

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



February 2007

Sunflowers 2006/07

There has been little change to the sunflower estimates from last month. Some of the early crop did not yield to earlier predictions, with tonnage down slightly and late crop estimates for NSW have been revised back slightly. While rain has been received in Central Queensland, the sunflower area is yet to be planted.

	2005/06 Production (tonnes)	2006/07 Estimates	
		Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	2,400	21,300	17,220
NSW	92,500	11,300	12,620
Total	94,900	32,600	29,840

Source: Industry Estimates, 16/2/07

Harvesting around Moree is 90% finished, with yields in the range of 0.7-1.3t/ha, averaging 1.0t/ha. Oils are ranging between 35.5 – 41.5%, with an average around 38%. Moisture stress has reduced the yields at Narrabri to around 0.75 – 1.0t/ha, with generally growers spending less money on the crop this season. However a reduced incidence of Rutherglen bugs was noted.

There is a very small late plant in northern NSW comprising a few irrigated crops and the odd dryland crop which happened to be under a storm. The lack of stored soil moisture in the profile combined with sporadic storm rainfall resulted in very limited opportunities for a late plant.

The early plant on the Liverpool Plains is rapidly approaching harvest, with some harvesting underway. Yields are again disappointing this season due to the lack of rainfall over the growing season. Averages are likely to be in the range of 1.0 - 1.2t/ha.

The potential late plant in Central Queensland is still uncertain. Central Queensland has received good rain (100-120mm), however, strong sorghum prices will provide competition for sunflowers. It is estimated that there could be 20,000 plus hectares of sunflowers planted, mostly mono-unsaturated type.

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 Oilseed
Bartter Enterprises	Ridley Agriproducts	Milmaster
Grain Pool WA	GrainCorp	Louis Dreyfus
ABB Grain	AWB Limited	

Cottonseed 2006/07

Estimates have been revised down for the cotton crop to less than 1 million bales. All areas are short of water. Cottonseed production is estimated at around 350-380,000 tonnes. The bulk of this is expected to be used as whole seed for feed or exported.

Soybeans 2006/07

Estimates for the soybean crop have been revised up slightly, allowing for previously unaccounted area of organic production.

	2005/06 Production (tonnes)	2006/07 Estimates	
		Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	14,710	5,410	13,825
NSW	40,688	8,835	24,490
VIC	900	0	0
Total	56,298	14,245	38,315

Source: Industry Estimates, 16/2/07

The **Queensland** crop is pretty much unchanged from last month, with exception of area planted to organic soybeans. The coastal regions were starting to experience moisture stress, however, received rain just in time to avert yield loss.

The **NSW** crop is dominated by production on the north coast. The estimated area on the north coast is all planted and, with good rain over the last week, the crop is off to a good start. The inland areas continue to suffer from lack of water and both areas and yields have been adjusted down. Rain will be required to finish these crops. The small crop in the Riverina is looking good.

Virtual soybean site -

http://www.australianoilseeds.com/agronomy_centre/the_virtual_soybean_crop

**Register now for the
Australian Soybean Conference
26 to 28 March 2007, Bundaberg**

Go to the AOF website –
www.australianoilseeds.com - and click on the
link to the Australian Soybean Conference