



April 2004

Crop Outlook

Soybeans 2003/04

Estimated production has been revised upwards by around 6%. This is due to a slight increase in planted area and better than predicted yields in some regions in Queensland and northern NSW. Harvest is just commencing in most areas.

Victoria and the Riverina are largely unchanged. Yield potential in some of the later planted crops remains uncertain. In northern and central NSW, irrigated crops are generally looking good. However dryland crops, particularly in the north have lost yield potential as a result of limited rain in the latter part of the growing season. On the north coast, early crops are performing well but later crops may be impacted by weeds and white fly.

In Queensland, most crops are looking good. There has been some damage by Green Vegetable Bug in the Atherton Tablelands/ Burdekin region although crops on the Central Downs and coastal areas are excellent and yields have been revised up.

State	Area Planted (Ha's)	Production (Tonnes)
Queensland	15,650	33,050
NSW	18,175	43,030
Victoria	546	1,365
Total	34,371	77,445

Source: Industry Estimates, 16/4/04

Sunflowers 2003/04

	Area Planted (ha's)	Production (tonnes)
Monounsaturated sunflower		
Queensland	10,000	11,500
NSW	16,200	23,500
Polyunsaturated sunflower		
Queensland	15,000	14,800
NSW	4,950	8,200
Total	46,150	58,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 19/4/04

Heat stress has severely affected some sunflower crops in Central Queensland reducing March production estimates by 2,000 tonnes. Large numbers of white fly are also appearing on seedling crops but it is too early to say if this will impact yields.

Market Comment

- Volatility has continued in the international oilseed complex with persistent weather concerns in South America and continued strong U.S. domestic demand providing plenty of fuel for the bulls. However evidence is beginning to emerge that high prices are starting to erode demand for oilseed products. A slowing in Malaysian palm oil exports and weakening Chinese oil and meal imports is supporting the belief that demand is slowing at current prices.

- The EU rapeseed crop is progressing well and continued favourable conditions will result in a large, possibly record crop. Canada is about to plant the 2004 crop with a forecast 10-20% increase in area on last year.
- 2004-05 domestic canola prices firmed by around \$25/tonne on the back of the stronger international oilseed complex during March to over \$400/tonne, but have since eased by \$10/tonne following a correction in US soybeans.
- Domestic soybean prices for crushing are also showing signs of easing however there continues to be solid Japanese interest in edible beans.

Upcoming Meetings

Agriculture Australia 10 and 11 August, 2004 Sydney. For further information contact Liz Walker 03 9573 9816

AOF Industry Forum & AGM 6 & 7 October 2004, Melbourne. For further information contact AOF 03 9533 2623

Soybean Tour - Canada

The Northern Australian Soybean Industry Association is organising a tour of the Canadian soybean industry for September 2004. The tour will include visits to soybean processing companies for feed and food purposes, commercial and research farms, the University of Guelph, Canadian Grain Commission, Chatham and Ontario Soybean Growers Association. **Anyone wishing to participate in tour, should contact Catherine Brodie on 07 4630 1944 for details.**

Canola Blackleg guide

The CAA Blackleg ratings for 2004 and National Recommendations in relation to the Blackleg Resistance Breakdown are now available on the CAA website. The Blackleg ratings are based on ACAS protocols and compiled from data supplied by all canola breeding programs and associated pathologists throughout Australia.

The CAA website can be found www.canolaaustralia.com or hard copies can be obtained from CAA on 03 9573 9816.

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