Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
ABARES

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 23/2026 18 June 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 17 June 2026, low-pressure systems and a cloudband brought rainfall to parts of southern, western and eastern Australia.
  - Most cropping regions in Western Australia and western South Australia, as well as isolated areas of western Victoria, recorded 10-100 millimetres of rainfall over the period. Meanwhile, remaining cropping regions in Victoria and South Australia, as well as northern New South Wales and southern Queensland saw 5-50 millimetres.
  - The heavier falls across Western Australia and western South Australia would have provided a boost to soil moisture levels which will support the establishment and growth of winter crops.
- Over the 8 days to 25 June 2026, cold fronts and low-pressure systems are expected to bring rainfall to large areas of eastern and central Australia, while western and northern regions remain largely dry.
  - Falls of 10-50 millimetres are forecast for Victoria, with lower rainfall totals of 10-25 millimetres forecast for New South Wales and much of Queensland.
  - If realised, these expected falls are likely to provide an additional boost to soil moisture levels across many eastern cropping areas. These falls are also expected to support the establishment and growth of winter crops.
- Rainfall in May 2026 was variable across the world's major grain- and oilseed-producing regions, leading to differing crop production outcomes. Global production conditions were generally favourable for maize, soybeans, and rice. Global wheat production conditions are more variable with unfavourable conditions across parts of the United States, Canada, the European Union and Australia weighing on potential production outcomes.
  - Global production conditions have been slightly more favourable to those used to formulate ABARES 2026–27 forecasts of global grain supplies and world prices in the June 2026 Agricultural Commodities Report. As a result, global grain and oilseed production are likely to increase beyond the estimates in the June forecast, due to small improvements in global wheat and maize production.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 205 gigalitres (GL) between 11 June 2026 and 18 June 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 10,755 GL, equivalent to 48% of total storage capacity. This is 17% or 2,168 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.
- Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from $372/ML on 11 June 2026 to $384/ML on 18 June 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

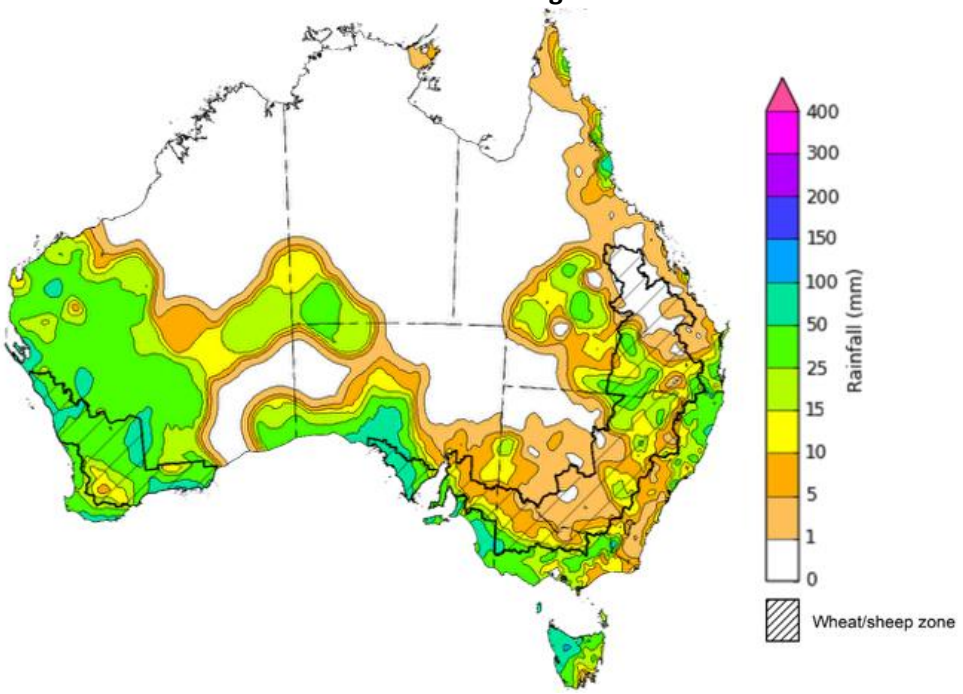
In the week ending 17 June 2026, low-pressure systems and a cloudband brought rainfall to parts of southern, western and eastern Australia. Much of the remainder of Australia was largely dry.

- Large areas of southern Western Australia, southern and western South Australia, Tasmania, and southern Victoria saw falls of 10-100 millimetres, while parts of New South Wales, southern Queensland and south-eastern Northern Territory observed 5-50 millimetres.
- Much of the remainder of Australia saw little to no rainfall.

In cropping regions, considerable falls were recorded in south-western regions, while some eastern regions were comparatively dry:

- Most cropping regions in Western Australia and western South Australia, as well as isolated areas of western Victoria, recorded 10-100 millimetres of rainfall over the period. Meanwhile, remaining cropping regions in Victoria and South Australia, as well as northern New South Wales and southern Queensland saw 5-50 millimetres.
    - The heavier falls across Western Australia and western South Australia would have provided a boost to soil moisture levels which will support the establishment and growth of winter crops.
- Northern Queensland and large areas of southern New South Wales saw little to no rainfall over the period.

Rainfall for the week ending 17 June 2026



 Issued: 17/6/2026

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

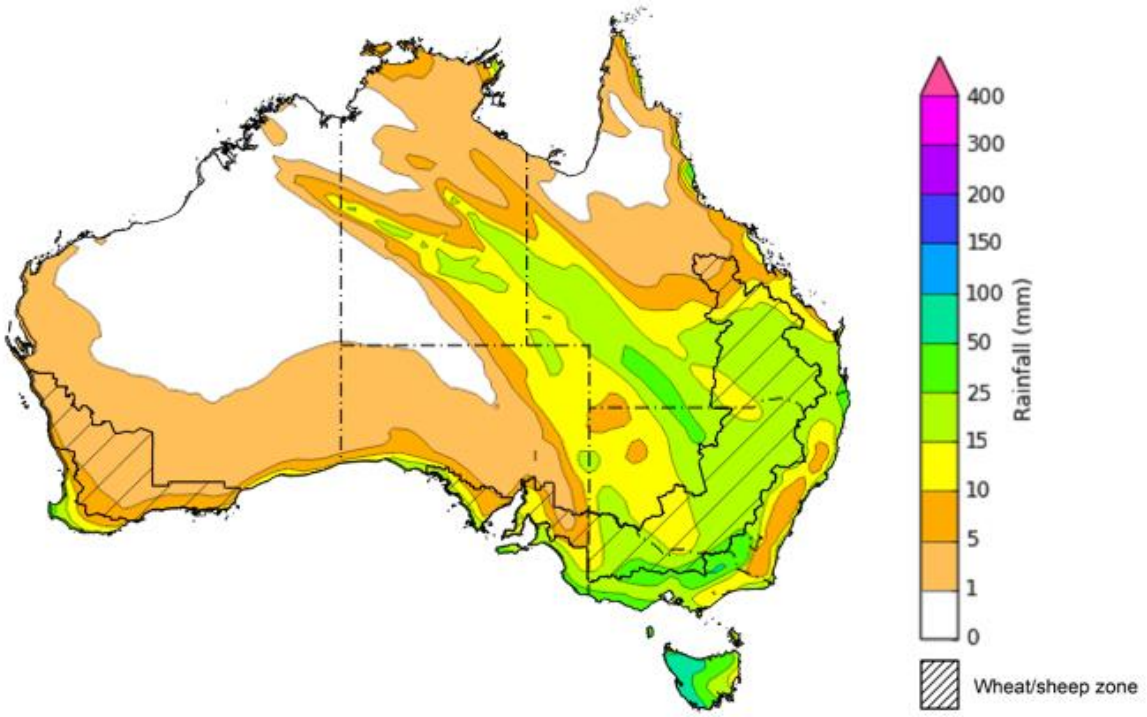
Over the 8 days to 25 June 2026, **cold fronts and low-pressure systems** are expected to bring rainfall to large areas of eastern and central Australia, while western and northern regions remain largely dry.

- In Victoria, much of New South Wales and southern Queensland falls of 10-50 millimetres are forecast, while Tasmania is likely to see higher falls of up to 100 millimetres.
- Lighter falls of between 5-25 millimetres are expected across parts of the Northern Territory and southern regions of South Australia and Western Australia

Across cropping regions, falls are expected to be broadly restricted to the east and southeast:

- Falls of 10-50 millimetres are forecast for Victoria, with lower rainfall totals of 10-25 millimetres forecast for New South Wales and much of Queensland.
    - If realised, these expected falls are likely to provide an additional boost to soil moisture levels across many eastern cropping areas. These falls are also expected to support the establishment and growth of winter crops.
- In contrast, remaining regions, including South Australia, Western Australia, and northern Queensland are expected to see little to no rainfall.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 18 June to 25 June 2026



 Issued 18/6/2026
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. May precipitation percentiles and current production conditions

Crop production is affected by long-term trends in average rainfall and temperature, interannual climate variability, shocks during specific growth stages, and extreme weather events. Some crops are more tolerant than others to certain types of stresses, and at each growth stage, different types of stresses affect crop species in different ways.

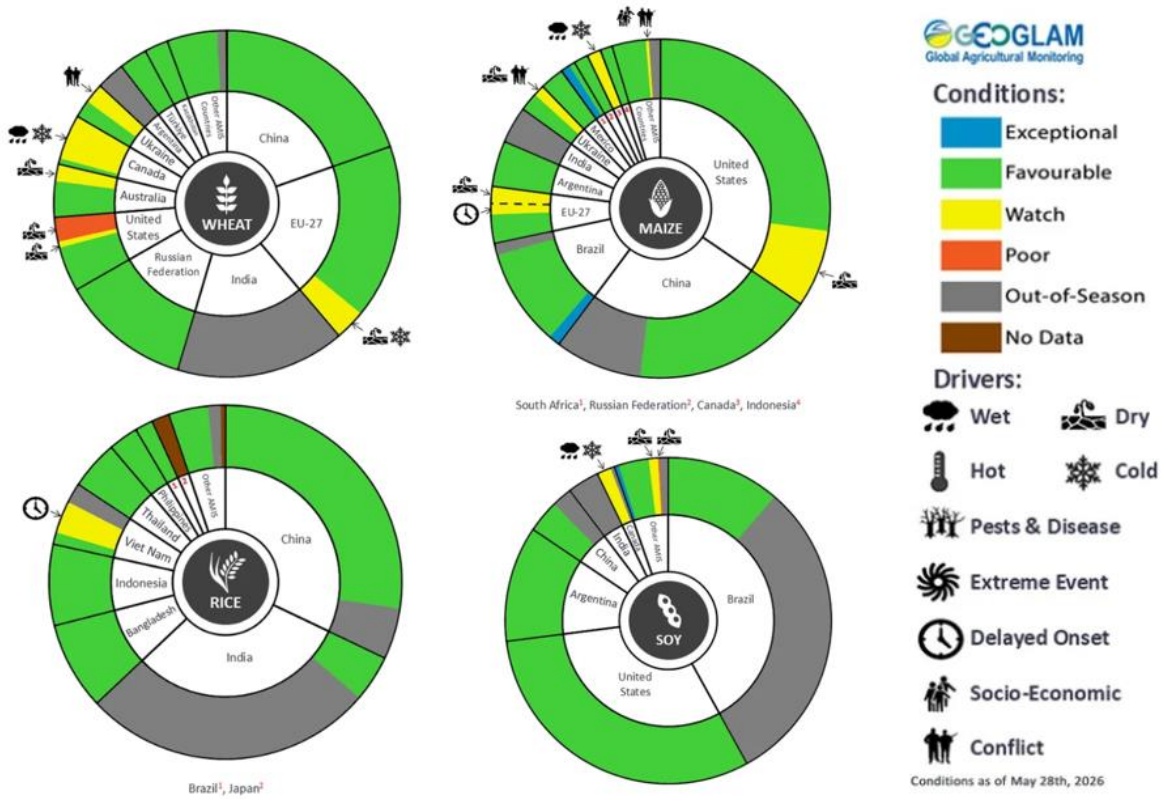
Precipitation anomalies and outlooks presented below indicate the current and expected future production conditions for major grain and oilseed producing countries (responsible for over 80% of global crop production). This is an important input to assessing the global grain supply outlook.

Global precipitation was highly variable during May 2026. Drier-than average conditions spanned much of Europe, the Caribbean islands, the central and western United States, western and north-eastern Australia, parts of north-western and south-eastern Canada, and portions of north-eastern and southern parts of Asia, and much of South America. In contrast, above-average precipitation fell across central areas of Canada, the south-eastern United States, Türkiye and the Black Sea region, much of mainland Asia, and central and eastern Australia.

As of 28 May 2026, global production conditions were generally favourable for wheat, maize, rice and soybeans:

- **Wheat –** In the **northern hemisphere**, winter wheat is developing under broadly favourable conditions in China and European Union, while unfavourable conditions across parts of the United States, Canada, the European Union and Australia are likely to impact production outcomes.
- **Maize –** In the **southern hemisphere**, conditions have been largely favourable for the harvest across much of Brazil and Argentina. In the United States and China, sowing is underway in broadly favourable conditions, with some reductions in planted area in the United States and dryness impacting production across parts of central and eastern Europe.
- **Rice –** Global conditions remain broadly favourable for major rice production regions, with the exception of Vietnam where delayed harvest has impacted crop outcomes.
- **Soybeans –** The harvest in Brazil is concluding under favourable conditions, while the Argentina harvest is progressing despite recent flooding. Sowing is underway in parts of the northern hemisphere, including China, the United States, and Canada.

Crop conditions, AMIS countries, 28 May 2026



AMIS Agricultural Market Information System.
Source: AMIS

The global climate outlook for July 2026 to September 2026 indicates that mixed rainfall conditions are expected for the world's major grain and oilseed producing regions. Outlooks and potential production impacts are presented in the following table.

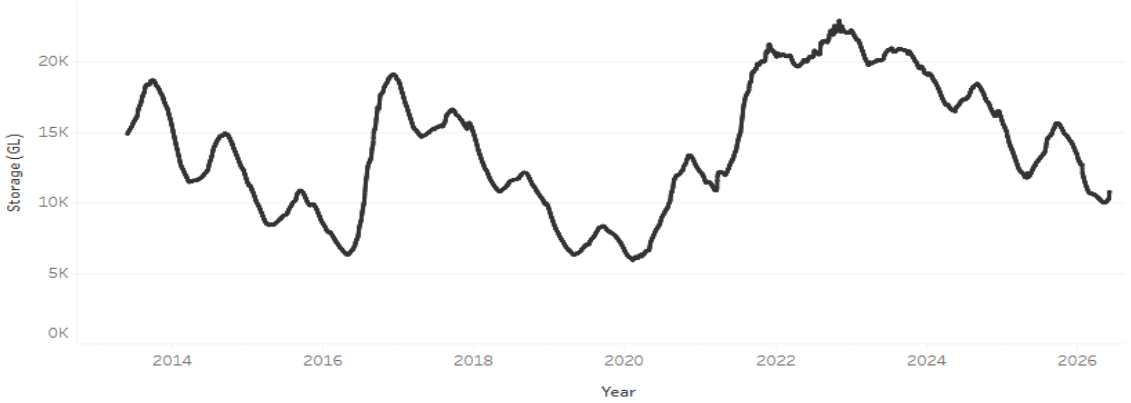
Rainfall outlook and potential impact on the future state of production conditions, July 2026 - September 2026

Region	Rainfall outlook	Potential impact on production
Argentina	Above average rainfall is likely across parts of central and southern Argentina, with broadly average to below average rainfall in the north.	Anticipated rainfall is likely to support the planting and vegetative development of wheat, but could impede the planting of cotton and corn.
Black Sea Region	Below average rainfall is expected across western parts of the Russian Federation.	Below average rainfall is likely to adversely affect grain filling of wheat, as well as development of cotton, corn and sunflower from July.
Brazil	Rainfall outcomes across Brazil are expected to be broadly above average, with exceptions in the far east which is expected to see below average falls.	Above average rainfall across Brazil is likely to support the development of cotton and corn. Below average rainfall in the east is likely to hinder the development of wheat in July.
Canada	Rainfall across Canada is expected to be mixed, with broadly average conditions and areas of both below and above average precipitation in southern regions.	Average rainfall is likely to support wheat flowering, and the development of canola, corn, and soybeans in September.
China	Average rainfall is expected across most of China, with scattered areas of below average rainfall in inland and eastern regions.	Average rainfall across much of China is likely to support the growth and development of major crops over the season, including rice, cotton, corn and soybeans.
European Union	Average rainfall expected for much of the European Union, with exceptions in parts of Spain, Portugal, and Italy where below average rainfall is more likely.	Average rainfall across much of Europe is likely to benefit the development of corn, soybeans, and sunflower.
South Asia (India)	Below average rainfall is expected across parts of southern India, while above average rainfall is expected in northern areas.	Anticipated rainfall is likely to support the growth and development of many major grains and oilseeds, including corn, rice and sorghum, in the north but presents a downside production risk in the south.
Southeast Asia (SEA)	Below average rainfall is likely across much of Southeast Asia.	Below average rainfall in SEA is likely to impede growth and development outcomes for rice and corn.
The United States	Below average to average rainfall is likely for much of the eastern United States, with western and central areas likely to see above average falls.	Below average to average rainfall conditions expected across the eastern US is likely to reduce soil moisture and impact yield potential of major grains and oilseeds, but support the harvesting of crops.

1.4. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 205 gigalitres (GL) between 11 June 2026 and 18 June 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 10,755 GL, equivalent to 48% of total storage capacity. This is 17% or 2,168 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.

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



Allocation prices in the Water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2013–2026 increased from $372/ML on 11 June 2026 to $384/ML on 18 June 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	301
NSW Murrumbidgee	399
Vic Greater Goulburn	386
Vic Murray Below	384

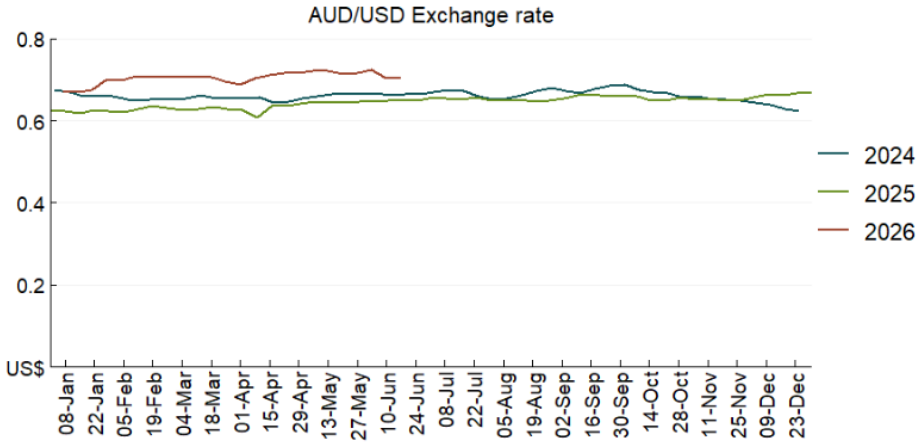
Note: The water allocation prices shown are volume weighted average prices based on the last 10 trades. Price data is sourced from Waterflow and current as at 18 June 2026.

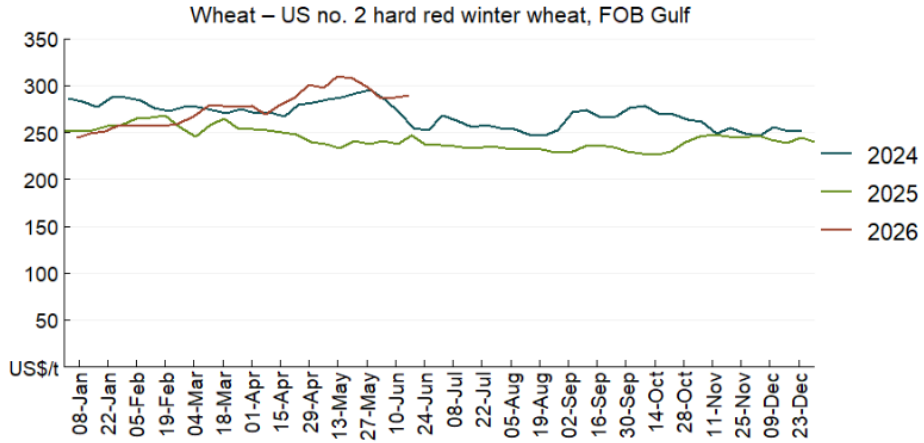
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-260618

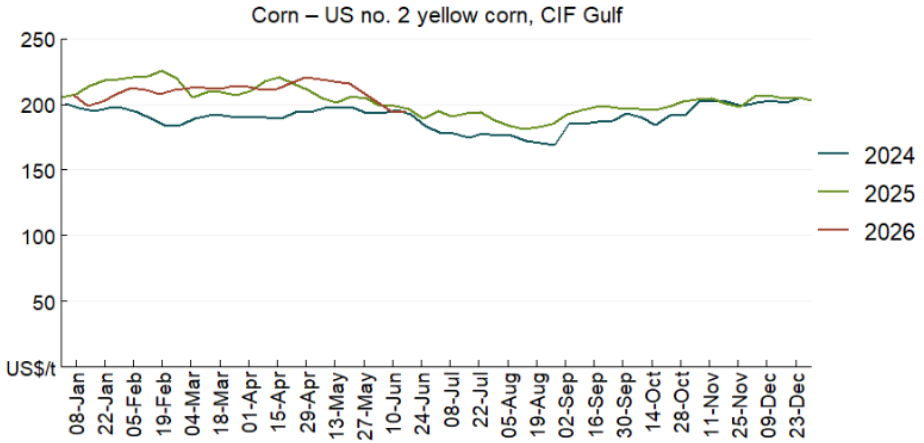
2. Commodities

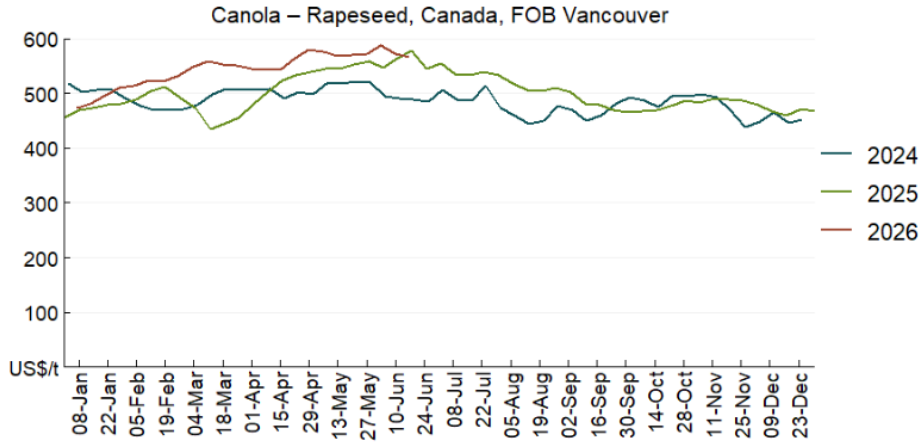
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	17-Jun	A$/US$	0.71	0.70	0%	0.65	9%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	17-Jun	US$/t	289	287	1%	241	20%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	17-Jun	US$/t	194	194	0%	196	-1%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	17-Jun	US$/t	566	572	-1%	558	1%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	17-Jun	USc/lb	85.7	84.7	1%	78.2	10%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	17-Jun	USc/lb	14.3	14.4	-1%	16.7	-15%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	17-Jun	Ac/kg clean	1989	1979	1%	1204	65%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	10-Jun	Ac/kg clean	2170	2125	2%	1354	60%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	17-Jun	A$/t	394	390	1%	387	2%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	17-Jun	A$/t	383	378	1%	382	0%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	17-Jun	A$/t	388	386	0%	371	5%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	17-Jun	A$/t	820	820	0%	824	0%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	17-Jun	A$/t	437	437	0%	425	3%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	17-Jun	Ac/kg cwt	987	971	2%	712	39%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	17-Jun	Ac/kg cwt	876	859	2%	651	35%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	17-Jun	Ac/kg cwt	1211	1228	-1%	1014	19%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	3-Jun	Ac/kg cwt	425	429	-1%	452	-6%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	29-Apr	Ac/kg lwt	420	430	-2%	339	24%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	17-Jun	US$/t	3589	3706	-3%	4129	-13%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	17-Jun	US$/t	3368	3457	-3%	2791	21%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	17-Jun	US$/t	4471	4621	-3%	4876	-8%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	17-Jun	US$/t	6601	6668	-1%	7325	-10%

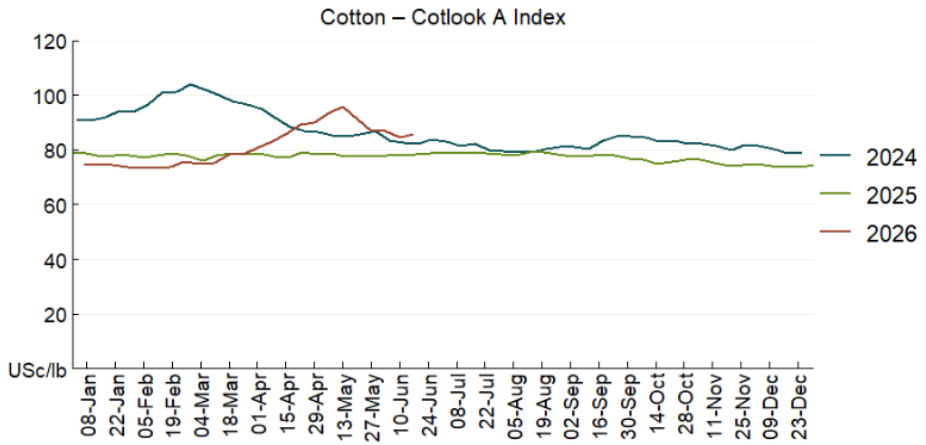
2.1. Selected world indicator prices










Cotton – Cotlook A Index
120
100
80
60
40
20
USc/lb
2024
2025
2026
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
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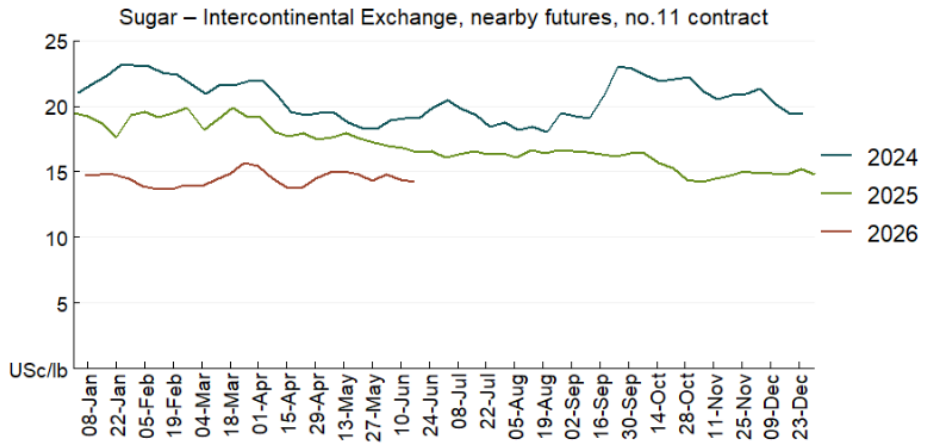
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
23-Dec


Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract
25
20
15
10
5
USc/lb
2024
2025
2026
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
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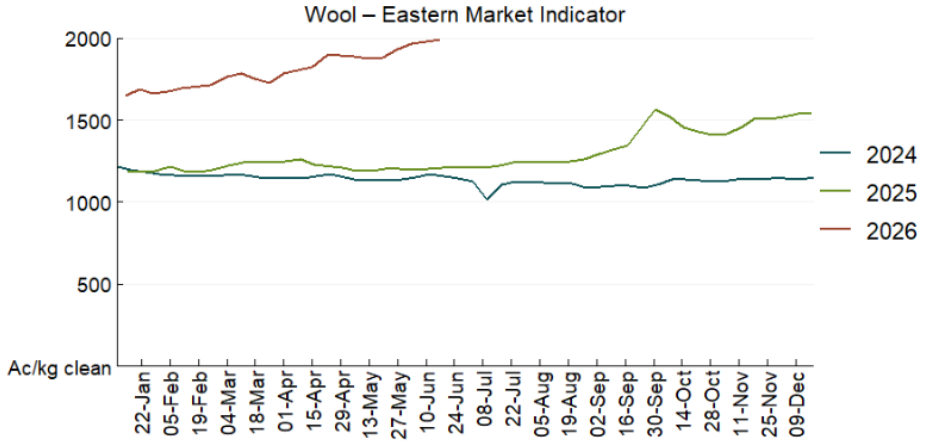
25-Nov
09-Dec
23-Dec


Wool – Eastern Market Indicator
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
2024
2025
2026
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
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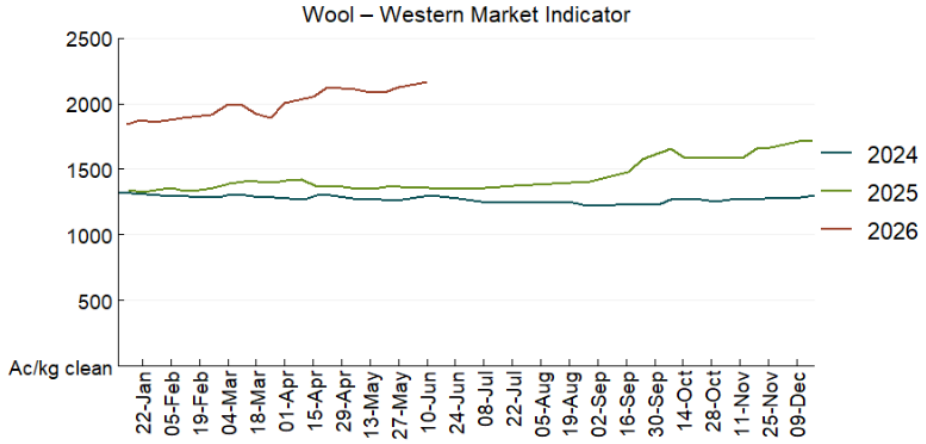
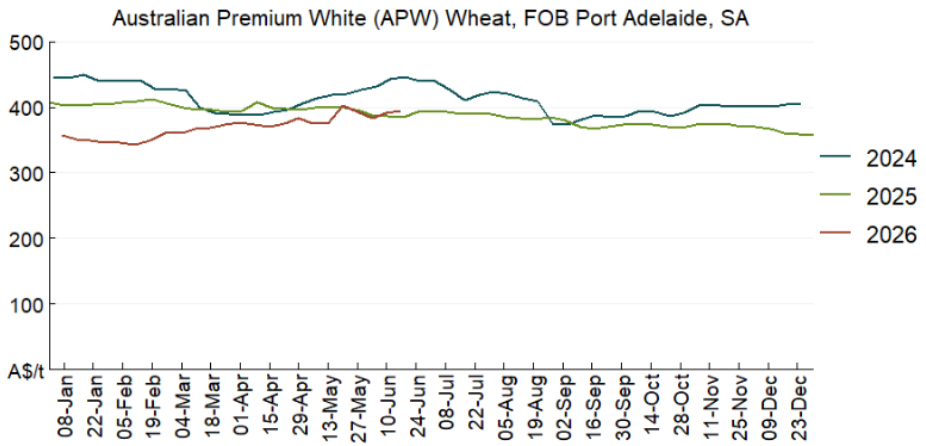
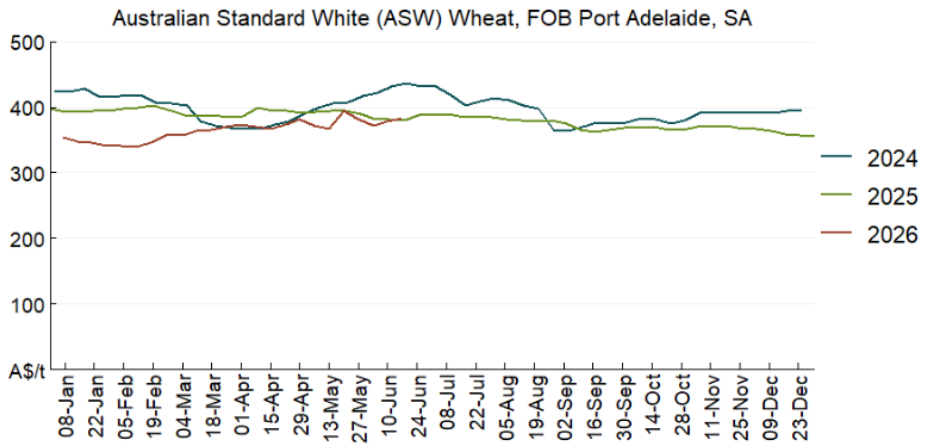
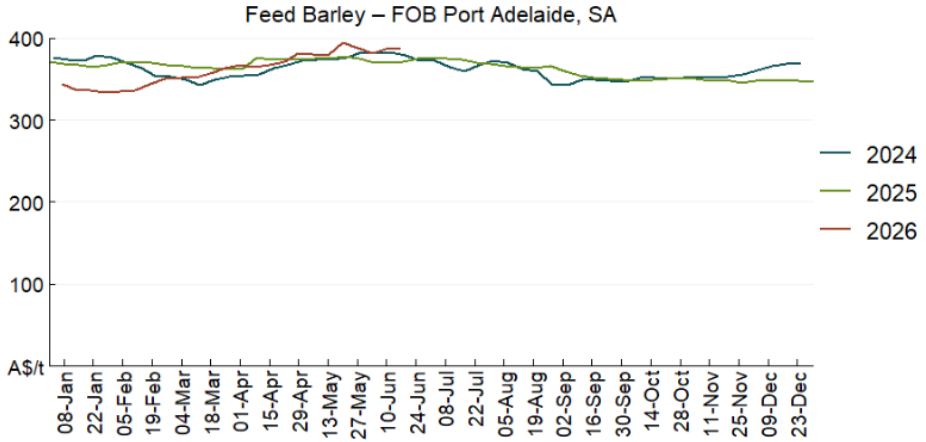
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec

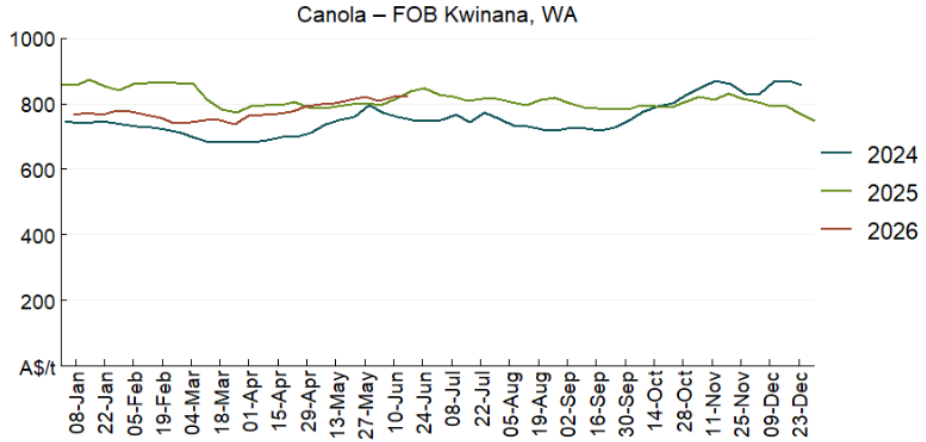

Wool – Western Market Indicator
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
2024
2025
2026
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec

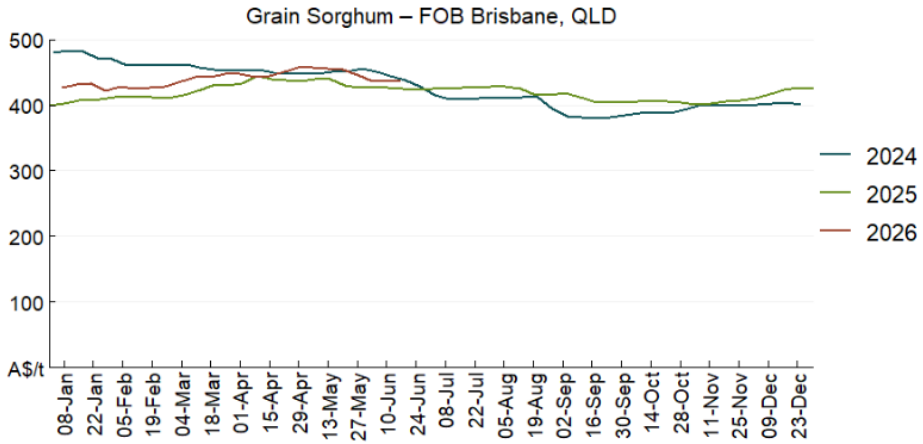
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



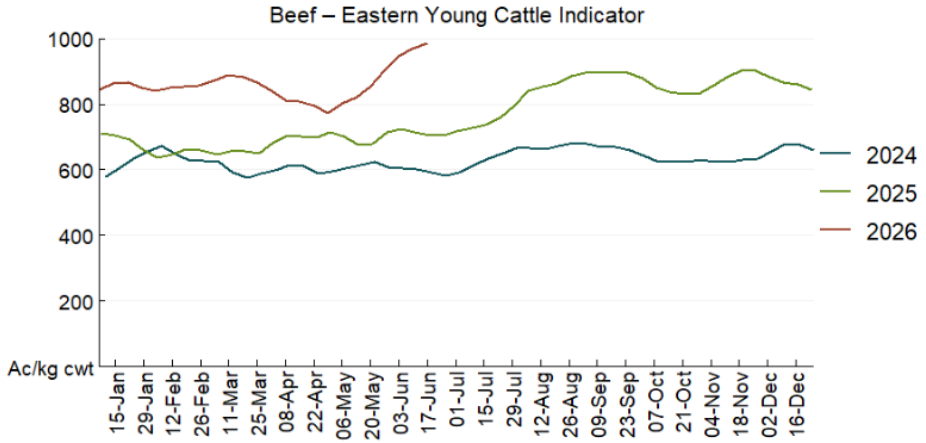


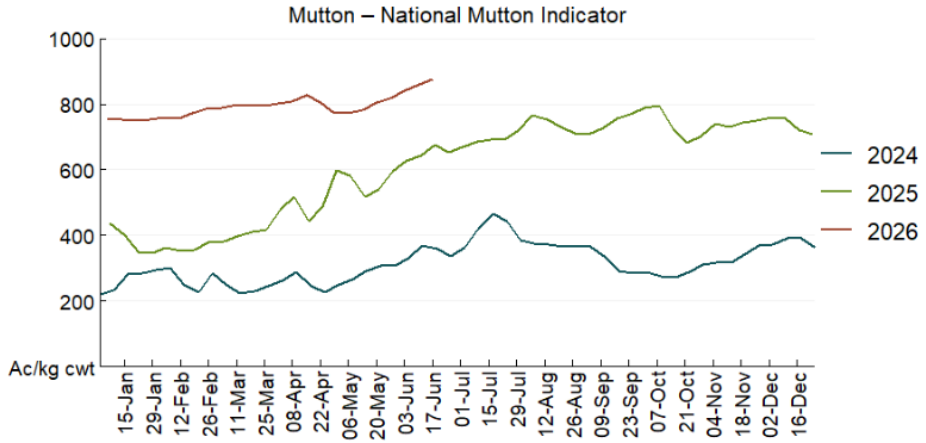


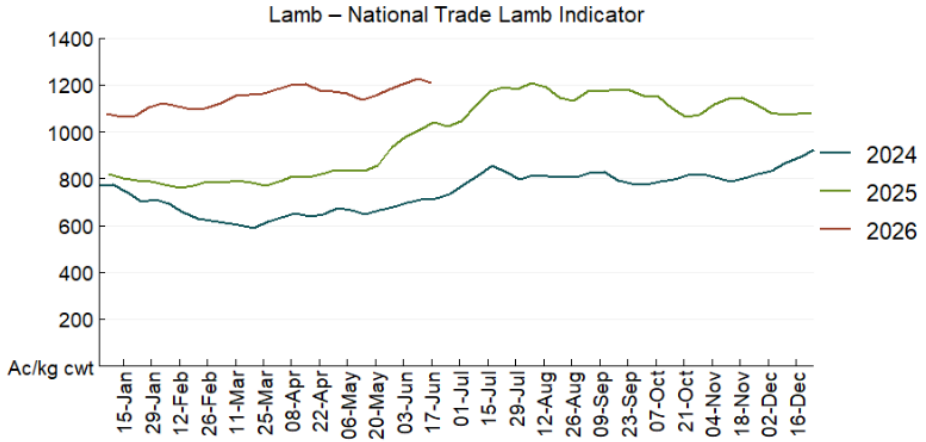


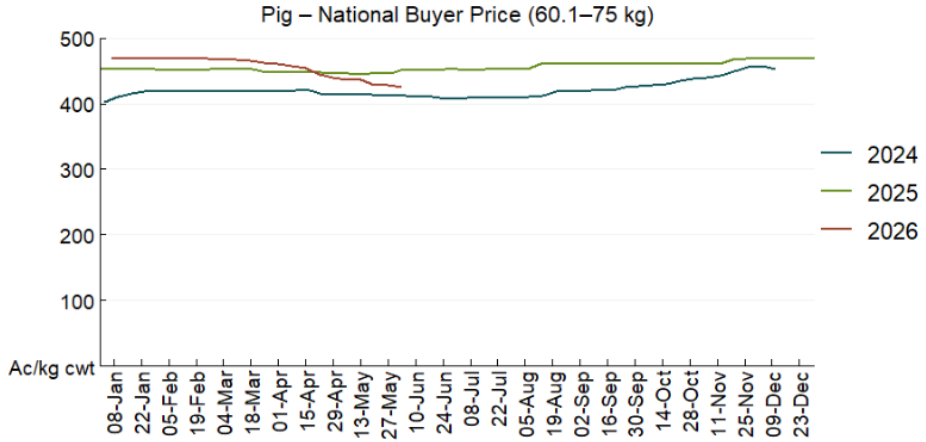

Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD
500
400
300
200
100
A$/t
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
23-Dec
2024
2025
2026

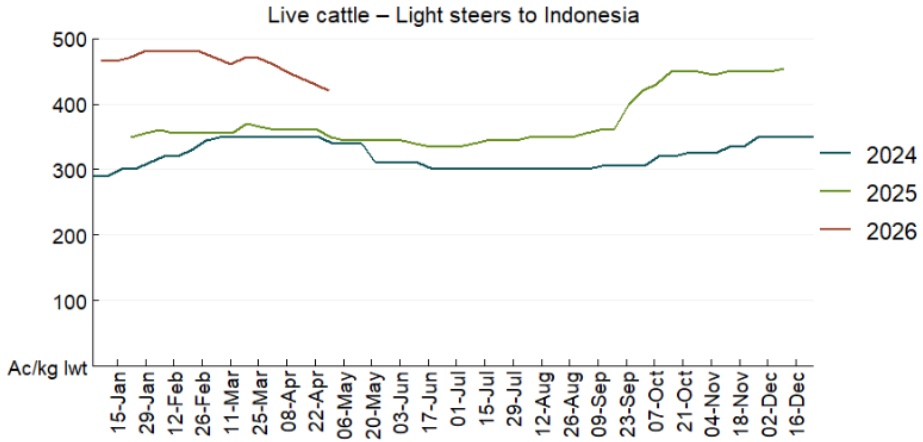
3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices



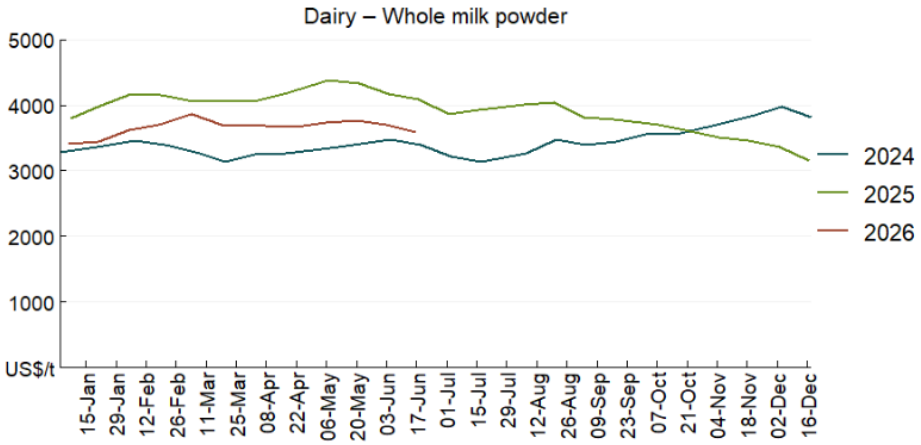


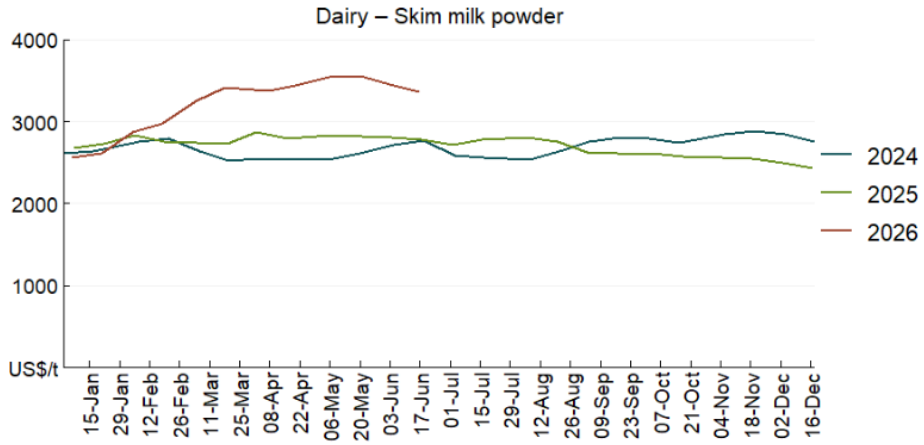


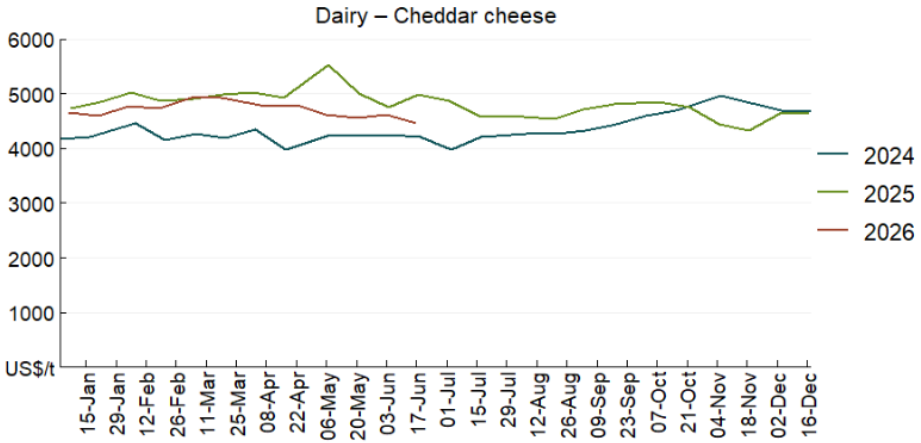


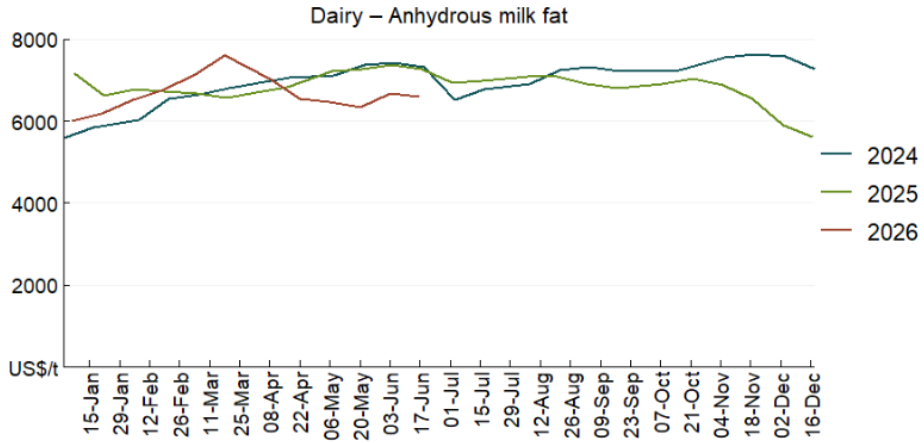

Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia
500
400
300
200
100
Ac/kg lwt
15-Jan
29-Jan
12-Feb
26-Feb
11-Mar
25-Mar
08-Apr
22-Apr
06-May
20-May
03-Jun
17-Jun
01-Jul
15-Jul
29-Jul
12-Aug
26-Aug
09-Sep
23-Sep
07-Oct
21-Oct
04-Nov
18-Nov
02-Dec
16-Dec
2024
2025
2026

3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

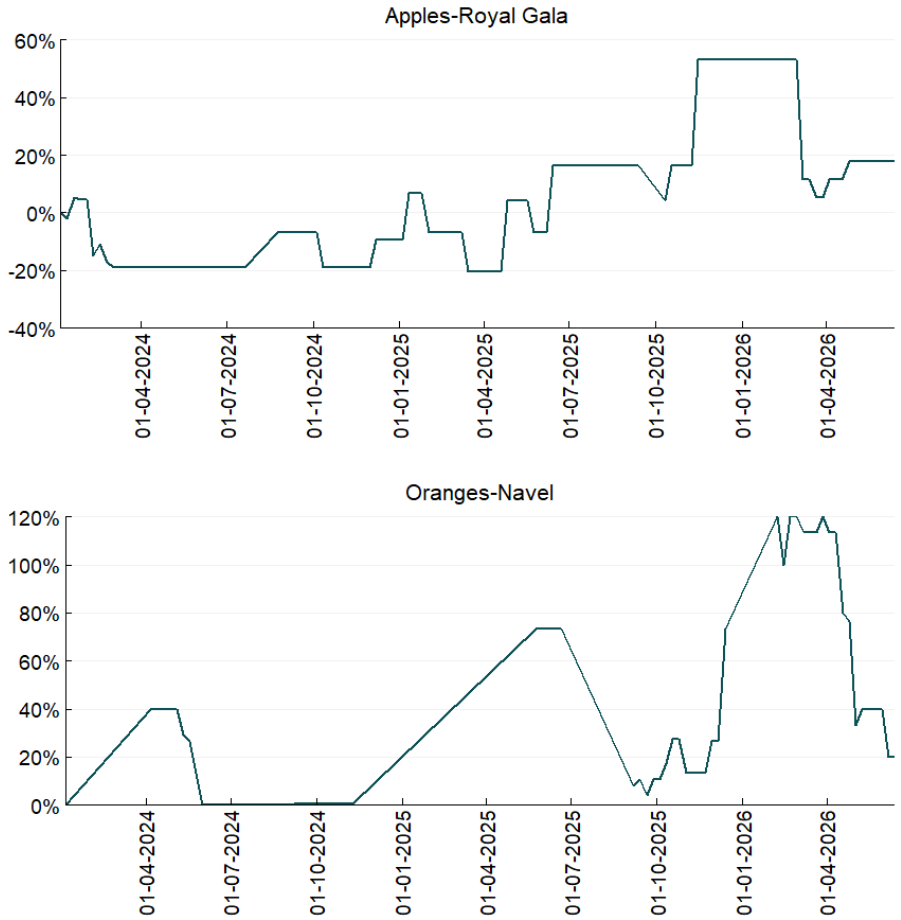


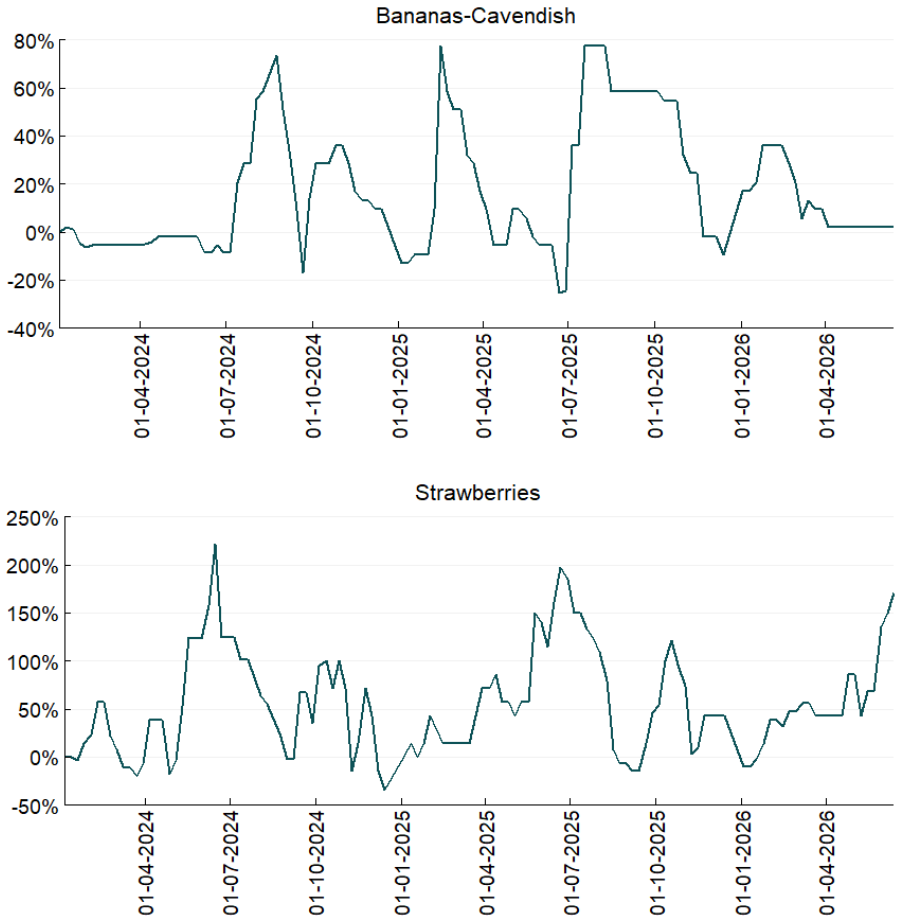


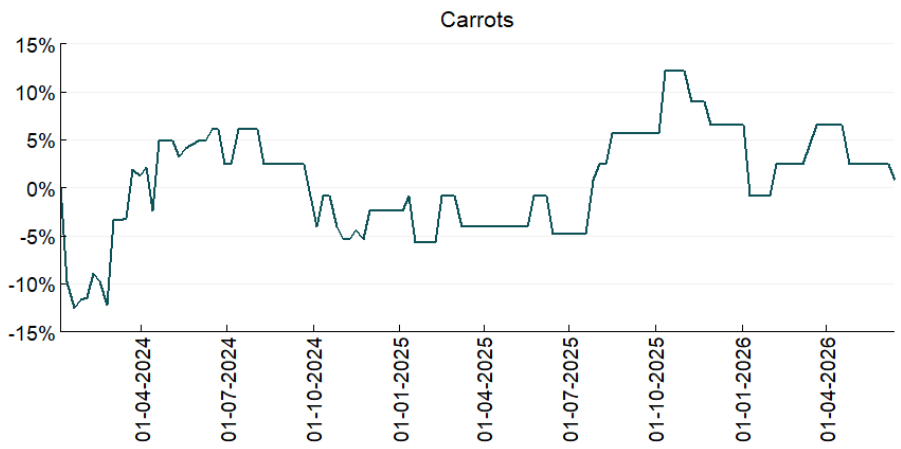


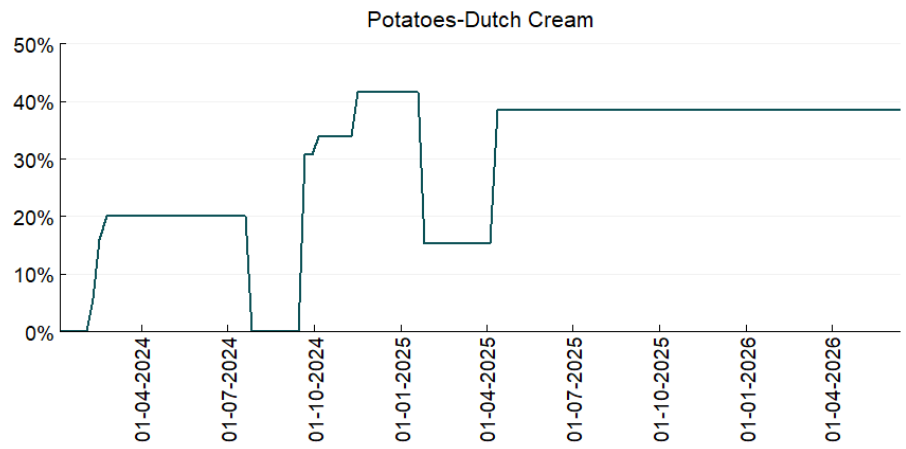


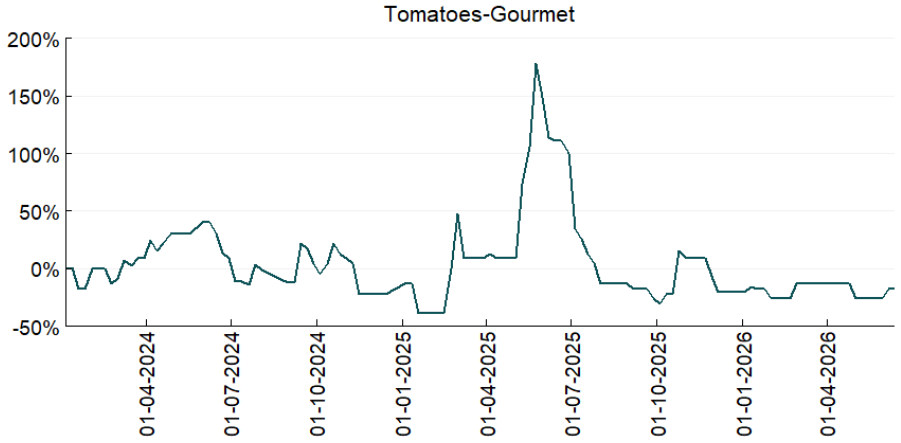
3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices

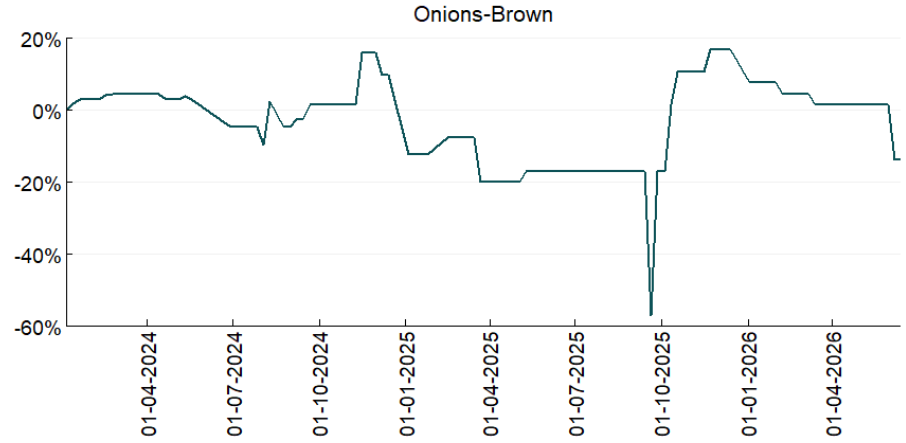




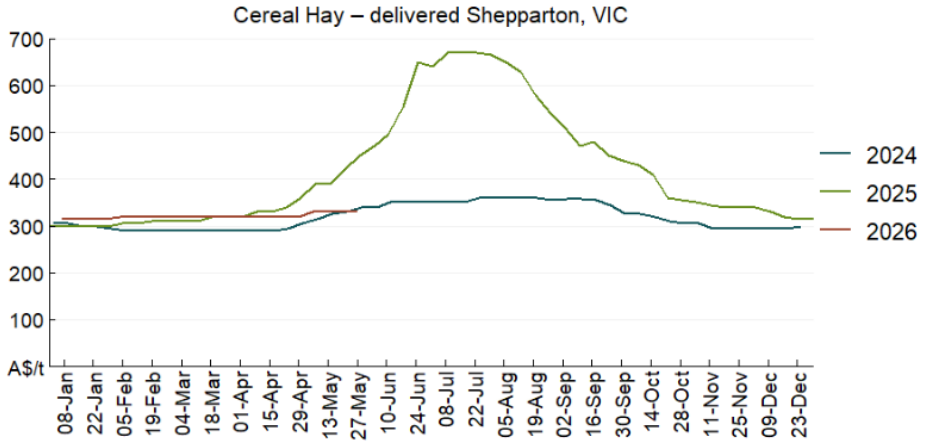

Carrots
15%
10%
5%
0%
-5%
-10%
-15%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026

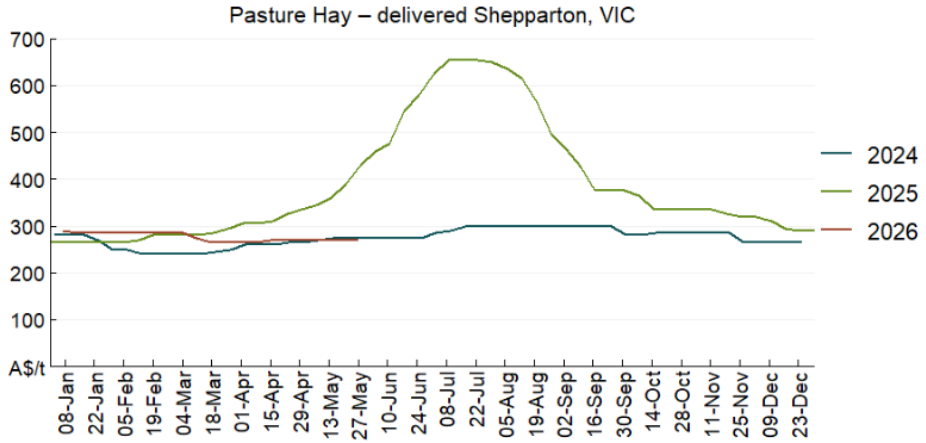

Potatoes-Dutch Cream
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026

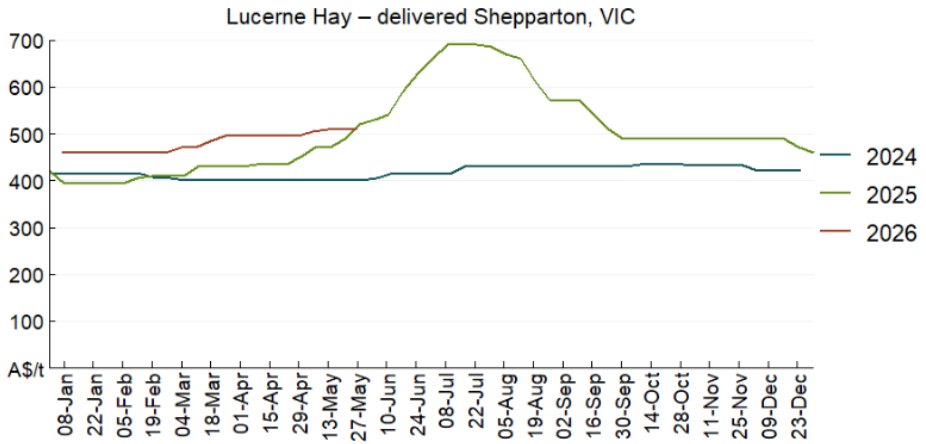

Tomatoes-Gourmet
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
-50%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026


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
This publication (and any material sourced from it) should be attributed as:

ABARES 2026, Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, 18 June 2026. CC BY 4.0 DOI: https://doi.org/10.25814/5f3e04e7d2503

ISSN 2652-7561

This publication is available at https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone 1800 900 090

Web agriculture.gov.au/abares

Acknowledgements
This report was prepared by Holly Beale and Matthew Miller.