



January 2004

Crop Outlook

Soybeans 2003/04

Good rain across most soybean growing areas in Queensland has set up the season to be one of the best in several years. There has been good crop establishment in most areas. The area estimated for the sugar cane regions has been expanded due to greater focus on soybeans for grain rather than green manure crops.

The north coast region of NSW had been dry until this week when good rain has been received. As a result, establishment has been slow and some area is still not planted. The coastal regions are faring best. Estimates for the remainder of NSW and Victoria remain unchanged at present.

Overall production estimates have been lifted slightly (up 3%) to just over 69,000 tonnes.

State	Area Planted (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)
Queensland	13,550	27,650
NSW	17,180	40,450
Victoria	475	950
Total	31,205	69,050

Source: *Industry Estimates, 16/1/04*

Sunflowers 2003/04

At this stage we have left estimates unchanged from last month. The early crop harvest is just commencing and final estimates should be available next month. Good rain has been received across Queensland and NSW which should improve prospects for the late plant. At this stage, it is possible that the domestic demand of 120,000 tonnes may be achieved for the first time in several years.

	Est. Area Planted Early Crop (hectares)	Est. Area Planted Late Crop (hectares)
Monounsaturated sunflower		
Queensland	2,000	23,000
NSW	15,000	20,000
Polyunsaturated sunflower		
Queensland	0	40,000
NSW	0	15,000
Total	17,000	98,000

Source: *Industry Estimates, 19/1/04*

Canola 2003/04

There is no update on canola estimates this month. The next crop forecast will be in February when harvest should be complete. Thus, estimates remain unchanged at 1.46 million tonnes at this time.

Upcoming Meetings

GRDC Advisor Updates will be held on:

- Wagga 10 & 11 February
- Dubbo 17 & 18 February
- WA & SA 18 & 19 February
- Victoria 25 & 26 February

For further information contact GRDC on 02 6272 5525

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

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

AOF Annual General Meeting 7 October 2004, Melbourne. For further information contact AOF 03 9533 2623

AOF News

Canola Meal Seminar – Canadian Expert to Address AOF Meeting

AOF is holding a seminar on canola meal prior to its general meeting on 5 February.

The key note speaker is Professor Hank Classen – an International expert on Animal nutrition. Professor Classen will be speaking on "Effects of conventional and novel processing on the feed value of canola meal for poultry".

In addition to Professor Classen, there will also be presentations from:

- Jon Slee, Riverland Oilseed Processors on Canola Meal Research – Is it reaching the end users and what are the gaps?"; and
- Dr Rod Mailer, NSW Agriculture on "Protein and glucosinolate contents in current Australian canola cultivars"

Anyone wishing to attend should contact AOF on 03 9533 2623.

Australian Oilseed News is provided free due to the support of the Oilseed Development Fund (ODF).

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