

# Australian Oilseeds Federation

## Crop Report



May 2008

### Canola 2007/08

The 2008/09 canola crop is expected to recover from the drought impacted crops of the previous two years, although rain is needed in the next few weeks on the east coast to see planting intentions realised.

	2007/08	2008/09 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	44,000	235,550	353,300
VIC	200,000	240,000	384,000
SA	155,000	176,000	264,000
WA	670,000	615,000	799,500
Total	1,069,000	1,266,550	1,800,800

Source: Industry Estimates, 9/05/08

**NSW** continues to face dry conditions. Sub soil moisture is variable across the State. While the south received some rain during April, the north and central regions are still waiting for the break. Good prices and rotational benefits are supporting grower planting intentions for canola. About 50% of the estimated area has already been sown, and 20% of this area sown was sown dry. Good rain in the next 2-3 weeks is critical to seeing planting intentions realised.

There is little sub soil moisture across **Victoria** and there has been little growing season rain to date. In the lower rainfall areas, rain in the next 2-3 weeks is critical, while the higher rainfall areas will continue planting into June.

Rainfall has been highly variable across **South Australia**, with all regions looking for further rain. There is expected to be an increase in wheat and canola plantings across the State. Some area has been planted, but further rain is necessary to realise intentions.

There has been an excellent start to the season across **Western Australia**, with above average rainfall in April. The exception is Esperance which is still looking for more rain. The canola area is mostly sown and there has been a substantial increase in area due to the good price outlook and good experience with canola over the past couple of seasons.

### Sunflowers 2007/08

The sunflower crop estimates are virtually unchanged with the NSW late crop average yields supported by the significant proportion of the crop on irrigation. There has been no change to estimates for the Queensland crop.

	2006/07	2007/08 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	2,960	20,100	30,550
NSW	15,040	28,300	43,450
Total	18,000	48,400	74,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 9/05/08

Conditions have remained very dry for the last 3 months in the Moree region and thus, dryland crop yields may not be as good as expected. Irrigated crops which have received 1-2 irrigations are expected to yield between 1.8-2.6t/ha with harvest about to start. Average yield potential is likely to be highly variable, but should average around 1.3t/ha. Dry down has been slow with cool autumn days (~24 °C) and cold nights. The mild conditions during oil lay down should assist oil content levels.

On the Liverpool Plains, the late sunflower harvest is progressing fairly well. Yields have been quite good considering the dry conditions. Average yields are estimated to be in the range of 1.8-2.2t/ha, although some crops that were sown on limited soil moisture are likely to see yields below this. Harvest will continue for the next 4-6 weeks with late planted crops still drying down. Dry weather has continued allowing good harvest conditions

Crops around the Coonamble region are approaching physiological maturity and growers are contemplating desiccation. Yields are hoped to range between 1.4-1.8t/ha.

**AOF Crop Report is provided free due to the support of the Oilseed Development Fund (ODF).**

Meadow Lea Foods	Unilever Australasia	Peerless Foods
Cargill Australia	Atlantic Pacific Foods	Alba Edible Oils
Riverland Oilseeds	MSM Milling	Cootamundra Oilseeds
Bartter Enterprises	Ridley Agriproducts	Millmaster
Grain Pool WA	GrainCorp	ABB Grain

## Soybeans 2007/08

Soybean harvest is nearing completion, with yields proving to be variable. Production is now estimated at just short of 35,000 tonnes.

	2006/07	2007/08 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	11,125	8,000	20,930
NSW	20,760	6,855	13,800
VIC	0	0	0
Total	31,885	14,855	34,730

Source: Industry Estimates, 9/10/08

Yields in north and coastal **Queensland** have been variable. Across the state, bean quality is good to excellent due to the favourable harvest conditions.

Yields on the **NSW** north coast have been adversely impacted by the wet conditions and harvest is 65-70% complete. Yields are uncertain for late planted crops, but are expected to be below average. Yields have also been revised downwards for inland areas due to frost and moisture stress. Seed quality has been good.

## Upcoming Events

**28-30 July 2008 Australian Grains Industry Conference,** Melbourne [www.ausgrainsconf.com](http://www.ausgrainsconf.com)

**3-6 November 2008, International Safflower Conference,** Wagga Wagga NSW. Register at [www.australianoilseeds.com](http://www.australianoilseeds.com)