrivelled grain).
- Fungal disease in all crops was very low this season with most growers applying early preventative fungicides.
- Root disease symptoms were observed in cereal crops this season, particularly on lighter textured soils. This is not expected to impact on yield more than is usual for the region.
- High snail numbers have been reported in coastal districts with many growers purchasing “snail crushers” to manage numbers at harvest.
- Good winter conditions saw a high amount of grass weeds in crops this season and some growers will need to change their crop rotations to manage these weeds next season.
- The area cut for hay is estimated to be 25% above average with growers taking the opportunity to cut high quality hay from medic pastures that grew an exceptional amount of dry matter.

### PASTURES

- Pastures contain a high amount of feed.
- Livestock are in excellent condition.

## Lower Eyre Peninsula

### WEATHER

- September rainfall was average to below average across the region.
- A cold front in the week of October 21 gave rainfalls of 10-20 mm, bringing monthly totals close to average.
- October had a high number of very strong windy days. Hot north winds were experienced on October 9 with a cold front bringing strong winds and hail to some districts around October 21.

### CROPS

- Crop yields are still expected to be well above average despite hot and windy conditions in early October reducing yield potential to some extent.
- Hot north winds in early October hastened crop senescence; however rains late in the month kept later-maturing cereal crops green during grain fill.
- Strong winds late in October caused some flattening of barley crops and some heads to snap off in both wheat and barley crops. Early-sown crops and those affected by eyespot and net blotch were the worst affected.
- There were some reports of hail damage to crops around Wangary and Wanilla with isolated losses of up to 10%.
- Windrowing of canola began in early October with around 95% completed by the end of October.
- Yields of 1.3 t/ha have been reported from early-sown canola crops around Ungarra.
- High rates of post-emergent nitrogen applications resulted in healthy crops with a high amount of biomass. Although little cereal has been harvested yet it is expected that these applications will result in above average yields with good protein levels.
- High levels of ryegrass and wild oats are present in many cereal crops. This is a result of the wet winter, which caused staggered weed seed germinations and poor timing of herbicide applications.
- Native budworm larvae have caused damage to lupin and pea crops around the district.
- Native budworm appeared too late to cause significant damage to canola crops
- Army worm caused some damage in barley crops in eastern coastal districts early in the season but numbers had reduced considerably by the time crops were beginning to fill grain.
- Fungal disease levels were generally low this season with the exception of significant blackspot infection in early sown pea crops.
- Hay yields have been well above average.

### PASTURES

- Pasture paddocks contain a high amount of feed.
- Livestock are in excellent condition.
- Hay stocks have been replenished.

## Eastern Eyre Peninsula

### WEATHER

- Thunderstorm activity on 13 September provided more than 25 mm of rain, bringing September rainfall totals close to the monthly average. October rainfall was well below average
- A number of days of strong wind were experienced in October with a very strong hot north wind causing crop damage on 9 October.

### CROPS

- Growers began harvesting canola and pulses in mid October and early-sown barley and wheat in late October.
- Cereal crops are yielding 2 to 3 t/ha, which is 20% - 30% above average.
- Growers are reporting that extreme weather events (frost and hot winds) and a dry October have impacted on grain fill with crops not yielding as well as expected earlier in the season, however both wheat and barley crops were affected by the windy weather.
- Growers estimate that in some early-sown paddocks, 0.5 to 1 t/ha of grain has been left on the ground.
- Barley that remained upright in the wind is achieving Feed 1 grade. Grain from denser barley crops that blew over during the windy conditions are only receiving Feed 3 and Feed 4 grades.
- Canola yields have ranged from 0.9 to 1.1 t/ha around Lock and 1.4 t/ha on the better soils around Cleve and Kimba. Oil content has generally been good.
- The rapid crop maturity brought about by hot windy conditions resulted in much of the canola in the district being direct headed.
- Take-all levels have increased in some intensive cereal rotations.
- Post-emergent nitrogen applications to crops have resulted in generally good protein levels despite above average yields. Most wheat delivered to date has been of Australian Premium White (APW) grade with around 20% Australian Standard White (ASW) grade.
- Stripe rust was reported in some districts in September but damage was minimised by preventative fungicide applications and seasonal conditions.
- Native budworm caused damage in pulse crops. Flights of the moth were too late to cause significant damage to canola.
- There has been above average levels of high quality hay cut around the region during this period. The area cut for hay is estimated to be 20% above average and yields are also above average.

### PASTURES

- Medic pastures continue to contain a high level of feed.
- Livestock are in excellent condition.

## Upper North

### WEATHER

- Rainfall for September and October was below to well below average.
- Maximum temperatures were well above average (4 to 5°C) during September and average to slightly above average for October.
- Strong to gale force winds were recorded on several occasions with several isolated frosts in early, mid and late October. Isolated small hail storms were recorded in parts of the district.

### CROPS

- Yields across the district will be above average, although yield potential has been significantly reduced with the dry spring and above average temperatures.
- Harvest of peas and barley commenced in the western part of the district in late September and harvest was well underway by the middle of October.
- In the eastern part of the district early-sown peas and canola were harvested towards the end of October with reports of well above average yields. Canola oil levels have been high.
- Canola crops were windrowed in mid to late October with above average yield potential.
- Strong to gale force winds on 9 October caused severe head loss and flattening of plants in ripe barley crops from Mambray Creek to Port Broughton, with yield losses of 0.5 to 2 t/ha.
- Several frosts in inland districts during October caused severe damage to isolated crops in frost prone areas. Wheat, barley, pulses and canola have all been affected to some degree, although pea and vetch crops have been the worst affected.
- Some frosted wheat crops in the later districts were cut for hay, but despite severe crop losses for individual growers, the impact on total crop production is likely to be minor.
- Leaf disease levels were relatively low in pulse crops with preventative fungicide applications keeping levels low.
- Stripe rust began to develop in susceptible varieties during early to mid September, but proactive fungicide application and warm dry weather halted its spread.
- Native budworm numbers were higher than normal with all pulse crops and some canola crops being sprayed to reduce damage.
- Crown rot levels are higher than normal, due to the wet winter and dry finish to the season with losses of 20 to 30% in isolated paddocks or parts of paddocks.
- Yields of export oaten hay were above average, but quality (low digestibility) has been disappointing with most growers only achieving lower quality No. 3 or 4 grades.

### PASTURES

- Pastures matured rapidly with the warm dry conditions but are still providing adequate feed.
- Pastures in the northern part of the district were spray topped to control seed set of annual grasses and wild geranium.
- Livestock are in excellent condition.

## Mid North

### WEATHER

- September and October rainfall has been only half the monthly average through most of the district, with the exception of the southern part of the district where September rainfall was about average.
- Strong winds were recorded on several occasions during September and October. Several frosts were recorded in parts of the district in mid to late October.

### CROPS

- In western areas of the district, barley is ripe and harvesting has begun. This is approximately a week earlier than normal.
- Strong winds broke off heads or bent plant stems over, causing significant grain yield losses, especially in ripe barley crops in early-maturing districts.
- Estimates of grain on the ground are around 0.5 to 1 t/ha, with some areas up to 2 t/ha.
- Harvesting has been slow in crops knocked down by wind, as they need to be cut closer to the ground to pick up bent and tangled plants.
- Grain has also been slightly pinched, due to restricted moisture flow in bent stems. Most barley is being graded as Feed 2 and Feed 3 quality.
- Frost has significantly reduced grain yields, especially wheat in later districts.
- A number of growers have cut the worst affected areas for hay.
- Canola has been windrowed and harvesting of canola has commenced in the Balaklava region. Yields are typically in the range of 1.7 to 2 t/ha.
- Oaten hay has been cut and baled. Hay yields reported are in the range of 6 to 8 t/ha. Quality is generally poorer, with higher levels of fibre than normal.
- Snail numbers are not high, due to drier weather during spring.
- There are some concerns about a possible build-up of mice numbers because of the large amount of grain on the ground.
- With the drier spring, crop diseases have been generally minor with most diseases controlled by preventative fungicides.
- Crop root diseases, such as crown rot and take-all, are not obvious in cereal crops.
- The drier spring has also meant fewer later germinating weeds and less seed set of weeds in crops. Despite the relatively dry conditions there are some summer-active weeds germinating in crops and pastures.

### PASTURES

- Pasture feed for livestock is very good.
- Livestock are in good condition.

## Lower North

### WEATHER

- Rainfall was average to below average in September and well below average in October.
- Maximum temperatures were above average for September and average to slightly above average for October.
- Strong winds were recorded on nine occasions over the September / October period with the most damaging winds occurring in October.

### CROPS

- Harvest commenced in the western part of the district in mid to late October with early sown canola and barley the first to be harvested.
- Strong winds in early October knocked barley crops down (particularly Fleet). Head loss was minimal as crops were still relatively green.
- Strong winds kinked the stems of bean crops to be half way up the plant, causing the top pods to fail to develop properly.
- Barley yields are lower than anticipated with yields average to slightly below average with small grain and high screenings levels.
- Wheat crops are also expected to be impacted by the dry finish to the season and hot dry winds, with compromised grain filling conditions likely to lead to high amounts of screenings.
- Overall, yields are likely to be average to slightly below average, which is disappointing given the high yield potential in early spring (given the good start to the season and high rates of nitrogen application).
- Good control of stripe rust was achieved with the use of fungicides, even in susceptible wheat varieties.
- Net form of net blotch has caused significant damage to some barley crops, particularly Commander.
- Despite the use of protectant fungicides, the prolonged wet conditions in late August / early September allowed Botrytis grey mould to become established in some lentil crops, reducing yield potential.
- Snails and other pests have been at relatively low levels.
- Canola varieties that can be direct headed have tended to have higher levels of black-leg or have been knocked over at ground level making harvesting more difficult. The strong winds have also resulted in significant grain shattering and pod losses in these standing crops and there is likely to be less sown of these varieties next season.
- Canola yields are likely to be down on earlier expectations with most crops likely to yield average to below average. This has been caused by the dry finish affecting grain fill and significant losses from shattering.
- Hay yields have been average to slightly above average and quality is relatively good.

### PASTURES

- Pastures finished off well with high legume content and good seed set.
- High populations of Lucerne flea caused some damage to pastures late in the season.

## Yorke Peninsula

### WEATHER

- September rainfall was around average however, most of it fell in two rainfall events in the first two weeks of the month. The past six weeks have consisted of less than average rainfall, warm and very windy conditions.
- There have been a number of strong to gale force wind events in October.

### CROPS

- Early September rainfall was perfectly timed for grain-fill in cereals and the initiation of flowering and pod setting in legumes.
- Heavy mid-September rains and subsequent strong wind events flattened crops, caused head loss and stem-'kinks', reducing yields (up to 50% ) and grain quality.
- Recent dry conditions reduced yields of late maturing crops such as chickpeas. Despite cold nights, there have been no notable frost events.
- Harvest started in the middle of October in the north on early-sown peas and progressed to barley and canola. Overall, harvest is less than 1% complete but should be in full-swing at the start of November.
- Early reports of grain quality indicate that barley has been affected by the dry finish to the season with high levels of screenings. Scope barley seems to have been particularly badly affected.
- Canola yields have been above average with very high oil contents reported.
- Weed levels are high to very high in all crops, due to rapid chemical degradation under wetter conditions earlier in the year. Main weeds observed are milk thistle and wild radish in lentils and peas; and ryegrass, brome grass and wild oats in cereals.
- Fleet barley has become susceptible to the disease net form of net blotch with estimated yield losses of up to 70-80% in some crops.
- Yellow leaf spot has been the major disease in wheat, especially in susceptible varieties.
- Crown rot and take-all are present in wheat crops throughout Yorke Peninsula, particularly in paddocks that have a history of brome grass infestation (yield loss is estimated at up to 30% in areas of paddocks).
- Cereal aphids were a large threat during spring and most paddocks were sprayed with a selective insecticide.
- The windy spring caused a number of Native budworm moth flights. Many farmers had to spray legumes twice to protect them against larval damage.
- *Etiella* caterpillars in lentils were observed to be at highest-ever populations for lentils on Yorke Peninsula. Many lentil crops received an extra insecticide application to control this insect pest. Fungal disease has also damaged lentil crops, as has chocolate spot in faba bean crops.
- Snail numbers have generally been lower than average. This is thought to be due to a dry summer that reduced breeding, proactive early baiting and multiple applications of bait throughout the year.
- Hay yields were above average ranging from 6 t/Ha (Northern Yorke Peninsula) to 12 t/Ha (Central Yorke Peninsula). However quality has been poor with most crops falling into the bottom two grades.

### PASTURES

- Despite excellent establishment with early rains and warm soils, pastures dried off quickly during spring in the Northern Yorke Peninsula.
- Stock condition is excellent, although some blowfly strike has occurred due to warm temperatures following rainfall events.
- Further south on Yorke Peninsula pastures are still green because of the longer growing season.
- Pastures that have been cut for hay have produced exceptional yields.



## Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula & Kangaroo Island

### WEATHER

- Rainfall has been average to above average on Kangaroo Island and average to below (especially in October) for the remainder of the region.
- Temperatures have been average.

### CROPS

#### Central Hills/Fleurieu Peninsula

- Cereal crops on average are past the milky dough stage and starting to ripen.
- Canola has been windrowed and harvesting will commence in early to mid-November depending on weather conditions.
- Harvesting of barley crops should commence in mid-November and wheat in late November.
- Disease levels in all crops have been moderate given the wet winter, below average rainfall and windy weather in spring slowing disease development.
- Pest levels have been below average except for Native budworm which has been above average particularly on peas, canola, and beans.

#### Kangaroo Island

- Cereal crops are at grain fill and beans are still setting pods.
- Canola windrowing will begin in early November.
- The above average wet winter has resulted in an above average incidence of ryegrass in crops plus water weeds (toad rush and lesser loose strife).
- The incidence of root disease (Crown rot, take-all etc.) has been higher than average.
- Chocolate spot in beans is prevalent but under control.
- Sclerotinia stem rot is present at very high levels in canola.
- Late sown canola and almost all bean and pea crops have required spraying for Native budworm.

### PASTURES

#### Central Hills/Fleurieu Peninsula

- The quantity of hay made will be above average to replenish stores depleted over last summer and autumn.
- Pasture quality is average at present with further growth highly dependent on late spring rains.

#### Kangaroo Island

- Pastures are generally in good quantity and quality.
- Livestock are in good condition.
- Hay yields are above average, however the quality of cut hay may be affected by heavy rain (up to 30mm) received on 22 October.

## Lower Murray

### WEATHER

- Rainfall was average to below average during September and below average in October.
- Maximum temperatures were well above average (3 to 4°C) during September and average to slightly above in October.
- This region has experienced many days of extreme winds and there have been a few reports of severe frosts.

### CROPS

- Harvest has just begun in the Lower Murray with mainly peas and barley being harvested.
- Early indications are that peas might be slightly below average.
- Some barley is yielding very well, while other areas are below average.
- Early reports are of barley being feed quality due to high protein and some pinched grain.
- Earlier-sown crops are clearly superior to later sown crops. Warm dry conditions leading into September caused some moisture stress and yield losses.
- Wheat harvest will commence in a few weeks.
- Some canola has been windrowed, while the rest is being prepared for direct heading.
- Main disease concerns this season were the spot form of net blotch in barley and rhizoctonia was present in many paddocks.
- Grass weeds in crops were mainly managed through the use of Clearfield varieties.
- Overall, farmers are expecting an average to slightly-above average season.

### PASTURES

- Paddock feed is diminishing at present with farmers looking to get livestock onto stubbles soon.
- It is expected that hay will be required to supplement summer feed supplies for stock.

## Northern Murray Mallee

### WEATHER

- Rainfall for September was average to below average across the Northern Mallee, followed by well below average rainfall in October.
- Repeated strong hot dry winds have been the extreme feature of this period.
- Some frosts have been reported.

### CROPS

- Harvest has commenced in the Northern Mallee, in both pulses and early-sown barley.
- There are widespread reports of barley crops being knocked down to varying degrees, mainly due to very strong winds.
- The worst wind damage is to Scope barley, where severe spot form of net blotch weakened stems.
- Yields are expected to be around average overall but with large variations between time of sowing and soil types (shallow soils suffered moisture stress in early September).
- Early indications are that barley quality is down, due to small grain and high protein.
- Many crops that were showing higher potential mid-season now have lower yield expectations due to moisture stress in early September and the effects of strong drying winds.
- Spot form of net blotch has been the main disease problem in barley this year. Dry conditions were not conducive to the spreading of wheat rusts.
- Canola has performed relatively well this year and some windrowing has taken place, with direct heading to commence soon.
- Grassy weeds were potentially a major problem for farmers this year so many opted to use Clearfield varieties.
- While a number of frosts have occurred it is difficult to assess at this stage if there has been any significant damage caused to crops.

### PASTURES

- Pasture feed is generally diminishing fairly quickly and farmers will be looking to put livestock on to stubble paddocks as soon as possible.

## Southern Murray Mallee

### WEATHER

- The Southern Mallee generally received average rainfall in September and below average rainfall in October, with the most significant rainfall event occurring mid-September.
- There have been multiple severe frost events around Karoonda and Geranium, as well as many days of strong drying winds.

### CROPS

- Harvest of pulse crops has just begun across the district with cereal harvest expected to start in early November.
- In areas not affected by frost, crops are set to yield above average in the areas not affected by frost.
- Early-sown crops will yield significantly higher than those sown later.
- Frost is reported to have devastated many crops in both the Karoonda and Geranium areas with some losses of over 50% in both pulses and cereals. Severe crop damage from frost has been experienced in both early sown and late sown crops.
- Some of the frost damage occurred too late to cut crops for hay.
- Hay yields have generally been good with excellent quality.
- Canola has been windrowed or will be direct headed very soon.
- Spot form of net blotch has been severe in barley this year.
- Stripe rusts levels were low and only the most susceptible varieties required fungicide application.
- Brome grass and rye grass control remains a major problem for Southern Mallee farmers who are developing a very strong reliance on Clearfield technologies.
- Grass seed contamination of next year's seed supply is a risk should seed be harvested from weed infested areas of crop.

### PASTURES

- Pasture feed is rapidly diminishing so farmers are looking to put livestock onto stubbles as soon as possible.
- Producers are expecting to supplementary feed stock over summer.

## Upper South East

### WEATHER

- Rainfall was below average across the district during September but varied from below average (inland) to well above average along the coast during October.
- Maximum temperatures were above average during September and average during October.
- Strong to gale force winds have been recorded on numerous days throughout the period.

### CROPS

- Strong winds knocked down some crops, although the impact on yield is likely to be minor.
- Wheat crops are at the late flowering stage and barley at the grain fill stage.
- Canola crops vary from flowering to fully podded depending on time of sowing.
- Harvest is likely to start in late November to early December.
- There have been moderate to high numbers of aphids in a range of crops with many sprayed to control numbers.
- Native budworm larvae in pulse and canola crops have required treatment.
- Strong winds caused sand blasting of some crops particularly beans.
- Forage brassica crops have required treatment for Diamond-back moth larvae.
- Other disease and pests have generally been kept at low levels through proactive chemical application.
- Pasture and other small seed production are likely to be above average.
- Hay quality for export is lower due to rain damage and high fibre (lower digestibility) content.

### PASTURES

- Pasture growth has been above average, resulting in high amounts of feed.
- Clover pastures are flowering and have the potential for good seed set.
- Nitrogen deficiency was evident in many pastures.
- Pastures have been sprayed with herbicide to stop seed set of grassy weeds.
- Good weed control has been achieved in some legume-dominant pastures.
- Livestock are in average condition.
- There is potential for weed seed contamination and injury in livestock.

## Lower South East

### WEATHER

- Rainfall was below average in September and well above average in October.
- Maximum temperatures during September were above average with average to slightly below average temperatures in October.
- Strong to gale force winds were recorded on numerous occasions throughout the period.

### CROPS

- Heavy rain and strong winds have flattened plants and damaged flowers in both canola and bean crops. The impact on crop yield is not clear at this stage.
- Beans are starting to set and fill pods and canola crops are flowering.
- Wheat crops are at the flowering stage.
- Canola crops suffered significant waterlogging in parts of paddocks early in the season consequently reducing yield potential.
- Harvest is four to five weeks away for canola and expected to be in mid December for beans and wheat.
- There have been high numbers of Diamond-back moth and Native bud worm in canola crops.
- High levels of Native budworm have been present in pulse crops, requiring control with insecticide.
- Only small amounts of hay have been cut at this stage with the above average October rainfall increasing crop and pasture growth. High hay yields are anticipated.
- Cool cloudy conditions have slowed growth but warmer conditions should result in rapid growth.
- High levels of barley grass have been observed in a number of pulse crops following herbicide application and raised concerns of herbicide resistance. Populations of barley grass are being tested for herbicide resistance.

### PASTURES

- Nitrogen deficiency has been widespread in pastures and there has been some reluctance to apply fertiliser due to its cost.
- Pastures are of good quality but growth has been slow due to climatic conditions.
- Growth of lambs has been slower than normal with very few having been sold at this stage.
- Cows are generally in poorer condition but are expected to recover quickly as pastures begin to grow with the warmer weather.
- Young calves have grown slowly and most are in below average condition at markets.