

ABARES AUSTRALIAN CROP REPORT, JUNE 2017

Summary

The ABARES forecast for South Australia's 2017-18 winter crop production is 6.7 million tonnes, 16% below the five-year average and down 41% (or 4.5 million tonnes) from the 2016-17 record.

National winter crop production in 2017-18 is forecast to be 40.1 million tonnes, 8.1% below the five-year average and down 33% (or 19.3 million tonnes) on 2016-17.

Seasonal conditions in autumn were mixed for the planting and germination of the South Australian 2017-18 winter crop. The south and east of the state recorded adequate rainfall but it was below average on Eyre and Yorke Peninsula providing for an unfavourable start to the season in those areas.

Further Analysis

Australia

The start to the 2017-18 winter cropping season was mixed with favourable autumnal rainfall in the eastern states offset by below average rainfall in most Western Australian cropping regions and some key South Australian regions. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting likely below-average winter rainfall in most Australian cropping regions. The area planted to winter crops is forecast to fall by 0.6% in 2017-18 and production is forecast to fall by 33%, reflecting assumed lower yields following the exceptionally high 2016-17 yields.

ABARES is forecasting substantial production declines in 2017-18 in all cropping states—Victoria (down 42%), South Australia (down 41%), Queensland (down 38%), New South Wales (down 32%) and Western Australia (down 22%).

South Australia

Autumn rainfall in South Australia was adequate in the Murray, Mallee and South East regions but below average on Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula. Favourable rainfall is required by the end of June for successful completion of sowing.

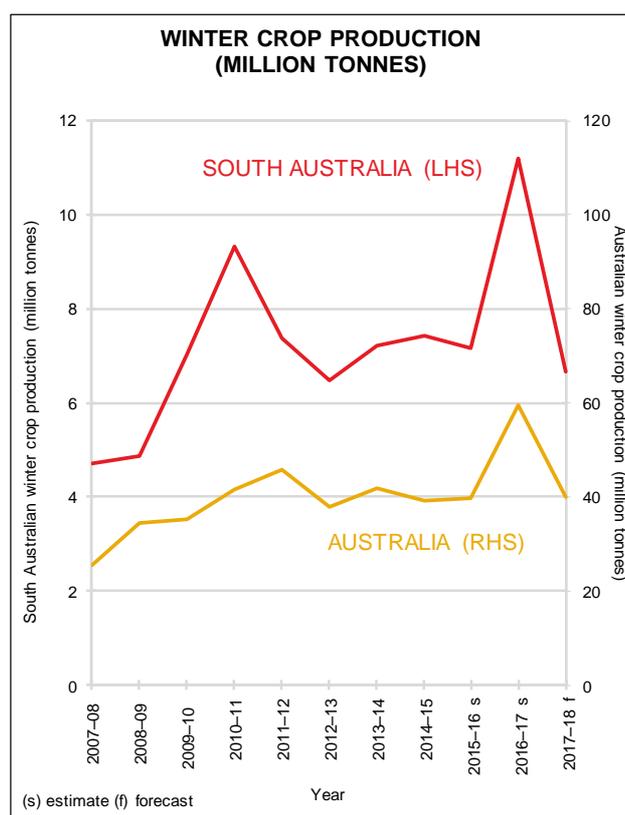
The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting below-average winter rainfall across South Australia's cropping regions.

The total area planted to winter crops is forecast to fall by 0.3% in 2017-18 to 3.5 million hectares. This reflects small forecast falls in the area planted to wheat (down 0.5%) and barley (down 1.3%) offset by a rise in the area planted to canola (up 11%).

Wheat production in 2017-18 is forecast to fall substantially (down 40%) to 3.9 million tonnes, reflecting a 40% decline in the yield.

Barley production is forecast to decline by 44% to 1.7 million tonnes, reflecting a decline of 43% in the yield.

Canola production is forecast to decrease by 23% to 310,000 tonnes, reflecting a 30% decrease in the yield, more than offsetting the increase in area planted.



14 June 2017

Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 12 September 2017