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Crop and Pasture Report South Australia

2013-14 WINTER CROP PERFORMANCE

SEPTEMBER 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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ALL ENQUIRIES

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Table of Contents

State Summary	4
Crop Estimates	6
District Reports	9
Western Eyre Peninsula	9
Lower Eyre Peninsula	10
Eastern Eyre Peninsula	11
Upper North	12
Mid North	13
Lower North	14
Yorke Peninsula	15
Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula & Kangaroo Island	16
Lower Murray	17
Northern Murray Mallee	18
Southern Murray Mallee	19
Upper South East	20
Lower South East	21

State Summary

WEATHER

- Temperatures during July were slightly above average and near average during August.
- Rainfall during July was average to well above average. August rainfall for most of the cereal zone was average but some southern regions received above average and below average rainfall occurred in the northern Mallee and upper north.
- Minimum temperatures during July and August were milder than last year, with far fewer frosts.
- Damaging frosts were recorded in inland districts in mid-August.

CROPS

- Early-sown crops have grown rapidly due to the milder conditions in late autumn and winter, with many of these crops two to three weeks ahead of normal.
- Yield prospects across the state are above average, with high levels of stored soil moisture providing the potential for excellent yields given a favourable spring.
- Early-sown cereals in medium to high rainfall districts are beginning to develop thick, heavy canopies and are falling over (lodging), increasing the risk of disease.
- Despite below average rainfall in the northern parts of the state during August, adequate stored soil moisture has allowed crops to grow and moisture stress only became apparent in late August on some of the poorer soils.
- In the high rainfall areas of Lower Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and the South East, waterlogging has significantly reduced yield potential in some areas and crop types.
- In most areas of the state, significantly higher levels of post-sowing nitrogen have been applied.
- Nitrogen fertiliser supplies were limited in late July, before new supplies arrived in early August.
- Additional nitrogen applications have been necessary to overcome effects of leaching, low soil mineralization and to also take advantage of the higher yield potential.
- Wet and waterlogged soils delayed the application of both herbicides and fertilisers (clayey soils, in particular, were un-trafficable for extended periods).
- The frost in mid-August caused severe damage to cereal crops in isolated parts of Upper Eyre Peninsula with estimated grain yield losses of 10 to 25% in affected areas.
- Despite favourable conditions for disease development, leaf diseases are currently at relatively low levels across the State, due to a combination of use of more resistant varieties and the proactive application of protectant fungicides to susceptible varieties.
- Stripe rust is widespread across the state in susceptible varieties but close monitoring and the application of fungicides has kept levels low.
- Spot form of net blotch has been severe in some barley crops in many areas of the state with some application of fungicide in an effort to control the disease.
- Net form of net blotch has started to develop on susceptible varieties and protectant fungicides are being applied to protect yield potential.
- Canola crops have grown rapidly and have the potential to provide above average yields except on poorly drained soils in higher rainfall districts where waterlogging has affected crop growth.

PASTURES

- Pasture paddocks have a high amount of feed with a number of growers looking to cut pasture hay to capitalise on the dry matter grown.
- Cool to cold conditions in July slowed pasture growth. Milder conditions during August have stimulated good growth.
- Waterlogging has limited pasture growth on poorly drained soils on Lower Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and the South East.
- Livestock are generally in good condition across the state.
- Limited pasture growth on Kangaroo Island and the South East has reduced condition of some livestock over winter.

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

Bureau of Meteorology - Weather and rainfall observations:
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>	502,000	142,000	405,000	155,000	253,000	246,000	48,500	4,600
	<i>t</i>	755,000	475,000	730,000	557,000	494,000	787,000	160,000	12,000
Durum	<i>ha</i>	0	0	0	32,400	12,500	12,500	5,900	0
	<i>t</i>	0	0	0	110,000	31,000	43,000	19,000	0
Barley	<i>ha</i>	77,000	72,000	78,000	154,000	91,000	88,000	30,500	2,700
	<i>t</i>	121,000	241,000	152,000	570,000	191,000	300,000	104,000	7,500
Oats	<i>ha</i>	15,000	3,200	5,000	5,000	9,000	8,000	2,000	3,300
	<i>t</i>	18,000	6,700	6,000	14,000	14,000	20,000	5,000	9,000
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>	1,800	1,500	6,200	6,000	5,500	1,000	1,800	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	6,500	42,000	40,000	36,000	14,000	640
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	1,200	23,000	5,000	1,500	2,700	3,000	900	1,500
	<i>t</i>	1,000	37,000	5,500	2,400	3,200	4,500	1,400	2,400
Beans	<i>ha</i>	0	6,000	200	12,000	6,500	14,200	6,000	600
	<i>t</i>	0	11,500	200	26,500	10,000	32,000	11,000	1,000
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	0	200	200	10,000	3,200	5,000	1,000	0
	<i>t</i>	0	250	100	14,000	4,100	7,000	1,200	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	110,000	5,200	19,000	8,500	0
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	200	1,000	500	2,000	5,000	2,600	300	0
	<i>t</i>	100	750	300	2,400	3,500	4,000	350	0
Canola	<i>ha</i>	5,100	60,000	8,500	30,000	23,000	50,600	10,000	4,100
	<i>t</i>	5,100	114,000	9,000	67,000	37,000	91,000	17,000	6,000
Hay (not in total)	<i>ha</i>	6,400	4,500	5,600	21,000	20,000	26,000	7,000	7,200
	<i>t</i>	12,800	18,000	14,000	108,000	85,000	130,000	30,000	34,000
Total	<i>ha</i>	607,000	315,400	511,900	492,900	439,000	468,900	118,700	17,500
	<i>t</i>	906,750	899,500	915,800	1,521,300	838,500	1,344,500	343,250	39,440

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	120,000	69,000	26,000	2,290,900
	<i>t</i>	13,500	110,000	344,000	222,000	180,000	86,000	4,925,500
Durum	<i>ha</i>	300	800	500	0	11,800	0	76,700
	<i>t</i>	500	880	500	0	29,000	0	233,880
Barley	<i>ha</i>	8,200	53,000	50,000	92,800	75,000	16,000	888,200
	<i>t</i>	19,000	85,000	65,000	130,000	195,000	52,000	2,232,500
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	156,900
Rye	<i>ha</i>	0	1,500	3,000	2,600	1,000	0	8,100
	<i>t</i>	0	1,350	2,000	3,100	900	0	7,350
Triticale	<i>ha</i>	1,500	6,500	12,000	16,000	7,000	1,000	58,300
	<i>t</i>	4,000	8,000	13,000	25,000	13,000	3,500	91,200
Peas	<i>ha</i>	1,500	1,500	1,000	3,000	3,000	400	106,100
	<i>t</i>	3,000	1,350	1,000	3,000	4,500	900	166,140
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	1,300	1,000	1,500	10,000	14,000	3,000	69,600
	<i>t</i>	2,600	900	1,500	10,000	21,000	5,000	98,400
Beans	<i>ha</i>	400	100	0	1,000	11,000	10,000	68,000
	<i>t</i>	800	100	0	1,000	17,000	22,000	133,100
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	0	0	200	500	200	200	20,700
	<i>t</i>	0	0	150	500	200	250	27,750
Lentils	<i>ha</i>	0	0	0	200	3,000	200	94,800
	<i>t</i>	0	0	0	200	3,750	350	150,300
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	0	400	500	3,500	400	0	16,400
	<i>t</i>	0	120	250	2,800	400	0	14,970
Canola	<i>ha</i>	1,400	4,000	21,000	10,000	35,000	16,300	279,000
	<i>t</i>	2,600	3,600	12,500	10,000	56,000	33,000	463,800
Hay (not in total)	<i>ha</i>	24,000	6,000	7,200	6,500	47,500	28,000	216,900
	<i>t</i>	108,000	18,600	14,500	20,000	200,000	126,000	918,900
Total	<i>ha</i>	22,200	140,800	336,700	262,800	249,900	77,100	4,060,800
	<i>t</i>	50,500	214,900	441,900	412,700	559,750	213,000	8,701,790

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	2,290,900
	<i>t</i>	2,347,000	4,032,500	5,818,500	4,444,800	3,556,500	4,039,900	4,925,500
Durum	<i>ha</i>	59,100	60,000	69,800	74,600	77,200	68,100	76,700
	<i>t</i>	88,700	157,200	240,600	223,950	181,240	178,300	233,880
Barley	<i>ha</i>	1,210,500	1,152,300	965,200	987,700	907,100	1,044,600	888,200
	<i>t</i>	1,795,000	2,544,100	2,839,100	2,031,800	1,912,900	2,224,600	2,232,500
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	156,900
Rye	<i>ha</i>	11,000	9,400	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,800	8,100
	<i>t</i>	7,300	8,200	11,600	7,900	7,500	8,500	7,350
Triticale	<i>ha</i>	85,700	85,900	85,700	80,200	69,200	81,300	58,300
	<i>t</i>	86,600	117,700	167,100	117,500	95,920	117,000	91,200
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	166,140
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	74,000	66,500	64,900	64,900	63,200	66,700	69,600
	<i>t</i>	69,600	97,200	120,100	78,900	75,110	88,200	98,400
Beans	<i>ha</i>	72,400	71,200	71,500	72,200	69,400	71,300	68,000
	<i>t</i>	82,880	144,350	168,600	121,220	105,510	124,500	133,100
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	27,750
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	150,300
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	15,900	12,900	12,800	13,100	13,100	13,600	16,400
	<i>t</i>	4,980	10,650	12,900	11,120	6,800	9,300	14,970
Canola	<i>ha</i>	178,200	182,700	196,500	269,500	302,700	225,900	279,000
	<i>t</i>	192,600	297,100	381,700	435,700	398,700	341,200	463,800
Hay (not in total)	<i>ha</i>	288,000	274,100	244,200	201,500	204,500	242,500	216,900
	<i>t</i>	831,000	1,004,000	1,066,000	774,400	769,000	888,900	918,900
Total	<i>ha</i>	4,008,500	4,024,700	4,023,000	4,101,800	3,985,700	4,028,700	4,060,800
	<i>t</i>	4,930,000	7,833,400	10,341,400	7,935,800	6,704,600	7,549,000	8,701,800

District Reports

Western Eyre Peninsula

WEATHER

- Daytime temperatures in July were cool to mild with warmer conditions in late August.
- Cold overnight temperatures on 15th August resulted in stem frost damage to crops in a number of districts.
- July rainfall was above average in most districts and August rainfall was average to slightly below average.

CROPS

- Crop yield potential is above average with most soils having some stored subsoil moisture.
- Estimates of yield loss in frost affected areas are 10 to 20%, with isolated reports of higher losses.
- Cereal crops are at the stage of early head emergence with early-sown wheat crops in the Far West starting to fill grain.
- Canola crops are at late flowering to early pod fill growth stage.
- Growers have applied significant quantities of in-crop nitrogen this season due to favourable conditions. Difficulties in sourcing nitrogen fertiliser and paddock trafficability have caused some issues with timing of applications.
- Rhizoctonia bare patch symptoms have been observed in a large number of crops this season.
- Leaf disease levels are generally low and most growers have applied fungicide sprays to protect crop potential.
- Yellow leaf spot has been severe where susceptible wheat varieties have been sown into wheat stubbles.
- There have been some reports of low levels of stripe rust and powdery mildew in wheat crops in coastal districts.
- Diamond Backed Moth and aphids have been observed in low numbers on canola crops.
- The quantity of cereal hay cut is not expected to be above average as most growers have supplies of hay from previous seasons and the grain yield potential of crops is high.

PASTURES

- Pasture paddocks have a high amount of feed with a number of growers looking to cut medic hay to utilise the extra dry matter grown.
- Growers are reducing grass weeds in pasture paddocks by applying herbicides to kill the growth of grasses before seed set which will reduce weed numbers in next year's crop.

Lower Eyre Peninsula

WEATHER

- Cool daytime conditions with cold nights prevailed throughout July.
- Daytime temperatures were warmer toward the end of August.
- Rainfall totals were above average for July and August.
- Thunderstorm activity brought rainfall events of greater than 15 mm in the last week of August.

CROPS

- Crop yield potential is above average with moderate to good amounts of stored subsoil moisture in most districts.
- Canola and pulse crops are at mid to late flowering whilst most cereal crops are at the stage of forming heads or early head emergence.
- Above average rainfall and cool conditions have resulted in some waterlogging on paddocks south of Cummins.
- Wet conditions have made timely applications of nitrogen on crops difficult. Poor paddock trafficability and difficulties sourcing nitrogen fertiliser have restricted the timing of applications in some areas.
- Good seasonal conditions have resulted in higher than normal levels of grass weeds in crop. Growers are using rotations and selective herbicides to control numbers.
- Little rust has been reported with most growers applying preventative sprays to protect crops. There have been low levels observed of powdery mildew in wheat and net blotch in barley.
- Yellow leaf spot has been common on susceptible wheat varieties.
- Diamond Back Moth has been reported in low numbers in canola. Army worm has also been observed in barley crops in eastern coastal parts of the region.
- Green peach aphids have been observed in high numbers in canola paddocks but crop damage has been minimal.

PASTURES

- Pasture paddocks have a very high amount of feed and a number of farmers plan to cut some for hay.
- Cool conditions in July slowed the growth of pastures but warmer days in August accelerated growth.
- Livestock are in excellent condition.

Eastern Eyre Peninsula

WEATHER

- Daytime temperatures in July were cool to mild with warmer conditions in late August.
- A frost was recorded on 15th August in areas north of Buckleboo.
- July rainfall was above average. Rains in late August resulted in average August rainfall being recorded in the district.

CROPS

- Crop yield potential is above average and most soils have some stored subsoil moisture.
- Estimates of grain yield loss in frost affected crops are around 25% with isolated reports of higher losses. Pea crops have suffered higher losses than cereals, with pods freezing.
- Cereal crops are in late stem elongation to early head emergence growth stages.
- Canola and pulse crops are at late flowering to early pod fill growth stages.
- Good seasonal conditions have increased competition from grass weeds.
- Cereal leaf diseases are generally low. Some stripe rust has been reported in susceptible crops near Kimba. Growers are applying protective fungicides to protect yield potential.
- Low levels of powdery mildew have been observed in susceptible wheat varieties.
- Diamond Backed Moth has been observed in low numbers on canola crops and there were some reports of native budworm in crops in late August.
- There have been some reports of cereal aphids in the district.

PASTURES

- Medic pastures have produced a very large amount of biomass and some growers will cut them for hay to take advantage of this growth.
- Many growers have used grass selective herbicides in pasture paddocks to reduce brome and barley growth and seed set.
- Livestock are in excellent condition.

Upper North

WEATHER

- Temperatures during July and August were near average across the district.
- Rainfall during July was well above average across the district.
- Rainfall during August was well below average with only light falls being received throughout the month.
- The number of frosts has been well below average although several severe frosts were recorded in early to mid-August.

CROPS

- Yield potential remains well above average across the district despite the dry August.
- Early sown crops have grown exceptionally well and are two to three weeks ahead of normal.
- In the western part of the district cereals are in head and early-sown crops at the flowering stage.
- Early-sown cereals are at early head emergence while later sown crops are at stem elongation, in the eastern part of the district.
- Early-sown bean and pea crops have grown exceptionally well and have relatively low disease levels.
- Frost has damaged the early flowers of lupin crops, but significant yield losses are not anticipated.
- Nitrogen has leached from many of the sandier soil types.
- Patches of crops on clayey soils became waterlogged in mid to late July.
- Application of post sowing nitrogen fertiliser has been widespread even in the lower rainfall areas to take advantage of stored soil moisture.
- Some nitrogen fertiliser applications were delayed by wet soil conditions and limited fertiliser supply in late July.
- Canola crops established well with full canopy cover by early July and are now at 50% flower to early pod set growth stages.
- Leaf diseases in all crops have been at relatively low levels, although most growers have been applying fungicides to protect susceptible crops.
- Susceptible wheat varieties have received at least one protective fungicide application to control stripe rust.
- Insects and pests have been at very low levels although aphids are starting to buildup, particularly in canola crops.
- Early vetch growth was slow. Crops have put on rapid growth during August.

PASTURES

- Pasture growth was limited during July but growth has been rapid in August with most producers having ample livestock feed supplies.
- Regenerating medic pastures have grown exceptionally well and some growers are considering cutting them for hay.
- Lamb marking and shearing has continued during July and August.

Mid North

WEATHER

- Rainfall throughout July and August was above average right across the region.
- Temperatures were cool to mild with a lack of widespread frosts.

CROPS

- Soil moisture levels have been replenished throughout the rooting depth of the soil profile with at least 50mm more of water available for crops compared to the same crop stage last season.
- Crop growth has been good, even for later sown crops (crop growth is 2 to 3 weeks ahead of last year).
- Wheat sown in late April is coming into head with many other cereal crops at late stem elongation growth stage, even in normally colder (slower growing) districts.
- Peas are starting to flower and canola growth stages range between 20 and 50% flower.
- Crops are generally very even and crop growth is exceptional to the extent that some crops have developed thick, heavy canopies and are falling over (lodging).
- Yield prospects are very high.
- Throughout July and August significantly higher than normal quantities of nitrogen fertiliser were applied to cereals and canola across the district.
- Additional applications of nitrogen fertiliser have been necessary to overcome leaching and low soil mineralization of nitrogen, and to also take advantage of the available moisture.
- Pest levels have been very low although low levels of aphids can now be found in many crops.
- Crop disease levels have generally been very low, especially in legumes and wheat.
- Stripe rust is present but levels are very low.
- Foliar diseases in barley began to increase in mid-August and most barley crops have some level of disease.
- There have been instances of high levels of net form or spot form net blotch and leaf rust in susceptible barley crops. Cool to mild conditions are currently preventing foliar diseases levels from rapidly increasing.
- Frequent drizzle, windy conditions and wet soils have greatly reduced the opportunities available for herbicide spraying during July and August.
- Applying nitrogen fertiliser when conditions are suitable have taken priority over other activities so many growers still have post emergent weed and fungicide spraying to complete, which is getting late in some cases.

PASTURES

- Plenty of pasture feed for livestock and livestock are in good condition.
- There will be plenty of excess feed available for hay cutting this spring.

Lower North

WEATHER

- Conditions during July were cool to cold with slightly above average temperatures and near average temperatures for August.
- Rainfall in July and August was average to slightly above average across the district.
- Frequent light falls occurred during August.

CROPS

- Crops have the potential to yield very well.
- Cereals in early districts are in head and some crops have progressed to the flowering stage.
- Most intensively cropped paddocks had low soil nitrogen levels at the start of the season and high rates of nitrogen fertiliser were applied at sowing and post-sowing.
- In higher rainfall areas many growers applied 100kg of nitrogen per hectare and some up to 150 kg which indicates they are aiming for crop yields of 5 to 6 t/ha.
- Barley crops have grown well, and some with thick, heavy canopies are starting to fall over (lodge).
- Some barley crops have high levels of spot form of net blotch, and net form of net blotch is beginning to develop on susceptible varieties.
- Bean crops are very tall but have not podded well yet due to cold conditions.
- Disease levels in beans are at low levels given the weather conditions, with good control being achieved from protectant fungicides.
- Lentil crops have grown well. Fungicide has been applied at the canopy closure stage to protect against disease.
- Pea crops have average yield potential.
- Most pea crops were sown late to avoid disease.
- Canola crops have grown well and most crops have been flowering for 2 to 3 weeks with early crops at 50% flower and later crops 20-30% flower growth stages.
- Insect levels are at low levels in most canola crops.

PASTURES

- Pastures have good growth with high levels of medic and clovers present.
- Medic seed crops have grown well and there should be adequate supplies of seed for next year.

Yorke Peninsula

WEATHER

- Rainfall has been well above average for the growing season to date.
- Temperatures have been above average for the winter period, which has allowed crops to grow more rapidly than usual.
- Most soils are currently holding more than 85% of the amount of water they are capable of storing.

CROPS

- Almost all crops are in excellent condition with above average yields expected due to high amounts of water held in the soil.
- Some herbicides have degraded more rapidly than usual due to wet conditions so subsequent weed germinations of mostly ryegrass, brome grass, wild radish and bifora have required late herbicide applications.
- The dry summer and wet winter have reduced levels of stored soil nitrogen, so many farmers have applied doubled their normal nitrogen fertilizer rates.
- Nitrogen fertiliser applications may continue in barley into early spring and even later on wheat crops, if ideal growing conditions prevail.
- Waterlogging of crops has occurred, particularly in lentil crops on clayey soils south of Paskeville to north of Curramulka.
- Most crops are two weeks ahead of their normal growth stage due to the above average temperatures.
- Above average temperatures have also led to earlier pest and disease outbreaks.
- Early sown wheat is flowering, while the majority of wheat is around the second node growth stage.
- Canola is in full flower with early-sown paddocks podding well.
- Net blotch disease levels in barley have increased in the past month due to favourable weather conditions. Untreated paddocks are at risk of losing yield.
- Stripe rust has started to appear in wheat crops. Producers are applying protective fungicides to prevent this from spreading.
- Powdery mildew in wheat has recently appeared in susceptible wheat varieties and untreated paddocks are at risk of yield loss.
- Early sown lentil paddocks have just reached canopy closure. Early maturing varieties, such as Blitz, have started flowering.
- Lentils have mixed levels of *Ascochyta* and grey mould present on the foliage, depending on crop density and the variety grown.
- Flowering of bean crops has commenced and they are growing well. Low to medium levels of chocolate spot has started emerging over recent weeks.
- Aphids and native budworm are present in crops and producers are starting to apply insecticides.

PASTURES

- Pastures established well and have been growing vigorously in the warmer winter temperatures.
- More medic paddocks will be cut for hay this year, due to the excess of feed. This will replace stores used during summer and autumn.
- Livestock condition is excellent although some scouring is present due to the large amount of green feed available.

Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula & Kangaroo Island

WEATHER

- Rainfall was well above average for July and August.
- Temperatures have been average.
- Some severe frosts occurred in the Central Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula but little permanent damage was observed.

CROPS

Central Hills/Fleurieu Peninsula

- Given above average growing season rainfall there is potential for well above average crop yields given average spring rainfall.
- Seeding was delayed or abandoned on some low-lying areas prone to waterlogging. Some of these areas were re-sown once or twice but failed to fully recover.
- Many crops are at the tillering growth stage with weed spraying nearly completed.
- Spraying weeds at the optimal time was difficult due to windy conditions, waterlogged soils and wet, continual misty or showery weather.
- The application of post-sowing nitrogen was challenged by a shortage of nitrogen fertiliser supplies as well as waterlogged soils and weather conditions.

Kangaroo Island

- Canola crops have been set back by wet conditions. Wheat crops have been less impacted by wet conditions.
- High rainfall has leached nitrogen and sulphur and some crops are showing signs of deficiency of these nutrients.
- Canola crops range in growth stages from first flowers to full flowering.
- Wheat is at the early head emergence growth stage while beans are starting to flower.
- Some aphids have been observed on cereals.
- Crop yields could be slightly below average because of the wet conditions.

PASTURES

Central Hills/Fleurieu Peninsula

- Pasture growth has been slow due to the cold, wet conditions and the late break to the season.
- Some supplementary feeding of stock has continued during winter at varying levels depending on lambing and calving time, and pasture feed availability and quality.
- Many pastures are being prepared for spring hay cutting as fodder stores are empty or near empty.
- Most livestock are in reasonable health and condition.
- Some lost condition prior to lambing or calving due to the late seasonal break, despite supplementary feeding and have not fully recovered from this setback.

Kangaroo Island

- Pasture growth has been slow due to cold wet conditions.
- Warmer conditions in mid to late August allowed better pasture growth.
- Livestock are in good condition although some sheep grazing capeweed-dominant pastures are scouring.

Lower Murray

WEATHER

- Rainfall was generally well above average in July and below average in August.
- Growing season rainfall to date is above average in the southern part of the district and below average in the northern part of the district.
- Maximum temperatures were slightly above average during July and near average in August.
- There were several frosts during July and August and several days of extreme wind events.

CROPS

- Crops have generally produced a high amount of growth but good rains are needed in early spring for crops to achieve their potential.
- Crops in areas closer to the hills are generally growing well and better than those on clayey or stony areas in the north east of the district which are beginning to show signs of moisture stress.
- Cereal crops are mostly in the head emergence to flowering stages.
- A majority of canola crops are reaching the end of flowering, while pulse crops are mid flowering.
- There is some spot form of net blotch in barley.
- Rust diseases in wheat have not been detected at this stage.
- Rhizoctonia bare patch has been quite visible in many paddocks this season.

PASTURES

- Paddock feed is excellent with medics growing well.

Northern Murray Mallee

WEATHER

- Rainfall was average to below average in July and below to well below average in August.
- Growing season rainfall to date is average to slightly above average.
- Temperatures were above average in both July and August, with some frosts recorded as well as some days of very strong wind events.

CROPS

- Cereal crops are generally growing well and are at growth stages of head emergence through to flowering on early-sown paddocks.
- While crops growing on soils with deeper root zones are performing well, crops growing in shallow soils and stony ground are beginning to show signs of moisture stress.
- Yield potentials in the Loxton area are generally above average, while crop prospects in the Waikerie area appear to be about average.
- Crops on 'poorer soils have slightly below average yield potential.
- Spot form of net blotch has been severe in many barley crops with damage on flag leaves leading to widespread spraying of fungicides.
- Stripe rust was reported at low levels in susceptible varieties at the end of August and growers will start to apply fungicides.
- There has been a large area of canola sown this season and it is now well out in flower.
- Pea crops are growing well.
- While there have been a number of frosts recorded, it is too early to determine if they have caused any significant crop damage.

PASTURES

- Pasture feed availability and quality is generally very good.

Southern Murray Mallee

WEATHER

- The Southern Mallee has generally received above average rainfall in July and slightly below average rainfall in August.
- Growing season rainfall to date is average to slightly above average.
- Maximum temperatures were above average during July and near average in August.
- There were several frosts and a few days of strong wind events.

CROPS

- Crops are generally growing well and yield prospects across the district are above average given the subsoil moisture available.
- Cereals are approaching the head emergence growth stage, while pulses and canola are well into flowering.
- High amounts of nitrogen and trace elements have been applied this season.
- Some spot form of net blotch is present but only the most susceptible varieties have been sprayed with fungicide.
- Rhizoctonia bare patch was evident early, with crops beginning to recover in late August.
- There have only been a few mild frosts at this stage and no damage has been reported.

PASTURES

- Pastures are generally growing well providing plenty of livestock feed.
- Spraying to stop grass growth and seed set in preparation for next year's crop will commence soon.

Upper South East

WEATHER

- Temperatures were above average during July and average to below average in August.
- Rainfall for the July-August period was above average.
- Rainfall for the growing season to date is average to above average.

CROPS

- Growth of crops has been slowed because of waterlogged conditions.
- Producers have been unable to carry out spraying and fertilizer spreading in waterlogged paddocks.
- Ponding of surface water is occurring and causing concern to producers.
- Powdery mildew and stripe-rust have been observed in wheat crops.
- *Ascochyta* blight and *Cecrospora* leaf spot have been identified in bean crops and monitoring is continuing.

PASTURES

- Pastures are growing well on better drained soils, but are waterlogged and yellowing on poorly drained soils, reducing growth by up to 15%.
- Ponding of surface water has reduced the grazing area of pastures.
- Growers are waiting for soils to dry out to apply fertilizer and to control weeds.
- Nitrogen fertilizer has been applied by air in some areas.
- Producers are providing copper supplements to sheep in some areas.
- Livestock are losing condition due to unavailability of feed.
- Supplementary feed supplies are low.

Lower South East

WEATHER

- Temperatures were above average during July and average in August.
- Rainfall was above average for July and August.
- There have only been four days without rain in August.

CROPS

- The well above average rainfall has caused waterlogging and limited producers' access onto paddocks to carry out operations.
- The impact of waterlogging on potential yield is uncertain and will depend on the rate of drainage of water from the surface and through the soil profile.
- Farmers are ready to apply fertiliser once paddocks dry out.
- Early applications of fungicide have been made with follow up applications planned for when weather conditions are suitable.
- There is currently low disease and pest levels but these are expected to increase as temperatures rise.
- Crops are being monitored for disease.
- Foliar copper has been applied to treat deficiencies in some crops.

PASTURES

- Pasture growth is above average on well drained soils but below average on poorer drained soils.
- Supplementary feed supply is low.
- Livestock condition is below average.
- Restricted nutrition is having the greatest influence on cattle condition.