

Monday 2nd July

Confirmation of a Big Lift in Plantings

ProFarmer has joined forces with Callum Downs Commodity News to provide the largest private survey of grower plantings ever undertaken. The inclusion of Callum Downs respondents has significantly improved the robustness of survey results, particularly in SA and VIC.

The ProFarmer/Callum Downs June Crop survey has largely confirmed earlier survey results to again indicate a sharp lift in plantings – the full extent of which is not being picked up by current official estimates.

Sharp lift in wheat and barley plantings

The survey indicates a rise in wheat plantings in the vicinity of 22%, compared to the 20% lift indicated by our May survey. Largest increases will be in WA and VIC.

ABARE's estimates indicate an 11% increase in wheat plantings on last year. ProFarmer Managing Director Richard Koch says "With rain in southern QLD, northern NSW and northern WA this past week, more ground will be planted and we anticipate that ABARE will have to lift wheat planting estimates in its next update."

Mr. Koch adds that "The lift in barley plantings is even higher, at 28%. Survey responses indicate that NSW and WA will see the largest increases".

Lift in canola surprising?

Given some of the poor canola growing results during dry seasons in recent years, the significant planting increases suggested by growers are surprising.

"The good early break in traditional canola growing areas has prompted a move back to traditional and preferred rotations. Big lifts will be the order of the day in WA, NSW, SA and VIC" says Callum Downs Managing Director Malcolm Bartholomaeus, adding that "ABARE's estimate of a 7% lift in plantings could be seriously underestimating canola plantings".

Big jump in oats

Given the excellent start in many prime oat growing areas and the excellent prices, there will be a big swing toward oats production. Triticale and fodder crops will enjoy a similar lift in plantings.

Emergence lagging in QLD and WA

At the time of the survey (mid to late June), only 20% of the QLD crop had emerged and only around 60% of the WA crop was out of the ground.

Figures in the following tables represent the total plantings of survey respondents and do not relate to total plantings expected. These plantings relate to some 4-10% of actual expected Australian plantings of each major crop. For analysis purposes, the percentage changes from a year ago are the more important figures.

CROP PLANTINGS						
Wheat, Barley and Canola (ha)						
	Wheat		Barley		Canola	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
QLD	13,914	13,575	2,081	854	-	-
%Chg	2%		144%		n/a	
NSW	136,296	115,100	32,054	22,295	21,859	17,567
%Chg	18%		44%		24%	
VIC	66,535	51,930	45,717	35,905	16,372	13,931
%Chg	28%		27%		18%	
SA	95,417	86,943	37,661	35,113	13,423	11,228
%Chg	10%		7%		20%	
WA	187,911	141,222	63,897	47,947	32,538	21,031
%Chg	33%		33%		55%	
TAS	1,102	911	122	182	256	159
%Chg	21%		-33%		61%	
AUS	501,175	409,681	181,532	142,296	84,448	63,916
%Chg	22%		28%		32%	
ABARE	11%		10%		7%	

NATIONAL CROP PLANTINGS					
INTENTIONS (ha)					
	2007	2006	% CH	ABARE	PULSE AUS forecast
Oats	38,039	26,107	46%	13%	
Chick peas	23,086	17,307	33%	28%	4%
Faba beans	10,434	12,189	-14%	-20%	-4%
Field peas	22,615	21,876	3%	-15%	-5%
Lupins	34,355	34,038	1%	-9%	21%
Lentils	16,811	16,672	1%	-15%	-16%
Triticale	9,226	6,620	39%	10%	
Sorghum	11,243	5,503	104%	64%	
Fodder	26,547	24,461	9%		

WHEAT EMERGENCE	
	%
QLD	17.8
NSW	87.2
VIC	81.2
SA	94.4
WA	58.6
AUS	77.7

ProFarmer and Callum Downs will conduct a follow-up crop conditions survey during the growing season. This information will be used in conjunction with other forecasting techniques to provide crop production forecasts. The forecasts will be published in the Callum Downs Grain Report, and in the ProFarmer Crop Conditions and Crop Forecast Report available online via subscription at www.profarmer.com.au.

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Background Information: ProFarmer is Australia's leading independent supplier of agricultural commodity market information and strategic advice. The flagship ProFarmer Newsletter and Market Update is read weekly by over 2,000 of Australia's top farmers. Callum Downs Commodity News is based in South Australia and has been providing independent grain marketing services to growers since 1991.