

**PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY 1990-91, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND FARMERS'
INTENTIONS FOR THE 1991-92 SEASON**

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

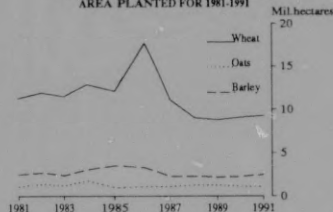
Preliminary results from the Agricultural Census for the 1990-91 season show:

- Growth in the area and production of wheat for grain of 2.4 and 8.4 per cent respectively, with an increase in yield from 1.6 to 1.7 tonnes per hectare nationally.
- An increase in the area sown to barley (up 9.1 per cent) with production up 2.8 per cent.
- Sugar cane area has decreased by 16.4 per cent.
- Rice area has decreased by 19.1 per cent.
- A further rise (of 3.4 per cent) in the number of beef cattle, but a reduction of 7.6 per cent in the dairy herd.
- A decrease in sheep and lamb numbers (down 4.4 per cent) and an increase of 0.5 per cent in wool production.

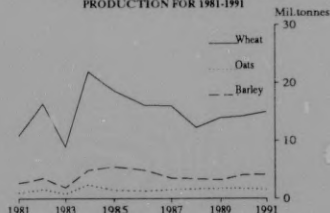
Crop details

- For the 1991-92 season, Australia's farmers indicate a reduction of 24.6 per cent in intended plantings of wheat.
- Intended plantings of oats are 68.6 per cent higher than actual plantings for 1990-91.
- Wheat production during 1990-91 increased by 8.4 per cent to 15.4 million tonnes, harvested from 9.2 million hectares.
- An increased planting of barley for grain (2.5 million hectares, up 9.1 per cent) combined with a yield of 1.7 tonnes/hectare.
- The area of oats for grain declined slightly with a slightly lower production of 1.6 million tonnes (down 3.8 per cent). Farm stocks of oats at 1.6 million tonnes show a 1.5 per cent increase.
- Rice production declined by 18.6 per cent to 689 thousand tonnes, from an area of 85 thousand hectares, which is a decrease in area of 19.1 per cent from 105 thousand hectares last year.
- Sugar cane production dropped by 8.6 per cent, with 24.6 million tonnes cut from a decreased planting of 332 thousand hectares (down 16.4 per cent).

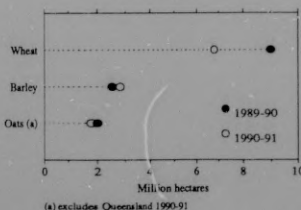
**WHEAT, OATS AND BARLEY FOR GRAIN
AREA PLANTED FOR 1981-1991**



**WHEAT, OATS AND BARLEY FOR GRAIN
PRODUCTION FOR 1981-1991**



**INTENDED SOWINGS 1989-90 AND 1990-91
AUSTRALIA**



INQUIRIES

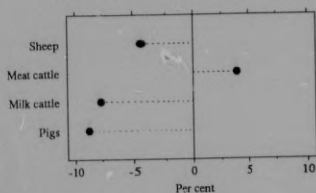
* for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Penny Cooke on Canberra (06) 252 5300 or any ABS State office.

* for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 5402, 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

Livestock details

- The size of Australia's dairy herd at 31 March 1991 was 2.3 million, a decline of 7.6 per cent on the previous year.
- Meat cattle numbers increased by 3.4 per cent to 21.4 million.
- Sheep and lamb numbers have declined to 162.8 million, a drop of 4.4 per cent.

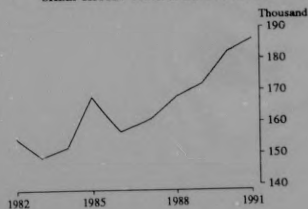
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS
Percentage change 1990-91 on 1989-90



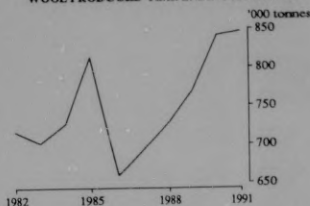
Wool production

- Wool production has increased slightly in the year ending 31 March 1991, rising by 0.5 per cent to 846.5 thousand tonnes, with an average cut per head of 4.6 kilograms.

SHEEP SHORN YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH



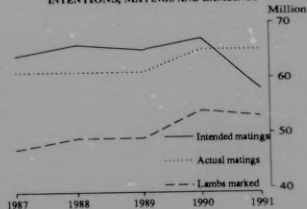
WOOL PRODUCED YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH



Ewe mating intentions, matings and lambings

- Intended matings for the next season (1991-92) are 58.5 million, 14.7 per cent lower than intended matings for the 1990-91 season and 7.2 per cent lower than actual matings for the same season.
- Actual matings in 1990-91 were 8.1 per cent lower than the 68.6 million intended matings reported in the previous year, of which 95 per cent (63.0 million) were realised. There were 52.9 million lambs marked during the year, a record lambing ratio of 84 per cent of actual matings.

INTENTIONS, MATINGS AND LAMBINGS



PRINCIPAL CROPS

TABLE 1. AREA AND PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1989 TO 1991

	Australia			1991p					
	1989	1990	1991p	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.
AREA ('000 hectares)									
Cereals for grain									
Wheat	8,827	9,004	9,216	2,223	820	1,104	1,452	3,616	1
Oats	1,309	1,089	1,063	400	163	23	146	322	10
Barley	2,190	2,310	2,519	496	384	191	942	498	9
Rice	97	105	85	81	—	4	—	—	—
Sugar cane (cut for crushing)	394	397	332	14	—	317	—	—	—
PRODUCTION ('000 tonnes)									
Cereals for grain									
Wheat	13,935	14,214	15,402	4,516	1,424	2,004	2,038	5,416	3
Oats	1,838	1,640	1,568	584	293	29	148	497	18
Barley	3,242	4,044	4,158	899	541	394	1,548	752	24
Rice	748	846	689	673	—	15	—	—	—
Sugar cane (cut for crushing)	27,146	26,940	24,625	1,152	—	23,473	—	—	—

TABLE 2. AREA INTENDED TO BE SOWN TO CEREAL CROPS FOR ALL PURPOSES, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1990 TO 1992 ('000 hectares)

IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE ACTUAL SOWINGS IN EACH YEAR ARE COMPARED WITH THE INTENDED SOWINGS AS REPORTED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

		1990		1991		1992p	
		Intended	Actual	Intended	Actual(a)	Intended	Actual
NSW	Wheat	2,285	2,234	2,287	2,223	1,315	n.y.a.
	Oats	771	731	742	400	805	
	Barley	483	587	490	384	521	
Vic	Wheat	905	984	938	820	625	
	Oats	249	234	243	163	264	
	Barley	369	395	428	384	449	
Qld	Wheat	708	905	836	1,104	700	
	Oats	223	280	235	23	n.c.	
	Barley	171	206	165	191	235	
SA	Wheat	1,530	1,615	1,535	1,510	1,274	
	Oats	254	343	257	154	236	
	Barley	917	972	948	942	998	
WA	Wheat	3,311	3,479	3,410	3,615	2,882	
	Oats	505	499	456	322	480	
	Barley	441	428	444	498	579	
Australia	Wheat	8,741	9,218	9,018	9,274	6,797	
	Oats	2,020	2,105	1,951	1,071	(b)1,806	
	Barley	2,389	2,596	2,482	2,519	2,790	

(a) For grain only. (b) Excludes Queensland.

TABLE 3. FARM STOCKS OF CEREAL GRAINS, AT 31 MARCH 1989 TO 1991 ('000 tonnes)

	Australia			1991p				
	1989	1990	1991p	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA
Wheat	1,028	954	(a)1,302	537	321	n.c.	150	288
Oats	1,550	1,610	(a)1,634	834	259	n.c.	206	317
Barley	707	655	(a)793	364	163	n.c.	125	130

(a) Excludes Queensland.

LIVESTOCK

TABLE 4. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS, AT 31 MARCH 1989 TO 1991 ('000)

	Australia			1991p						
	1989	1990	1991p	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT
Milk Cattle—										
Bulls and bull calves intended for service	36	33	31	4	19	3	2	1	2	—
Cows in milk and dry	1,663	1,653	1,644 1,610	236	888 950	181	87	63	91	2
Heifers and heifer calves (milk excl house cows)	813	808	736 751	106	407 433	84	46	43	39	—
Total (a)	2,512	2,495	2,206 2,400	347	1,294 1,408	269	135	107	132	2
Meat Cattle—										
Beef bulls and bull calves intended for service	551	582	559	128	63	230	27	53	11	48
Cows and heifers 1 yrs	10,120	10,577	10,730	2,743	1,014	4,653	449	840	204	822
Heifer and other calves	4,816	5,106	5,122	1,580	606	1,912	235	379	149	256
Other cattle 1 year and over	4,402	4,401	4,953	989	357	2,835	151	282	87	252
Total	19,888	20,668	21,365	5,441	2,039	9,631	863	1,353	450	1,378
Total cattle and calves (a)	22,400	23,163	23,670 23,765	5,787	3,053 3,447	9,899	997	1,660	582	1,380
Sheep, 1 year and over—										
Rams	1,754	1,767	1,709	615	250	168	214	409	51	—
Ewes—breeding	74,832	74,812	65,839	25,477	11,111	6,324	7,496	13,494	1,892	—
other	4,664	5,959	10,935	4,218	836	1,067	1,274	3,200	328	—
Wethers	43,721	47,692	47,920	16,330	8,306	5,973	4,703	11,039	1,534	—
Total sheep	124,971	130,231	126,403	46,640	20,502	13,532	13,686	28,142	3,806	—
Lambs and hoggets under 1 year	36,633	40,065	36,371	14,139	5,432	3,755	3,742	7,999	1,276	—
Total sheep and lambs	161,603	170,297	162,774	60,779	25,935	17,288	17,428	36,141	5,082	—
Pigs—										
Boars	22	21	21	7	3	5	3	3	—	—
Breeding sows and gilts intended for breeding	339	331	296	91	54	67	44	36	4	—
Other pigs (incl. suckers, weaners, growers, etc)	2,310	2,295	2,100	620	357	504	343	238	35	3
Total pigs	2,671	2,648	2,417	718	414	575	390	276	40	3

(a) Excludes house cows and heifers.

TABLE 5. MATINGS AND LAMBINGS, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1989 TO 1991

	Unit	Australia			1991p					
		1989	1990	1991p	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.
Actual matings	'000	61,492	65,165	63,004	23,652	10,263	5,827	7,392	13,885	1,945
Lambs marked	'000	49,601	54,375	52,889	21,868	8,508	4,166	5,849	10,786	1,678
Percentage of lambs marked to actual matings	%	81	83	84	92	83	71	79	78	86

TABLE 6. SHEARING AND WOOL PRODUCTION YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1989 TO 1991

	Unit	Australia			1991p					
		1989	1990	1991p	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.
Sheep—										
Number shorn	'000	138,901	146,730	153,400	55,622	24,567	14,993	16,821	36,464	4,829
Wool produced (incl. crutchings)	tonnes	711,829	780,955	791,029	284,532	115,502	78,860	93,864	193,791	19,959
Average cut per head	kg	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.3	4.1
Lambs—										
Number shorn	'000	32,887	35,350	27,684	11,478	5,364	2,474	4,299	8,108	770
Wool produced	tonnes	56,879	61,535	55,496	20,849	7,976	5,976	7,194	12,477	998
Average cut per head	kg	1.7	1.74	2.0	1.9	1.5	2.4	1.7	1.5	1.3
Total sheep and lambs—										
Number shorn	'000	171,790	182,080	185,910	671,001	29,931	17,466	21,120	44,572	5,599
Wool produced	tonnes	768,718	842,489	846,524	305,380	127,478	84,836	101,058	206,266	20,957
Average cut per head	kg	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.9	4.8	4.6	3.7

IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE ACTUAL EWE MATINGS IN EACH YEAR ARE COMPARED WITH THE INTENDED MATINGS AS REPORTED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

TABLE 7. INTENDED MATINGS, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1990 TO 1992

	Unit	Aust.	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.
1990—								
Intended matings at start of season—								
To merino rams	'000	48,735	16,951	5,687	5,265	5,876	13,906	1,017
To other rams	'000	18,904	8,323	5,714	134	1,999	1,641	1,082
Total intended matings	'000	67,639	25,274	11,401	5,399	7,875	15,547	2,099
Total actual matings	'000	65,165	24,127	10,923	5,457	7,576	15,025	2,016
Percent of actual to intended mating	%	96	95	96	101	96	97	96
1991—								
Intended matings at start of season—								
To merino rams	'000	49,395	18,211	5,812	5,391	5,960	12,885	1,109
To other rams	'000	19,193	8,439	6,094	141	2,004	1,532	969
Total intended matings	'000	68,588	26,650	11,907	5,532	7,964	14,417	2,078
Total actual matings	'000	63,004	23,652	10,263	5,827	7,392	13,885	1,945
Percent of actual to intended matings	%	95	89	86	105	98	94	94
1992p—								
To merino rams	'000	(a)34,730	14,137	4,775	n.c.	4,778	9,996	1,045
To other rams	'000	(a)18,489	8,742	5,074	n.c.	2,058	1,830	785
Total intended matings	'000	(b)58,474	22,878	9,849	5,254	6,836	11,826	1,830
Total actual matings p	'000	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.

(a) Excludes Queensland. (b) Includes Queensland.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains preliminary agricultural estimates for the 1990-91 season, together with estimates of intended sowings of principal crops and intended ewe matings for the forthcoming season and comparative data for the earlier years. Because of possible changes in intentions caused by unforeseen circumstances, such as adverse climatic or economic conditions, estimates for the forthcoming season may not always agree with the reported statistics from the following Agricultural Census.

Scope and coverage

2. Estimates are based on a proportion of information obtained in all States, from the Agricultural Census conducted at 31 March 1991.

3. The ABS excludes from the Census those establishments which make only a small contribution to overall agricultural production. From 1986-87 the scope of the Census is establishments undertaking agricultural activity having an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) of \$20,000 or more. Tables are based on this scope.

Related publications

4. Further preliminary agricultural statistics will be published in:

Selected Agricultural Commodities, Australia, 1990-91 Preliminary (7112.0)

5. Final figures will be published in the following series of publications intended for release later in the year and during the early part of 1992 when all Agricultural Census returns have been fully processed.

Viticulture, Australia, 1990-91 (7310.0)

Livestock and Livestock Products, Australia, 1990-91 (7221.0)

Summary of Crops, Australia, 1990-91 (7330.0)

6. The ABS also has more detailed agricultural statistics on magnetic tape, microfiche, and floppy disk. AgStats on floppy disk offers a wider range of data aggregated at smaller geographic areas than those generally available in printed publications, together with an easy-to-use, menu-driven interrogation facility.

7. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. *Statistics Weekly* (1318.0), issued on Thursdays, describes highlights from publications released during the week. The Catalogue, Publications Advice and Statistics Weekly are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

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

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

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

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

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