

# Australian Oilseeds Federation

## Crop Report



December 2008

### Canola 2008/09

While there was a disappointing end to the east coast season, the west has held up production and overall estimates are pretty much unchanged from last month. The rains finally came, but much too late for most of the 2008 canola crop. Harvest is well and truly underway in NSW and has commenced in all other states. Harvesting has been hampered by above average rainfall in all states, but there have been few reports of damage due to the rain. Most of the crop damage occurred in late October and November as a result of the widespread frosts across NSW, Vic and South Australia.

	2007/08	2008/09 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	44,000	195,000	210,000
VIC	200,000	185,000	215,000
SA	155,000	165,000	165,000
WA	670,000	620,000	875,000
Total	1,069,000	1,165,000	1,465,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 15/12/08

Most of the **NSW** canola crop has now been harvested. Crops in the western part of the southern and central regions have recorded oil contents in the low 30's, with some being rejected as below 30%. On average oil contents have ranged between 35-40% in the main canola growing areas, and up to 43% has been reported. Yields in the north have been above average and some yields on the eastern side of the central region have been better than expected. Quality has been variable in terms of seed sizes and appearance. Yields have also been variable with some dryland crops achieving yields of up to 2.3 t/ha, but generally have been below expectations.

Rain has hampered harvest activities in most of **Victoria**. Harvest is complete in the North East, with a wide range (0.3-1.3 t/ha) in yields from frost affected crops. Oil content has also been affected, averaging 34-35%. A proportion of the crop was cut for silage. In the Western District harvest is still being delayed by rain and a large area of crop is still to be harvested. Frost is expected to see variable oil contents and yields.

As for much of the year, **South Australia** is a similar scenario to Victoria. The heavy rainfall in late November continuing into December, has delayed harvest. However, frost damage in November may not have been as severe as first reported. Harvest is expected to be fully underway by late December.

Harvest across **Western Australia** has been held up by the continuing wet weather. While frustrating for growers, this has not resulted in any grain quality issues as yet and yields look to be average or better in most areas not affected by frost. There has been some downside reported in crop affected by the early September frost, and the damage to yield has been estimated at between 10 and 90% in affected crops. Overall the forecast has been slightly increased to almost 900,000 tonnes.

### Sunflower 2008/09

The early crop plant is very similar to last year. There was potential for a reasonable late plant, however, lower prices are expected to impact predictions. Thus, estimates have been revised down slightly from the previous month.

	2007/08	2008/09 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	31,950	17,500	21,500
NSW	41,050	22,500	25,500
Total	73,000	40,000	47,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 15/12/08

Early sunflowers in **northern NSW** are ranging from flowering through to petal drop. The recent rainfall across northern NSW has been beneficial to the early crop. There has been very little pressure from Rutherglen bug, but reports of heliothis has been building. Late planting has not commenced as yet, but with a brighter moisture outlook, there is some degree of interest. On the **Liverpool Plains**, rain throughout November has also benefited early sunflower plantings, although some areas have reported water logging. Crops are ranging from late vegetative stage through to budding. Insect pressure has been minimal. The early crop on the **Darling Downs** has commenced flowering and is reported to be in good condition and benefiting from rainfall.

### Soybean 2008/09

While rainfall and current market indications has hampered plantings somewhat, the soybean crop is forecast to increase significantly on last year's crop.

	2007/08	2008/09 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	20,930	16,000	38,000
NSW	13,800	17,500	42,000
VIC	0	2,000	5,000
Total	34,730	35,500	85,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 15/12/08