Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

ABARES

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 16/2026 30 April 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 29 April 2026, rainfall was recorded across the southwest and parts of the east.
  - Most cropping regions of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia saw little to no rainfall.
  - In regions that have seen several consecutive weeks of low rainfall, this is likely to reduce upper layer soil moisture and broaden the gap between upper and lower laver soi moisture reserves ahead of winter crop sowing.
- Over the 8 days to 7 May 2026, low pressure systems are expected to bring rainfall to parts of the east and south:
  - Low rainfall totals (1-10 millimetres) are forecast for Queensland, northern New South Wales, and much of Western Australia.
  - Falls of up to 25 millimetres are forecast for southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and eastern parts of Western Australia.
  - If realised, these falls are expected to support the germination and growth of early sown winter crops and provide a timely boost to soil moisture levels and encourage further plantings.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 115 gigalitres (GL) between 23 April 2026 and 30 April 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 10,041 GL, equivalent to 45% of total storage capacity. This is 15% or 1,721 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).
- Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from $400/ML on 23 April 2026 to $438/ML on 30 April 2026. Trade from the Goulburn to the Murray is closed. Trade downstream through the Barmah Choke is closed. Trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray is open.

1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

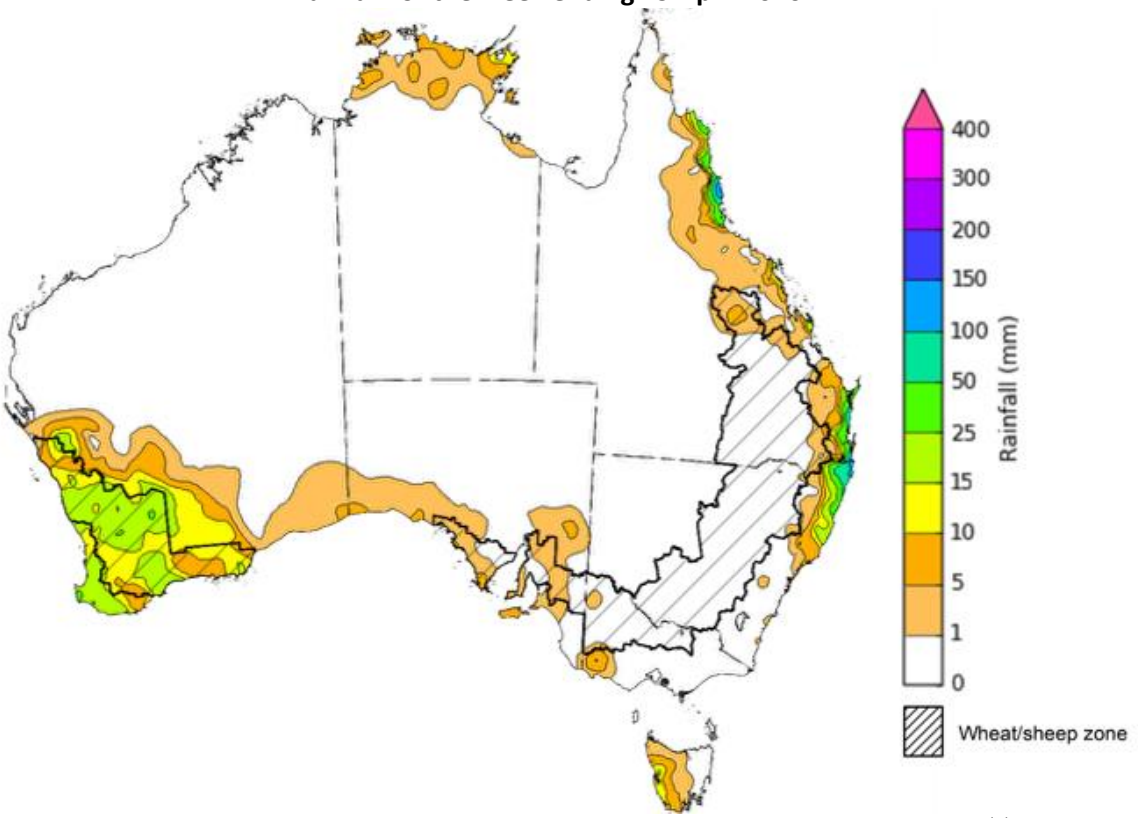
In the week ending 29 April 2026, low pressure systems brought rainfall across the southwest and parts of the east. Northern, central, and south-eastern areas remained largely dry

- Eastern regions of Queensland and northern New South Wales saw falls of 5-100 millimetres, with higher falls closer to coastal regions.
- In Western Australia, falls of up to 25 millimetres were observed in south-western regions, with scattered areas seeing up to 50 millimetres. Isolated parts of the Northern Territory saw up to 15 millimetres.
- Much of inland Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia the south of, and the remainder of the Northern Territory and Western Australia remained largely dry.

Across cropping regions, rainfall was broadly low, with exceptions in Western Australia.

- Most cropping regions of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia saw little to no rainfall.
    - In regions that have seen several consecutive weeks of low rainfall, this is likely to reduce upper layer soil moisture and broaden the gap between upper and lower laver soi moisture reserves ahead of winter crop sowing.
- In Western Australia, falls of 1-25 millimetres were recorded across most cropping regions.
    - These falls are expected to support the germination and growth of early sown winter crops and provide a timely boost to soil moisture levels and encourage further plantings.

Rainfall for the week ending 29 April 2026



 Issued: 29/4/2026

Note: The rainfall analyses and associated maps utilise data contained in the Bureau of Meteorology climate database, the Australian Data Archive for Meteorology (ADAM). The analyses are initially produced automatically from real-time data with limited quality control. They are intended to provide a general overview of rainfall across Australia as quickly as possible after the observations are received. For further information go to http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/rainfall/

1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

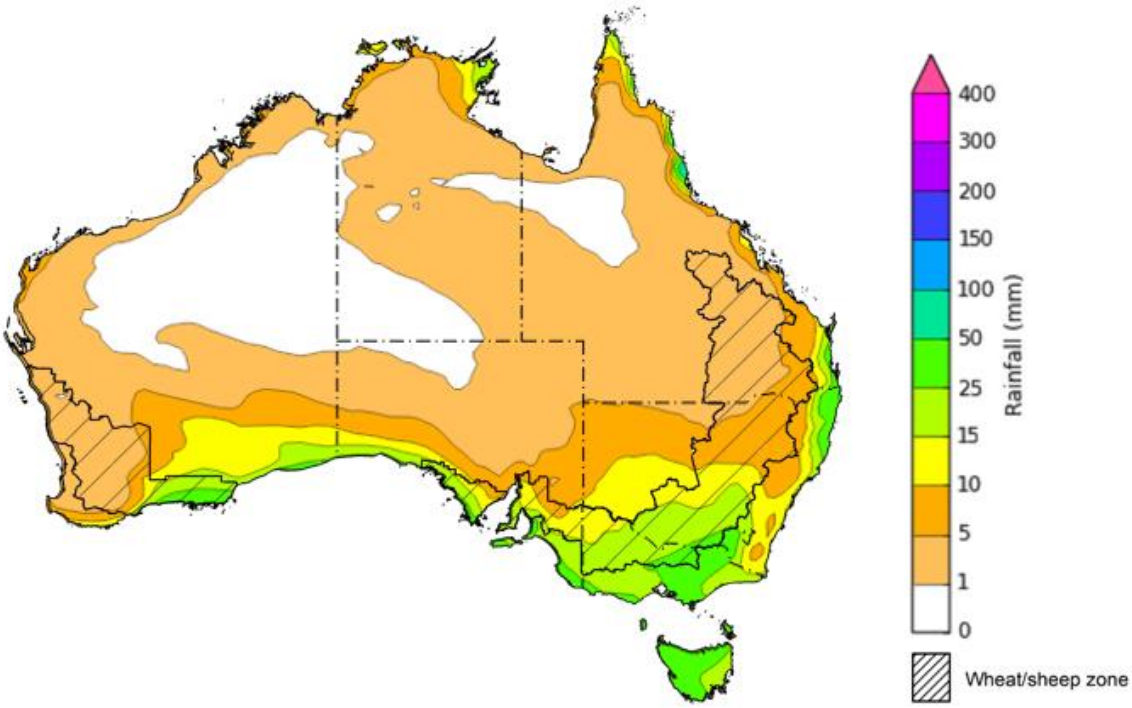
Over the 8 days to 7 May 2026, **low-pressure systems** are expected to bring rainfall to parts of the east and south. However, much of the remainder of Australia is forecast to remain largely dry.

- In the south, falls of between 10-50 millimetres are forecast for Victoria, southern parts of South Australia and New South Wales, and south-eastern regions of Western Australia
- Similarity, coastal parts of north-eastern New South Wales, the far southeast of Queensland, and isolated coastal areas of the northern tropics are forecast to see up to 50 millimetres.
- Remaining regions are likely to see little to no rainfall.

Rainfall totals across many cropping regions over the coming week are forecast to be low, with exceptions in the south and southeast.

- Low rainfall totals (1-10 millimetres) are forecast for Queensland, northern New South Wales, and much of Western Australia.
- Falls of up to 25 millimetres are forecast for southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and eastern parts of Western Australia.
    - If realised, these falls are expected to support the germination and growth of early sown winter crops and provide a timely boost to soil moisture levels and encourage further plantings.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 30 April to 7 May 2026

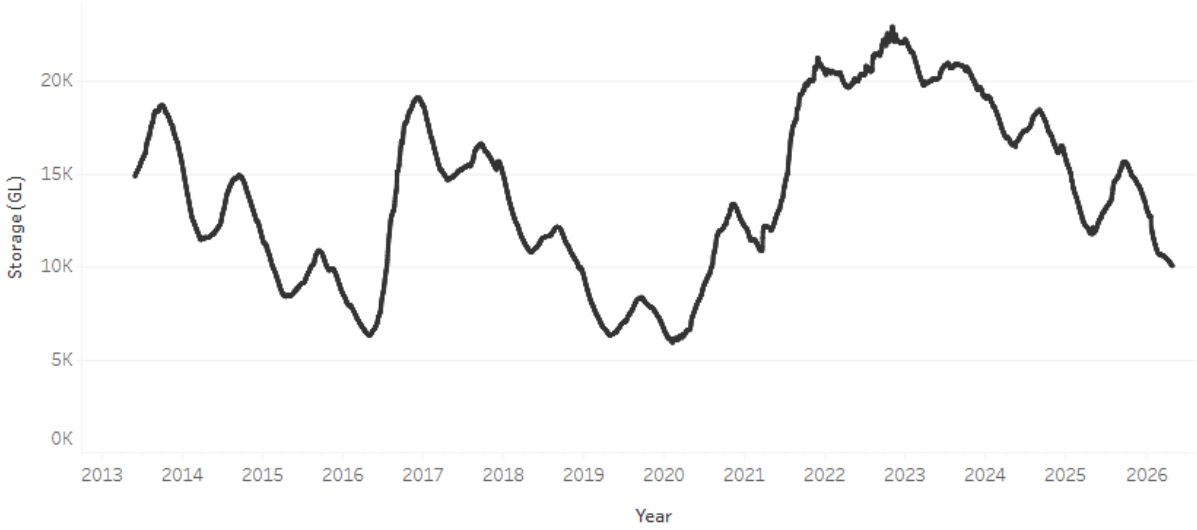


 Issued 30/4/2026
Note: This rainfall forecast is produced from computer models. As the model outputs are not altered by weather forecasters, it is important to check local forecasts and warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

1.3. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 115 gigalitres (GL) between 23 April 2026 and 30 April 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 10,041 GL, equivalent to 45% of total storage capacity. This is 15% or 1,721 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).

Water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2013–2026



Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from $400/ML on 23 April 2026 to $438/ML on 30 April 2026. Trade from the Goulburn to the Murray is closed. Trade downstream through the Barmah Choke is closed. Trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray is open.

Water market prices, Southern Murray–Darling Basin

Region	$/ML
NSW Murray Above	320
NSW Murrumbidgee	498
Vic Greater Goulburn	388
Vic Murray Below	438

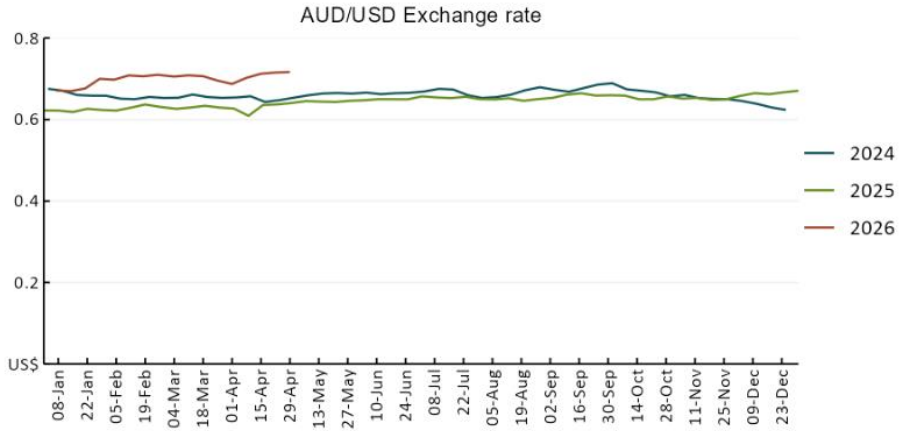
Note: The water allocation prices shown are volume weighted average prices based on the last 10 trades. Price data is sourced from Waterflow and current as at 22 January 2026.

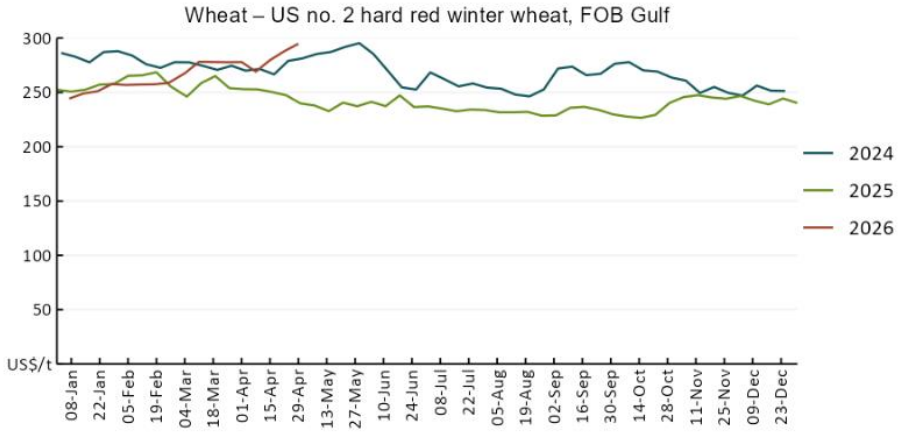
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-260430

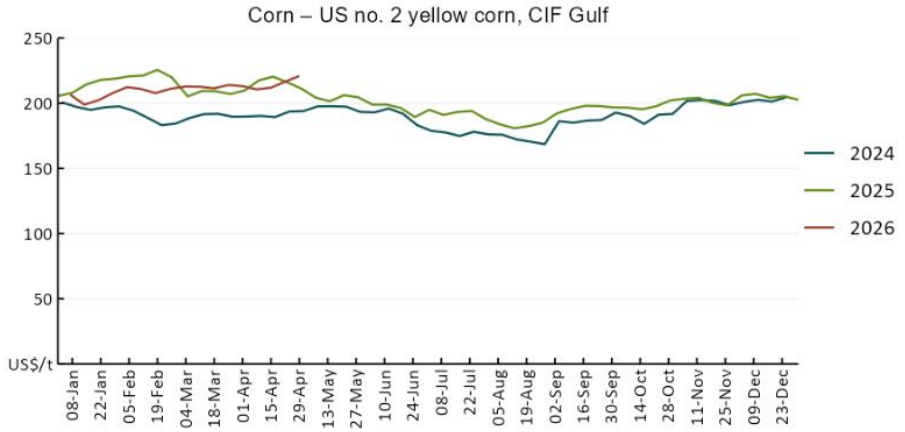
2. Commodities

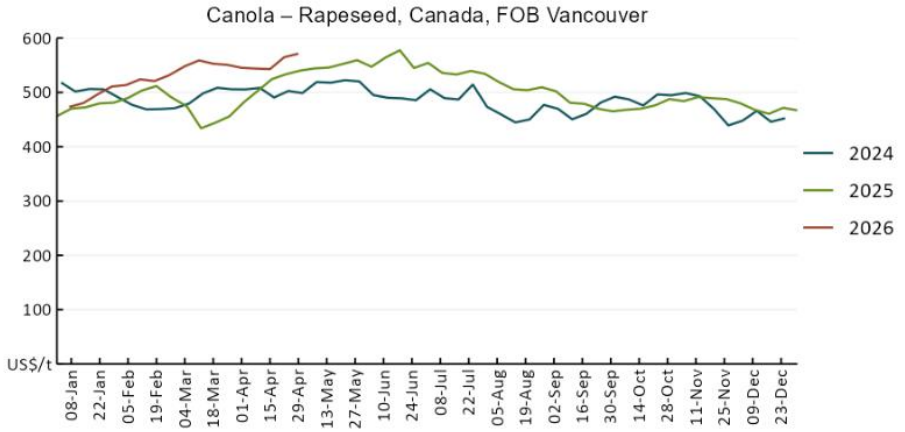
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	29-Apr	A$/US$	0.72	0.72	0%	0.63	14%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	29-Apr	US$/t	295	288	2%	249	19%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	29-Apr	US$/t	221	217	2%	215	3%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	29-Apr	US$/t	571	565	1%	517	11%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	29-Apr	USc/lb	89.5	89.4	0%	78.1	15%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	29-Apr	USc/lb	14.1	13.8	2%	18.1	-22%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	22-Apr	Ac/kg clean	1,895	1,825	4%	1,238	53%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	22-Apr	Ac/kg clean	2,125	2,052	4%	1,394	52%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	29-Apr	A$/t	377	375	1%	399	-5%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	29-Apr	A$/t	375	373	1%	393	-4%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	29-Apr	A$/t	376	372	1%	372	1%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	29-Apr	A$/t	788	777	1%	795	-1%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	29-Apr	A$/t	454	451	1%	438	4%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	29-Apr	Ac/kg cwt	771	794	-3%	700	10%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	29-Apr	Ac/kg cwt	772	805	-4%	506	53%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	29-Apr	Ac/kg cwt	1,166	1,178	-1%	812	43%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	15-Apr	Ac/kg cwt	455	457	0%	448	2%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	29-Apr	Ac/kg lwt	420	430	-2%	358	17%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	22-Apr	US$/t	3,666	3,687	-1%	4,117	-11%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	22-Apr	US$/t	3,448	3,381	2%	2,836	22%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	22-Apr	US$/t	4,798	4,766	1%	4,971	-3%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	22-Apr	US$/t	6,537	7,027	-7%	6,772	-3%

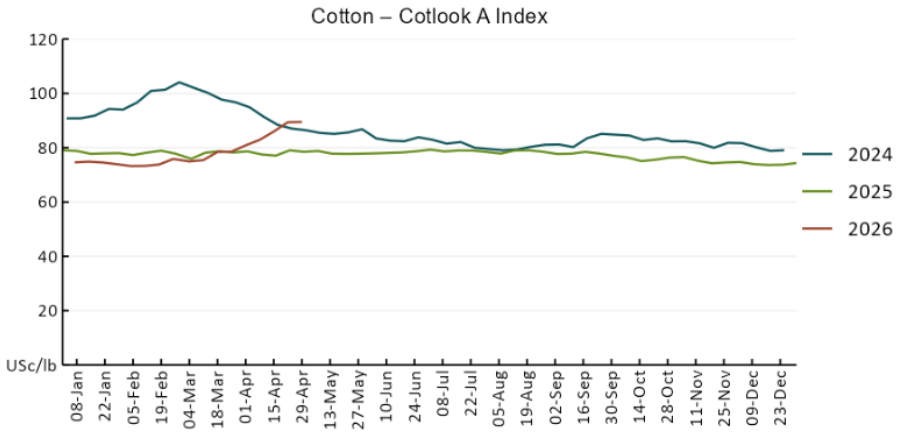
2.1. Selected world indicator prices

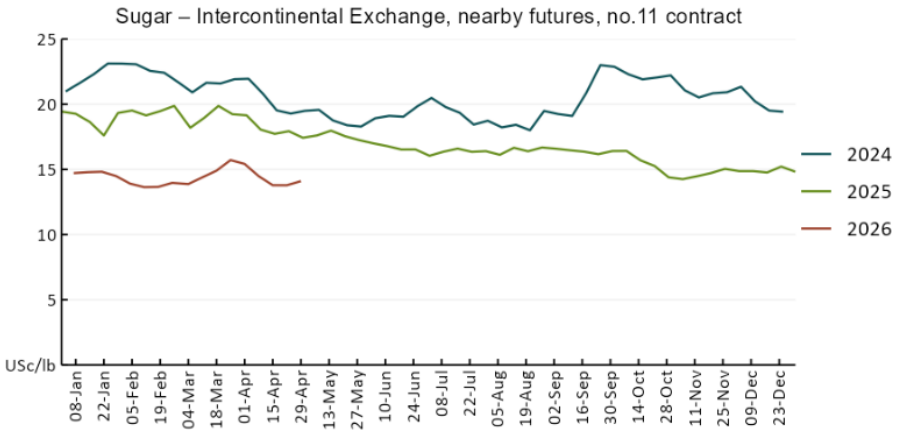


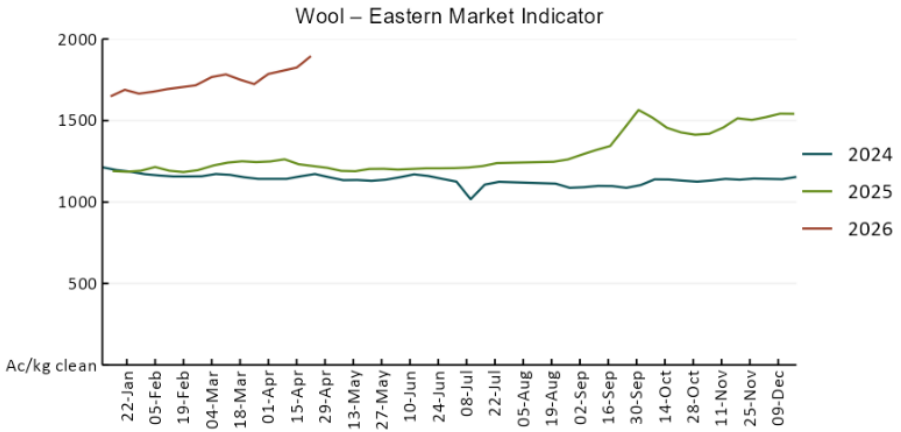


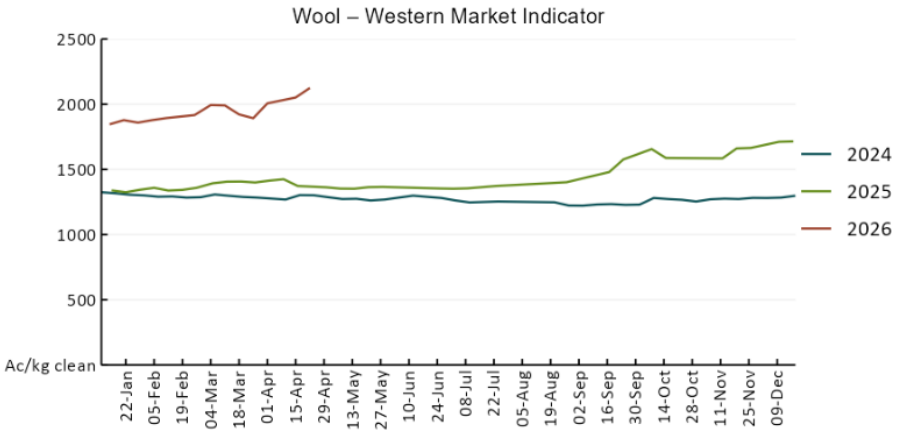




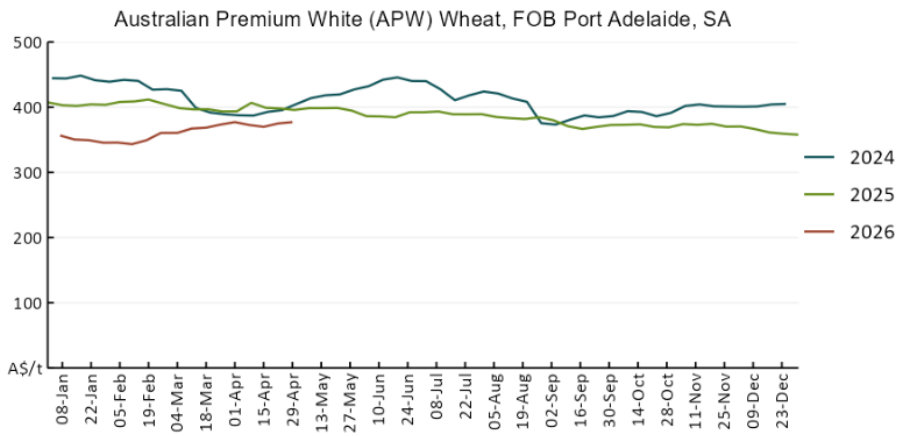

Cotton – Cotlook A Index
120
100
80
60
40
20
USc/lb
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
23-Dec
2024
2025
2026

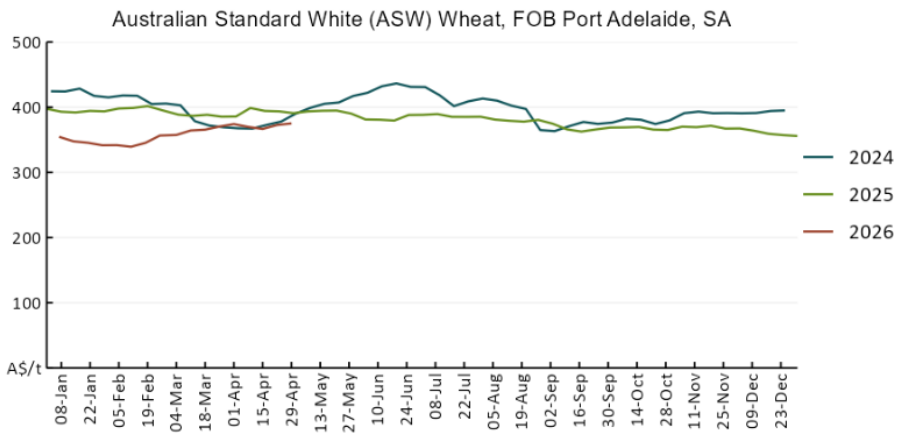

Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract
25
20
15
10
5
USc/lb
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
23-Dec
2024
2025
2026

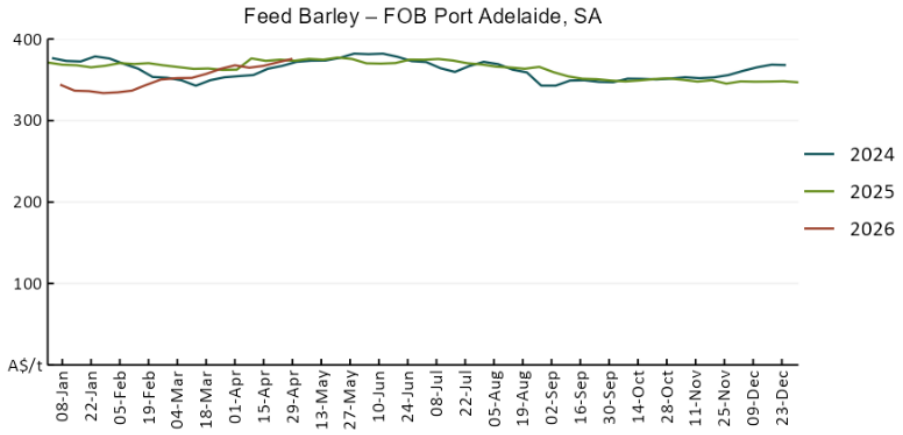

Wool – Eastern Market Indicator
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
2024
2025
2026

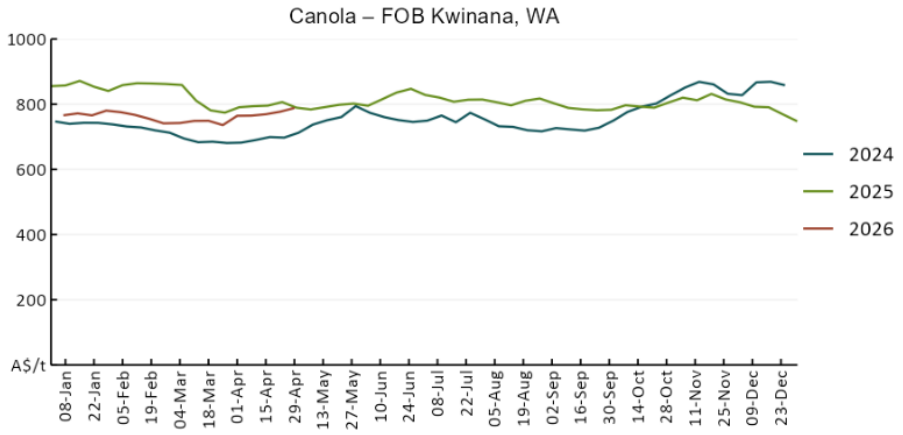

Wool – Western Market Indicator
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
2024
2025
2026

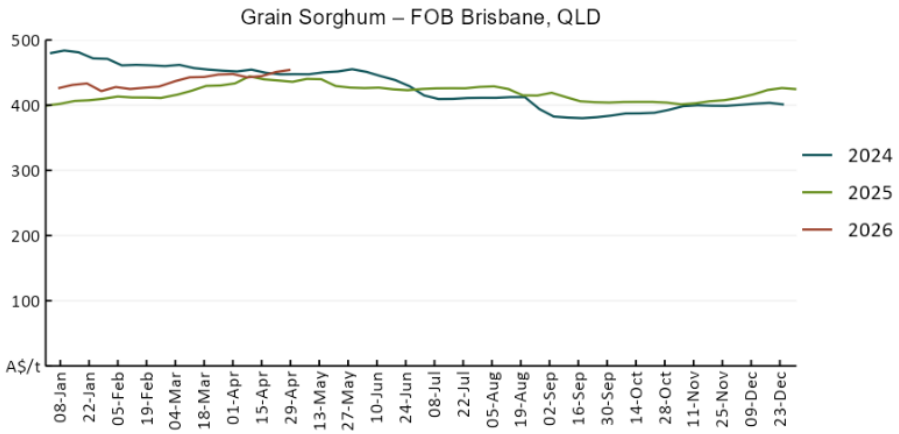
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



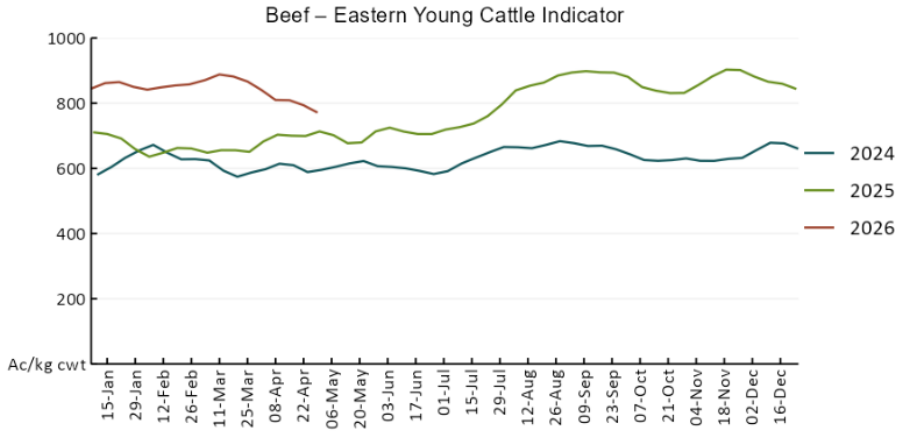


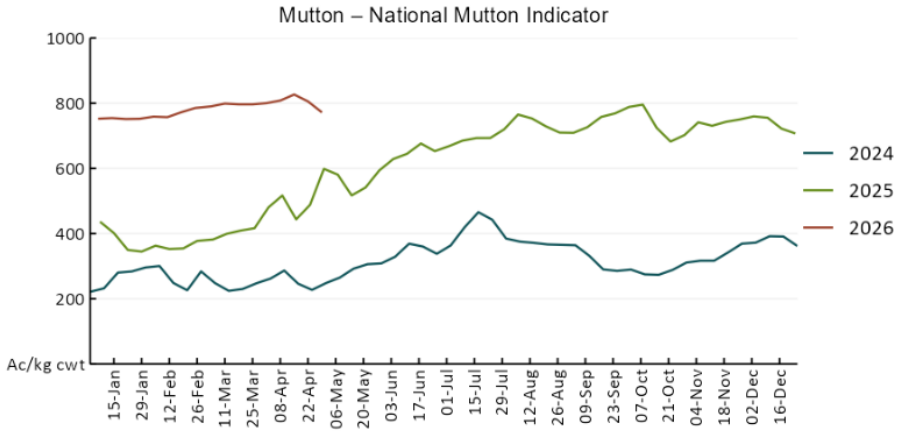


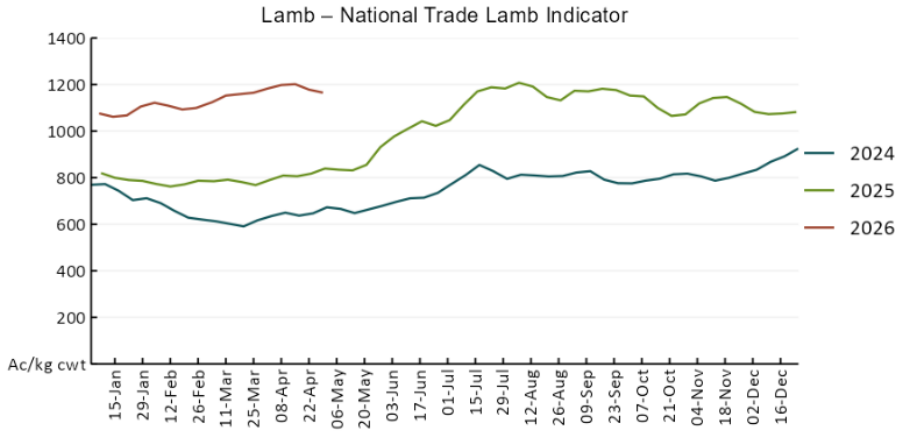


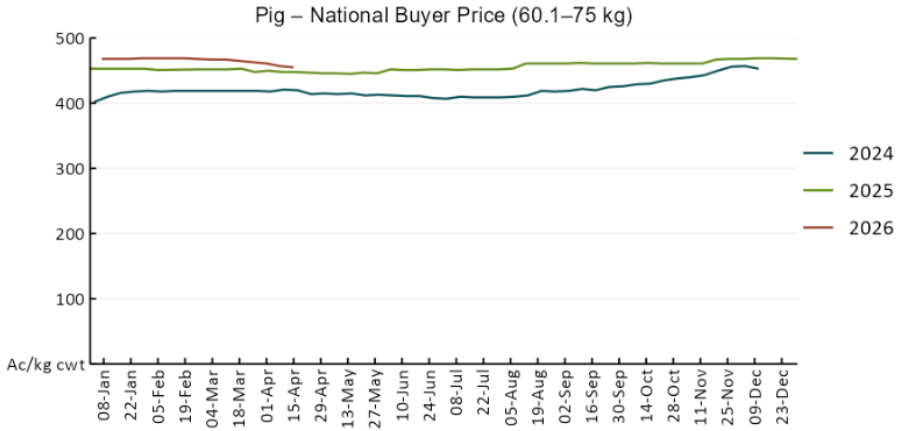

Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD
500
400
300
200
100
A$/t
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
23-Dec
2024
2025
2026

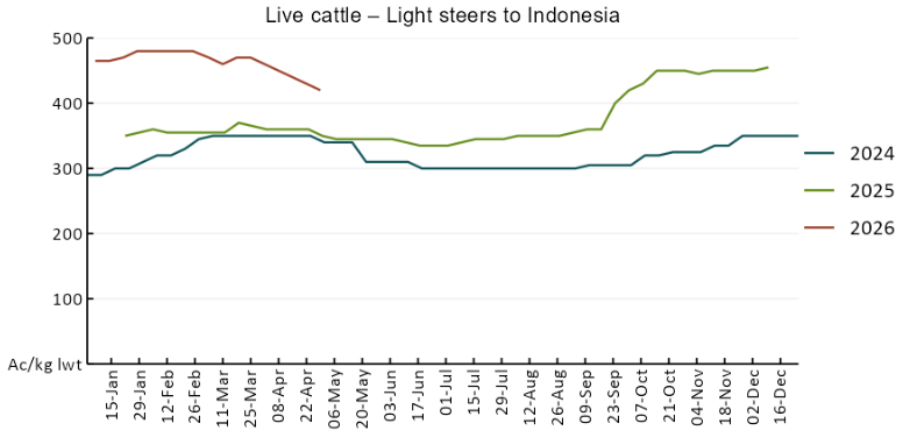
3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices



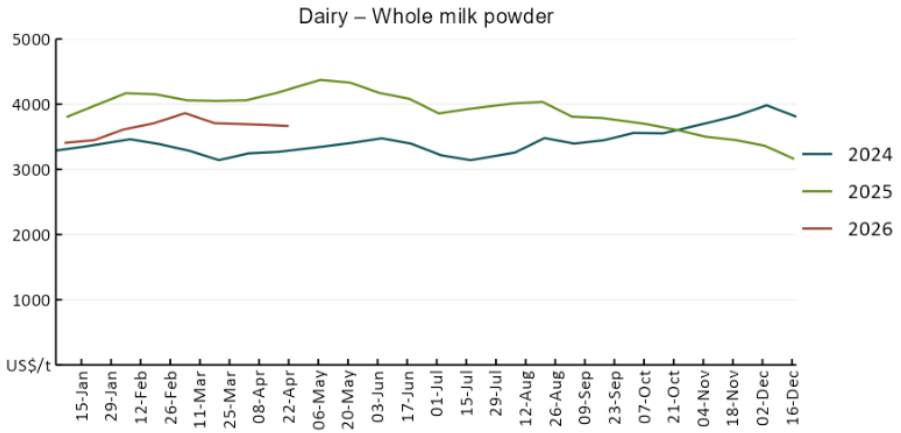


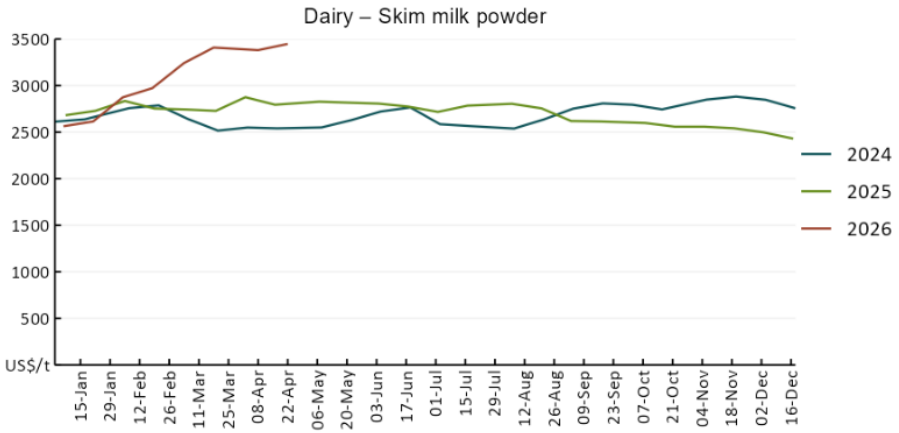


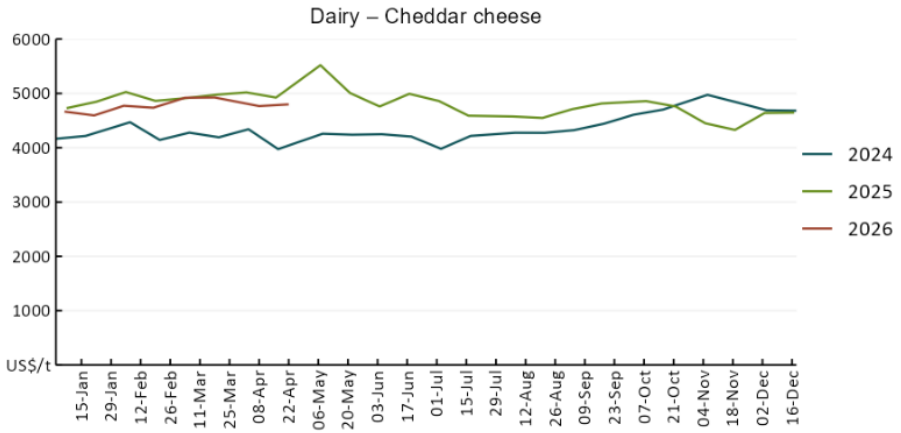


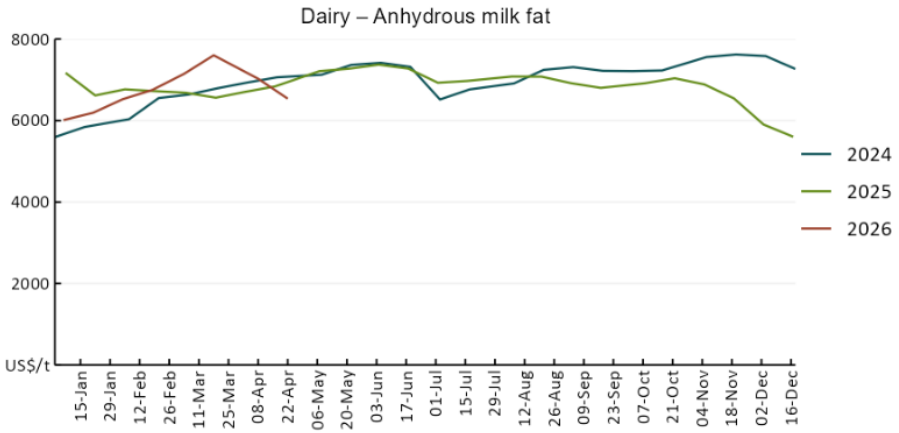

Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia
500
400
300
200
100
Ac/kg lwt
15-Jan
29-Jan
12-Feb
26-Feb
11-Mar
25-Mar
08-Apr
22-Apr
06-May
20-May
03-Jun
17-Jun
01-Jul
15-Jul
29-Jul
12-Aug
26-Aug
09-Sep
23-Sep
07-Oct
21-Oct
04-Nov
18-Nov
02-Dec
16-Dec
2024
2025
2026

3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

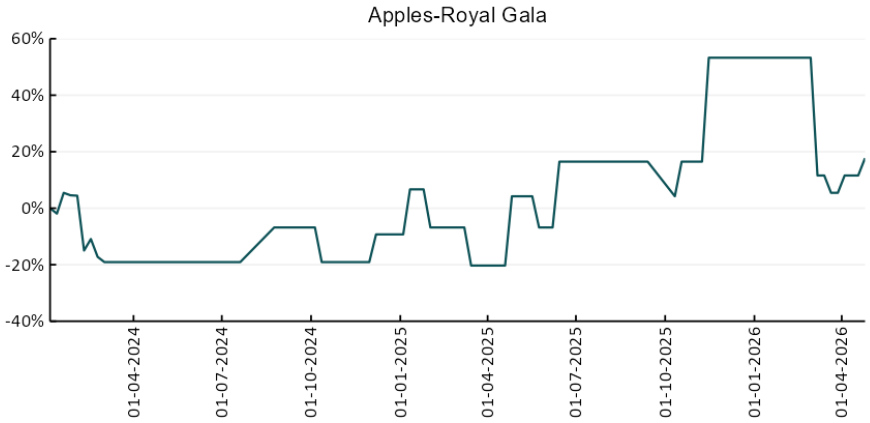


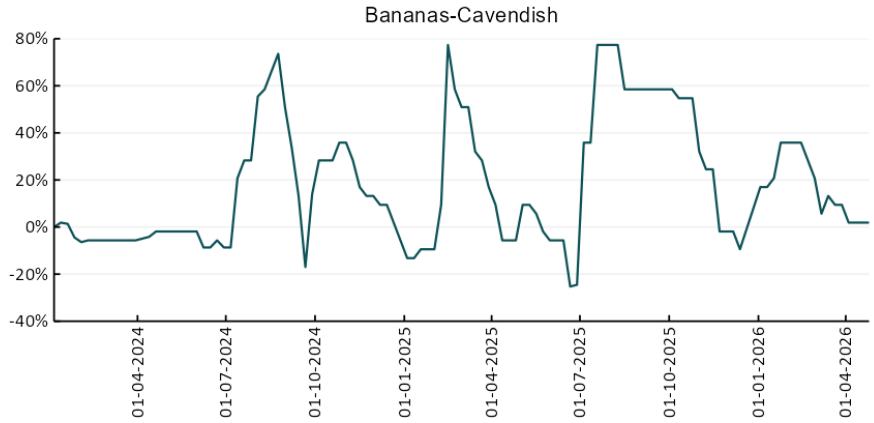


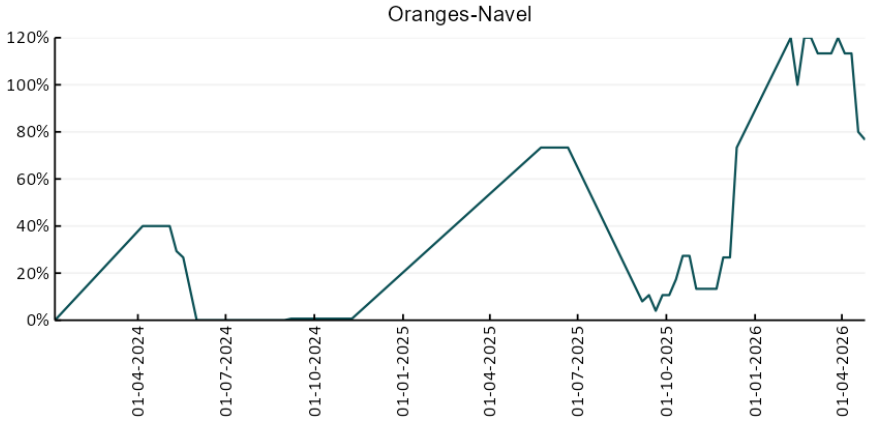


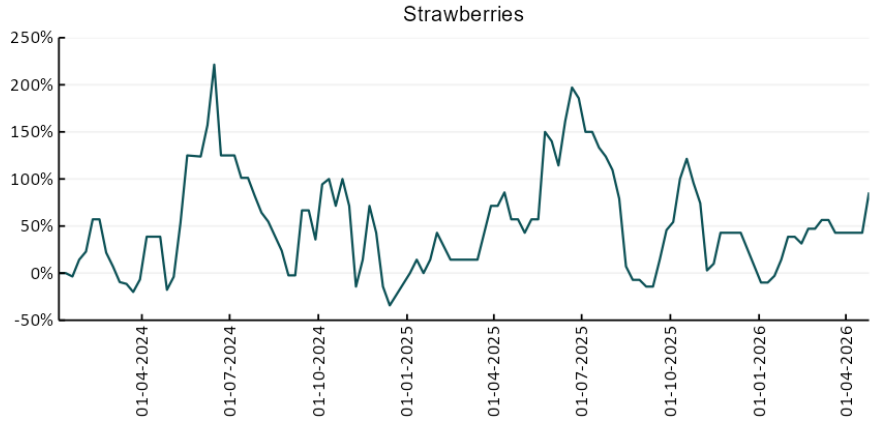


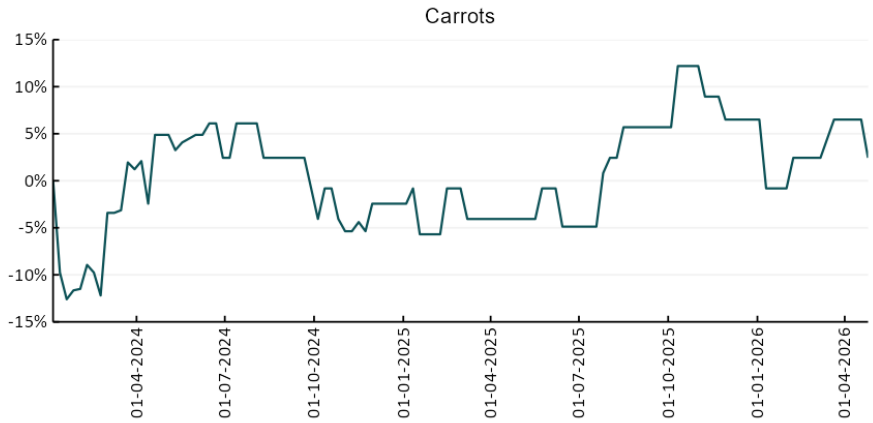
3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices

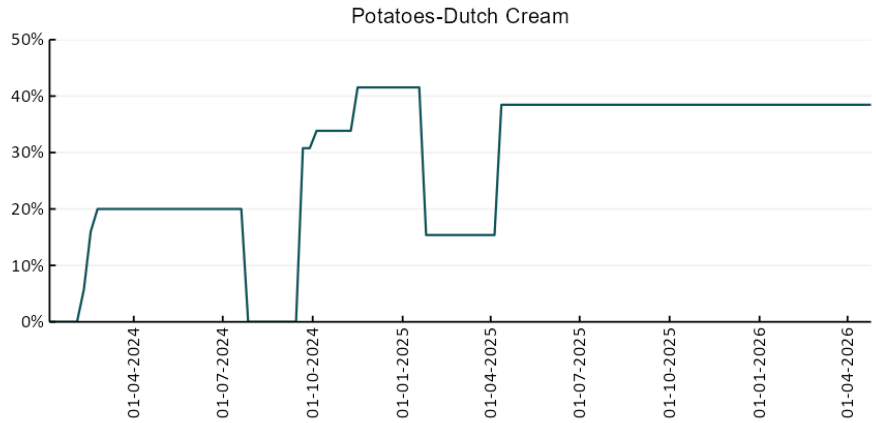


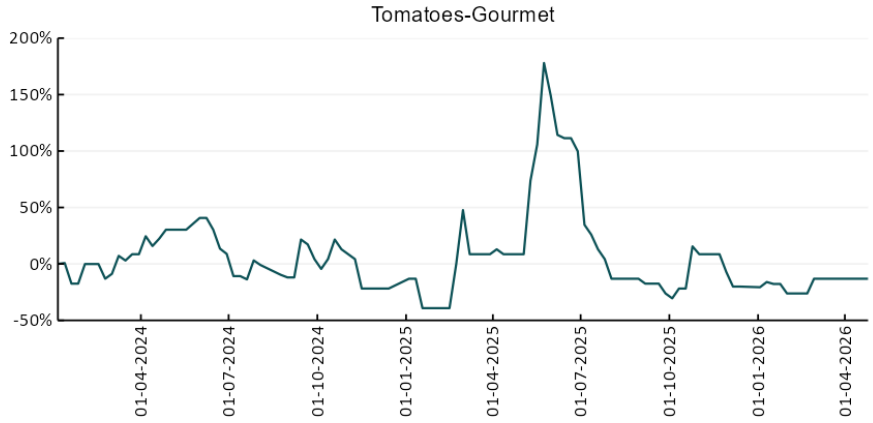


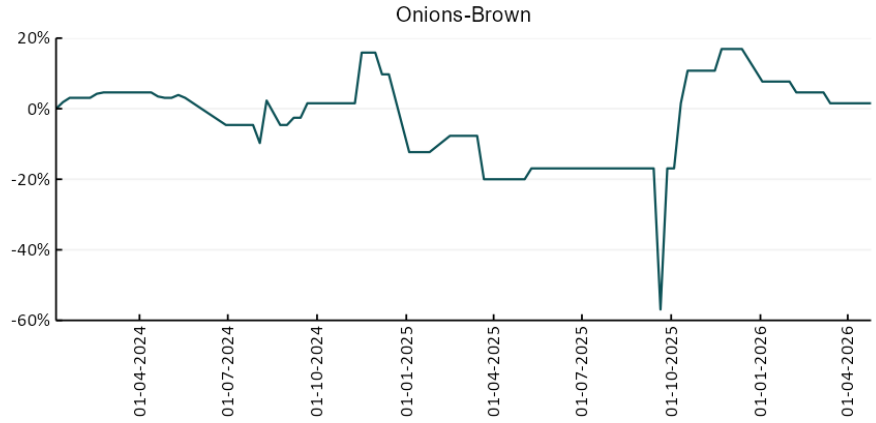




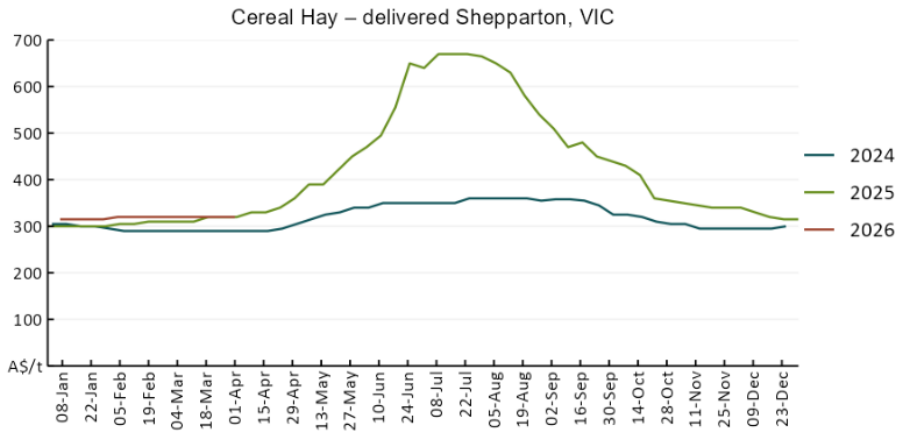

Carrots
15%
10%
5%
0%
-5%
-10%
-15%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026

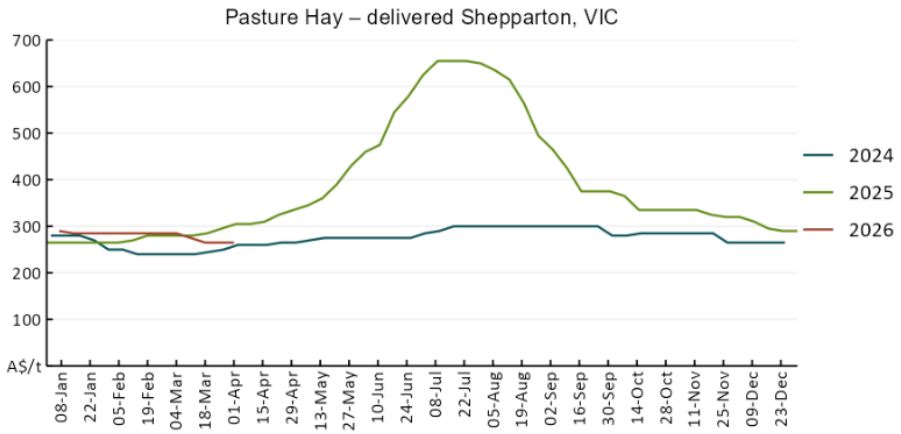

Potatoes-Dutch Cream
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026

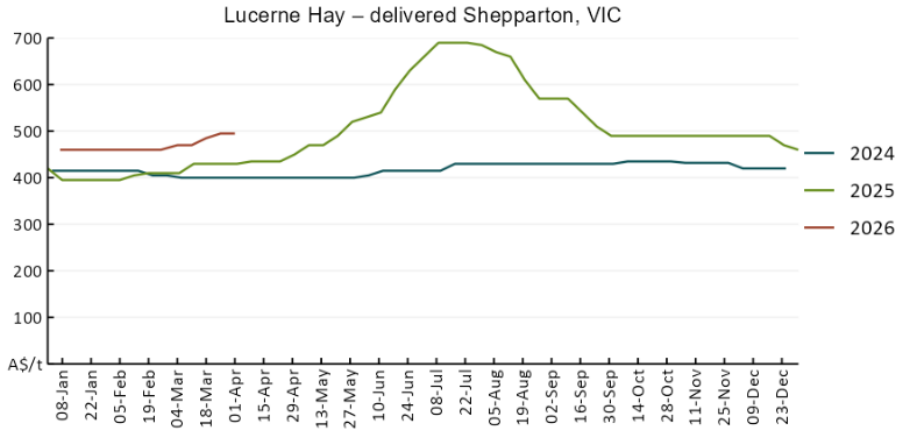

Tomatoes-Gourmet
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
-50%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026


Onions-Brown
20%
0%
-20%
-40%
-60%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026

3.6 Selected domestic fodder indicator prices







4. Data attribution

Climate

Bureau of Meteorology

- Weekly rainfall totals: www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/
- Monthly and last 3-month rainfall percentiles: https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/#moreMaps
- Rainfall forecast: www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp
- Seasonal outlook: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/
- Climate drivers: http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/
- Soil moisture: https://awo.bom.gov.au/products/historical/soilMoisture-rootZone/

Other

- Pasture growth: www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/aussiegrass/
- 3-month global outlooks: Environment and Climate Change Canada, NOAA Climate Prediction Center, EUROBRISA CPTEC/INPE, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, Hydrometcenter of Russia, National Climate Center Climate System Diagnosis and Prediction Room (NCC), International Research Institute for Climate and Society
- Global production: https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/ogamaps/cropmapsandcalendars.aspx
- Autumn break: Pook et al., 2009, https://rmets-onlinelibrary-wiley-com.virtual.anu.edu.au/doi/epdf/10.1002/joc.1833

Water

Prices

- Waterflow: https://www.waterflow.io/
- Ruralco: https://www.ruralcowater.com.au/
- Bureau of Meteorology:
- Allocation trade: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-markets/mdb/at
- Storage volumes: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-storages/summary/drainage

Trade constraints:

- Water NSW: https://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/ordering-trading-and-pricing/trading/murrumbidgee
- Victorian Water Register: https://www.waterregister.vic.gov.au/TradingRules2019/

Commodities

Fruit and vegetables

- Datafresh: www.freshstate.com.au

Pigs

- Australian Pork Limited: www.australianpork.com.au

Dairy

- Global Dairy Trade: www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/

World wheat, canola

- International Grains Council
- https://www.igc.int/en/default.aspx
- United States Department of Agriculture

World cotton

- Cotlook: www.cotlook.com/

World sugar

- New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange

Wool

- Australian Wool Exchange: www.awex.com.au/

Domestic wheat, barley, sorghum, canola and fodder

- Jumbuk Consulting Pty Ltd: Jumbuk AG | Agriculture Consulting

Cattle, beef, mutton, lamb, goat and live export

- Meat and Livestock Australia: https://www.mla.com.au/prices-markets/

Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators

About Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators

The Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators (AADI) links weather and agricultural data with a range of scientific and economic models to measure and forecast the effects of climate variability and drought on agricultural outcomes.

On AADI, projected broadacre farm profits are presented as percentile outcomes relative to simulated historical outcomes using the groupings:

Highest	95-100th percentile
Very much above average	85-95th percentile
Above average	65-85th percentile
Average	35-65th percentile
Below average	15-35th percentile
Very much below average	5-15th percentile
Lowest 5%	0-5th percentile

There are two AADI farm profit indicators:

- The AADI farm profit climate and price indicator shows the effect of climate and prices on broadacre farm business profits of current farms compared to the last 33 years.
- The AADI farm profit climate only indicator isolates the effect of climate on profits by holding prices fixed.

Cataloguing data
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