Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
ABARES

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 37/2026 24 September 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 23 September 2026, little to no rainfall was recorded across much of Australia. Scattered rainfall was recorded across parts of the east, south and west of Australia.
- Across cropping regions, rainfall was largely confined to Western Australia, with most south-eastern and eastern cropping regions remaining mostly dry.
  - In Western Australia, rainfall of 1–5 millimetres was recorded across most southern and eastern cropping regions, while little to no rainfall was recorded across other cropping regions.
- Over the 8 days to 1 October 2026, rainfall is expected across large parts of southern Australia. Rainfall is also forecast for coastal Queensland and eastern New South Wales, while much of central Australia is expected to remain largely dry.
  - Most cropping regions in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and eastern New South Wales are forecast to receive 5–25 millimetres, with higher totals of up to 50 millimetres possible in southern Western Australian cropping regions. If realised, these falls are likely to provide useful late-season moisture for winter crops and support pasture growth across southern cropping regions, where soil moisture conditions are adequate.
  - Cropping regions in Queensland and western New South Wales are forecast to receive little to no rainfall.
- The Bureau of Meteorology indicates that El Niño continues to strengthen in the tropical Pacific. Despite the strengthen El Niño, the October to December 2026 outlook indicates below average rainfall is likely be restricted to parts of south-eastern Australia and far northern Queensland, while above average rainfall is more likely across much of western and central Australia, including parts of inland and southern Queensland and northern New South Wales.
  - If forecast October to December rainfall totals are realised, they are likely to support at least average pasture growth and maintain winter crop yield potential in areas with average or better soil moisture. In Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales, forecast rainfall may assist summer crop planting opportunities but is likely to arrive too late to materially improve below average winter crop production outcomes.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin increased by 20 gigalitres between 17 September 2026 and 24 September 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 15,079 gigalitres, equivalent to 68% of total storage capacity. This is 4% or 581 gigalitres less than the same time last year.
- Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from $337 per megalitre on 17 September 2026 to $350 per megalitre on 24 September 2026. Trade from the Goulburn to the Murray is closed, trade downstream through the Barmah Choke is closed, and trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray is open.

1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

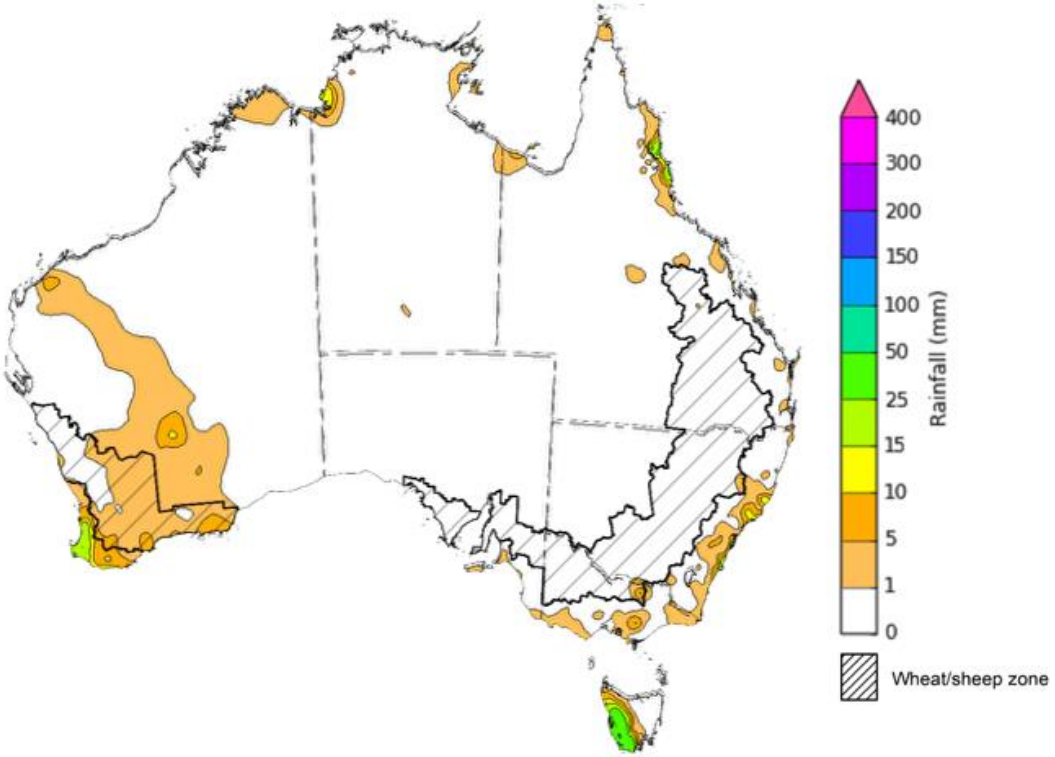
In the week ending 23 September 2026, little to no rainfall was recorded across much of Australia. Light and scattered rainfall was recorded across parts of eastern Queensland, western Tasmania, south-western Western Australia and isolated coastal areas of south-eastern Australia.

- Falls of 1-10 millimetres were recorded across parts of southern and western Australia, with isolated totals of 15-25 millimetres in south-western Western Australia, parts of western Tasmania and scattered coastal areas.
- Higher totals of 25-50 millimetres were recorded in western Tasmania and isolated areas of eastern Queensland.

In cropping regions, rainfall was largely confined to Western Australia, with most south-eastern and eastern cropping regions remaining mostly dry.

- In Western Australia, rainfall of 1-5 millimetres was recorded across most southern and eastern cropping regions.
- However, little to no rainfall was recorded across most cropping regions in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and northern Western Australia.

Rainfall for the week ending 23 September 2026



 Issued: 23/09/2026

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

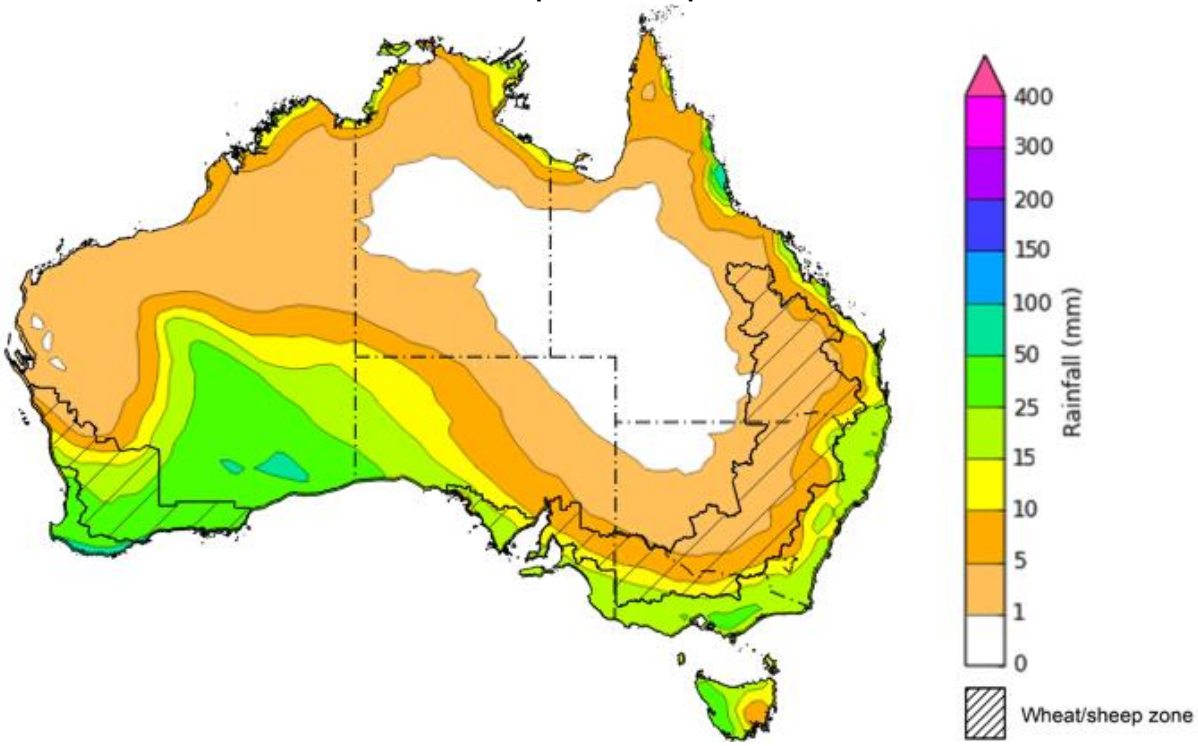
Over the 8 days to 1 October 2026, rainfall is expected across large parts of southern Australia. Rainfall is also forecast for coastal Queensland and eastern New South Wales, while much of central Australia is expected to remain largely dry.

- Falls of between 5–50 millimetres are forecast across much of southern Australia, including southern Western Australia, southern and western South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, and eastern New South Wales and coastal Queensland. Higher falls of 50–100 millimetres are forecast for parts of the far south of Western Australia and isolated areas of north-eastern Queensland.
- Much of central Australia, including inland parts of the Northern Territory, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales, is expected to see little to no rainfall.

Rainfall is expected across most cropping regions, particularly in Western Australia, southern South Australia, Victoria, and eastern New South Wales.

- Most cropping regions in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and eastern New South Wales are forecast to receive 5–25 millimetres, with higher totals up to 50 millimetres possible in southern Western Australian region.
    - If realised, these falls are likely to provide useful late-season moisture for winter crops and support pasture growth across southern cropping regions, where soil moisture conditions are adequate.
- Cropping regions in Queensland and western New South Wales are forecast to receive little to no rainfall

Total forecast rainfall for the period 24 September to 1 October 2026



 Issued: 24/09/2026
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. National Climate Outlook

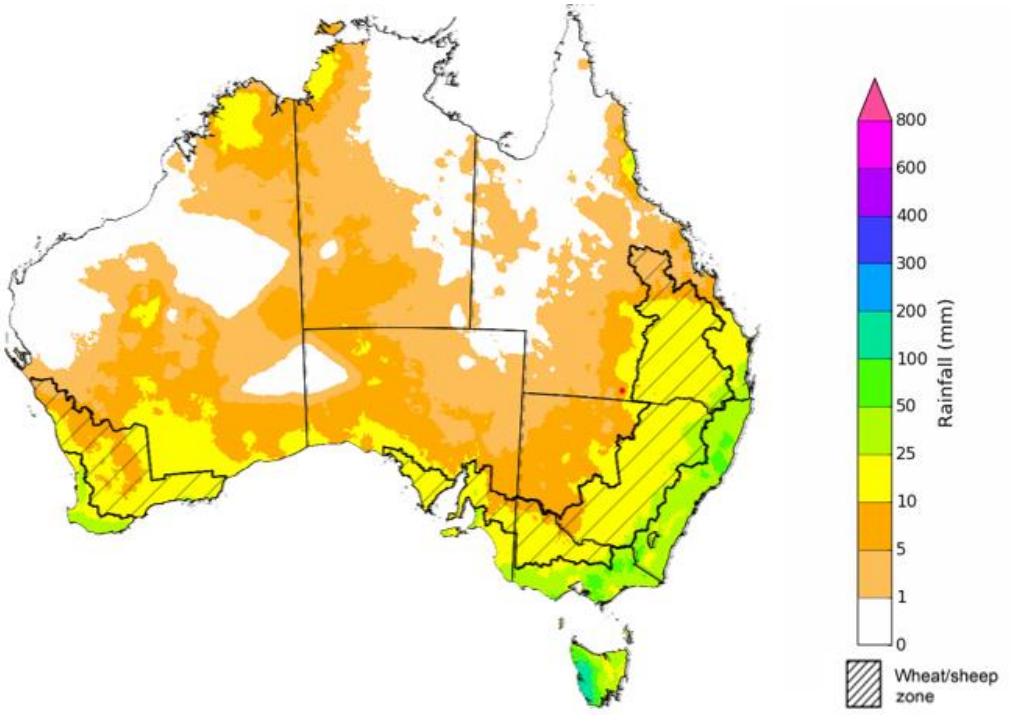
The Bureau of Meteorology indicates that El Niño continues to strengthen in the tropical Pacific. El Niño typically increases the chance of drier conditions across parts of eastern Australia during spring, although rainfall outcomes vary depending on the strength and interaction of other climate influences. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral, while the Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is also neutral. As a result, neither the IOD nor SAM is currently providing a strong additional influence on Australian rainfall patterns. Sea surface temperatures are forecast to remain warmer than average across much of the globe during October to December, including notably warm waters near south-eastern Australia, increasing the risk of marine heatwave conditions.

The rainfall outlook for October 2026 indicates that below median rainfall is more likely across parts of south-eastern and south-western Australia, and far northern Queensland. Above median rainfall is more likely across much of western Australia and parts of the west of the Northern Territory and South Australia.

The Bureau of Meteorology's climate model indicates a 75% chance of October rainfall totals between 5–50 millimetres across large areas of southern and eastern Australia, with higher totals possible across western Tasmania and alpine regions of Victoria. Much of central and northern Australia is likely to receive little to no rainfall.

Across most winter and summer cropping regions, there is a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 5–25 millimetres during October 2026. If realised, these relatively low expected rainfall totals are unlikely to materially improve winter crop production prospects or early summer crop planting conditions in drier parts of Queensland and northern New South Wales. In southern Australia, where soil moisture conditions are generally more favourable, forecast rainfall is likely to provide sufficient moisture to support winter crop development and pasture growth where crops and pastures remain responsive.

Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring in October 2026

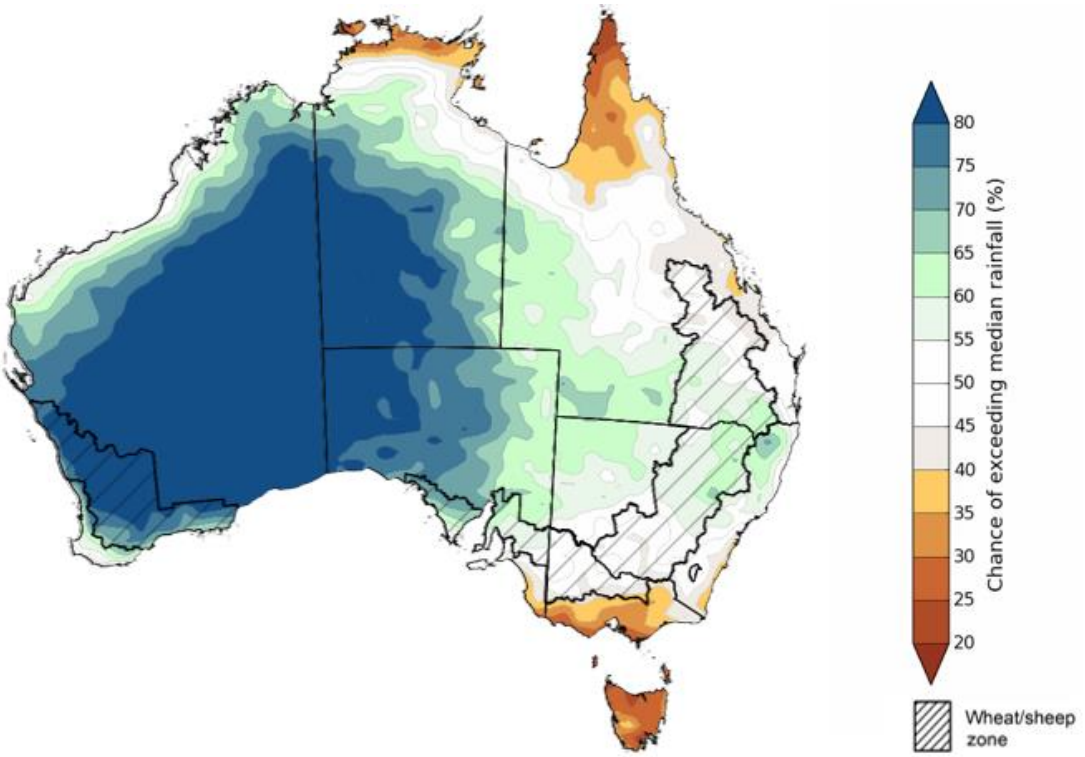


Issued: 17/9/2026

The rainfall outlook for October 2026 to December 2026 indicates that below average rainfall is likely across parts of south-eastern Australia and far northern Queensland. Above average rainfall is more likely across much of western and central Australia, including parts of inland and southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. Temperatures are very likely to be above average across most of the country for this time of year.

During the October 2026 to December 2026 period, the chance of receiving above median rainfall is highest across Western Australian and western South Australian cropping regions. Most cropping regions in South Australia, southern Queensland and northern New South Wales have a slightly elevated chances of above median rainfall. Meanwhile, cropping regions in Victoria, southern New South Wales and northern Queensland have a close to equal chance of above median or below median rainfall.

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall October 2026 to December 2026



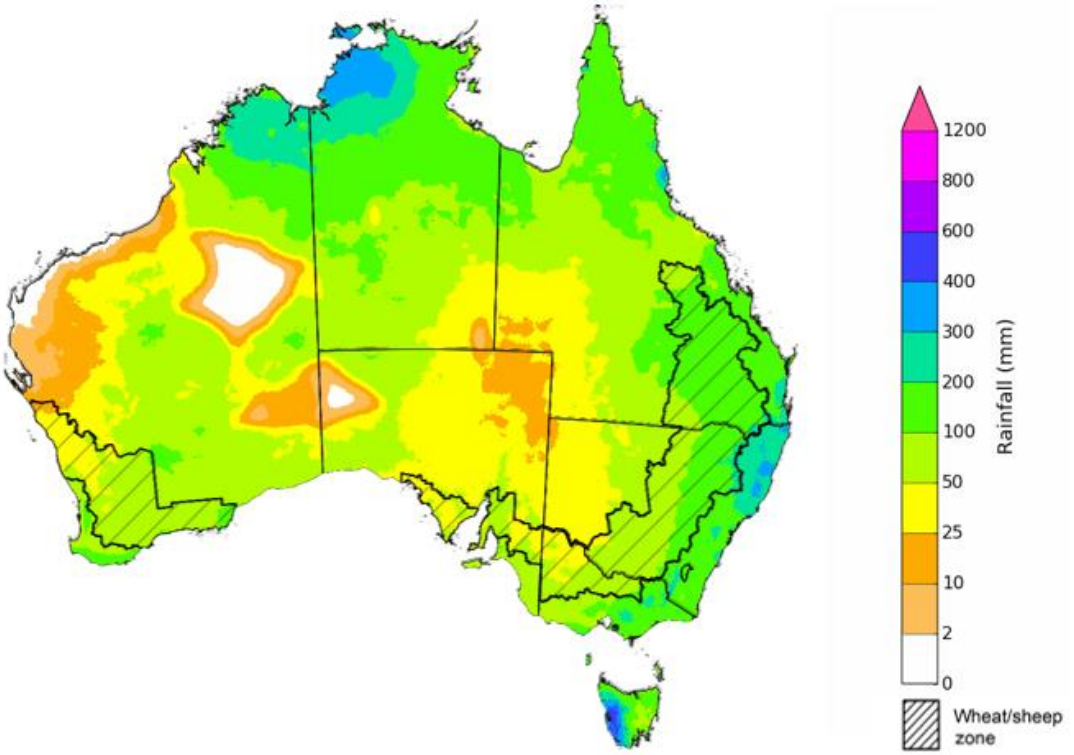
Issued: 17/9/2026

The rainfall outlook for October 2026 to December 2026 suggests a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 50–300 millimetres across much of eastern and northern Australia. Higher falls above 300 millimetres are possible across western Tasmania, alpine regions of Victoria, parts of the tropical north and isolated areas of eastern Australia. Lower rainfall totals are forecast for central and north-western regions, including parts of Western Australia, South Australia, south-western Queensland and western parts of New South Wales and Victoria.

In cropping regions, there is a 75% chance of receiving between 100–200 millimetres across much of Queensland and eastern New South Wales. Southern cropping regions, including Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales, are more likely to receive lower totals of 25–100 millimetres.

If these forecast October to December rainfall totals are realised, they are likely to support at least average pasture growth and maintain winter crop yield potential in areas with average or better soil moisture. In Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales, forecast rainfall may assist summer crop planting opportunities but are likely to arrive too late to materially improve below average winter crop production outcomes.

Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring October 2026 to December 2026



Issued: 17/9/2026

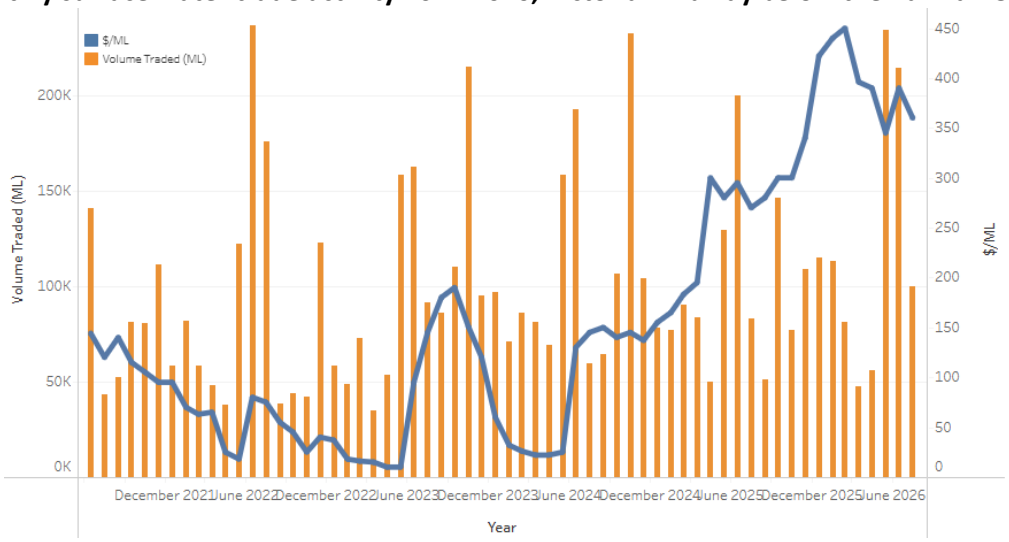
1.4. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 20 gigalitres (GL) between 17 September 2026 and 24 September 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 15,079 GL, equivalent to 68% of total storage capacity. This is 4% or 581 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.

Weekly water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2013–2026

Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke decreased from $337/ML on 17 September 2026 to $350/ML on 24 September 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.

Monthly surface water trade activity 2022-2026, Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke



Weekly water market prices, Southern Murray–Darling Basin

Region	$/ML
NSW Murray Above	216
NSW Murrumbidgee	290
Vic Greater Goulburn	349
Vic Murray Below	350

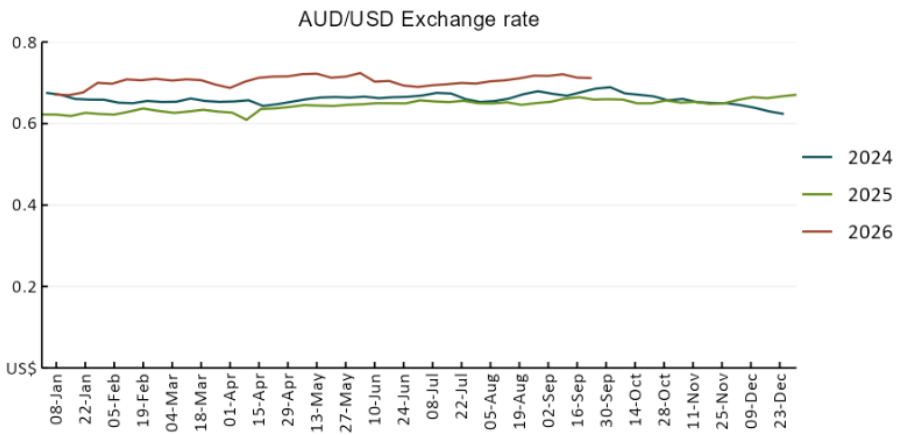
Note: The water allocation prices shown are volume weighted average prices based on the last 10 trades. Price data is sourced from Waterflow and current as at 6 August 2026.

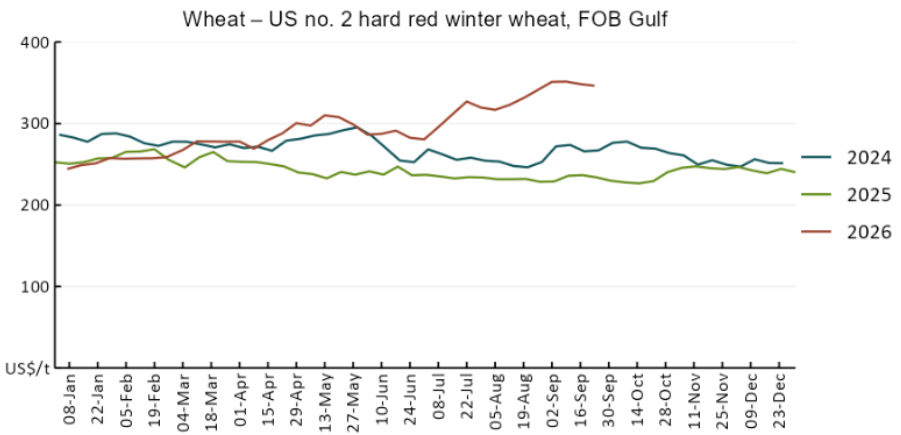
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-260924

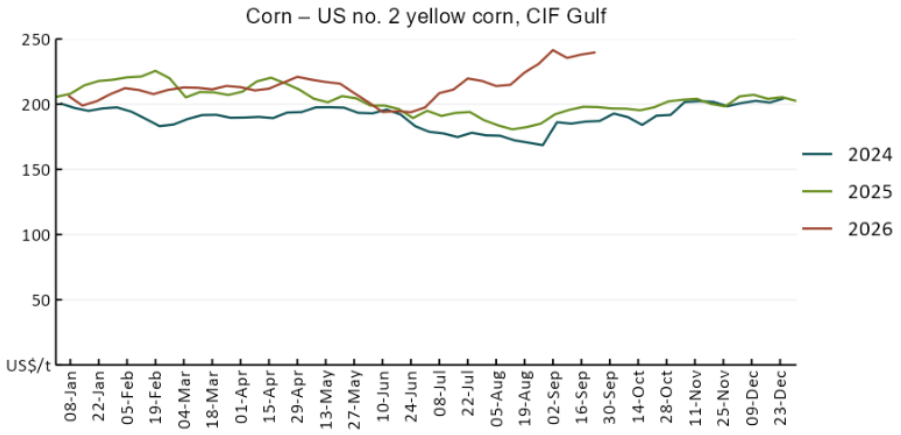
2. Commodities

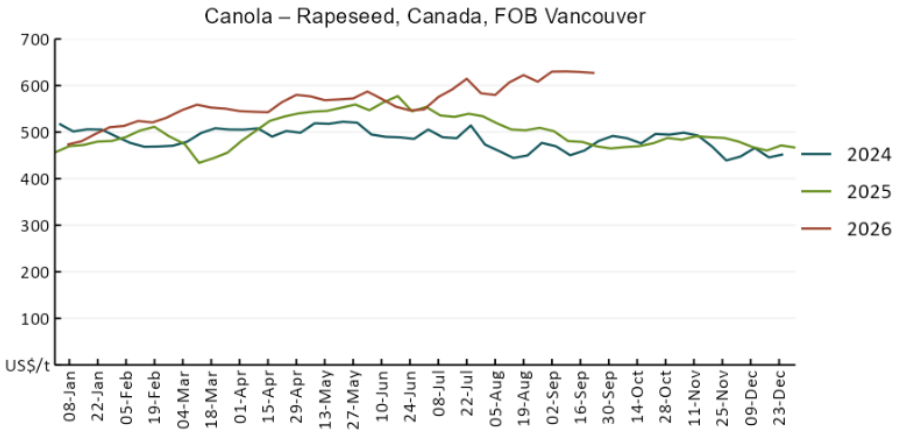
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	23-Sep	A$/US$	0.71	0.71	0%	0.66	8%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	23-Sep	US$/t	346	348	-1%	234	48%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	23-Sep	US$/t	240	238	1%	196	22%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	23-Sep	US$/t	627	629	0%	483	30%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	23-Sep	USc/lb	94.7	94.0	1%	78.0	21%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	23-Sep	USc/lb	18.5	18.5	0%	16.4	13%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	23-Sep	Ac/kg clean	1,845	1,857	-1%	1,352	36%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	23-Sep	Ac/kg clean	2,033	2,039	0%	1,529	33%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	23-Sep	A$/t	431	427	1%	372	16%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	23-Sep	A$/t	422	418	1%	367	15%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	23-Sep	A$/t	369	370	0%	354	4%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	23-Sep	A$/t	806	801	1%	789	2%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	23-Sep	A$/t	440	443	-1%	411	7%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	23-Sep	Ac/kg cwt	942	976	-3%	895	5%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	23-Sep	Ac/kg cwt	832	863	-4%	741	12%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	23-Sep	Ac/kg cwt	1,116	1,157	-3%	1,176	-5%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	9-Sep	Ac/kg cwt	367	369	-1%	461	-20%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	9-Sep	Ac/kg lwt	450	440	2%	369	22%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	16-Sep	US$/t	3,565	3,585	-1%	3,800	-6%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	16-Sep	US$/t	3,689	3,695	0%	2,618	41%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	16-Sep	US$/t	4,075	3,503	16%	4,762	-14%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	16-Sep	US$/t	5,739	5,917	-3%	6,860	-16%

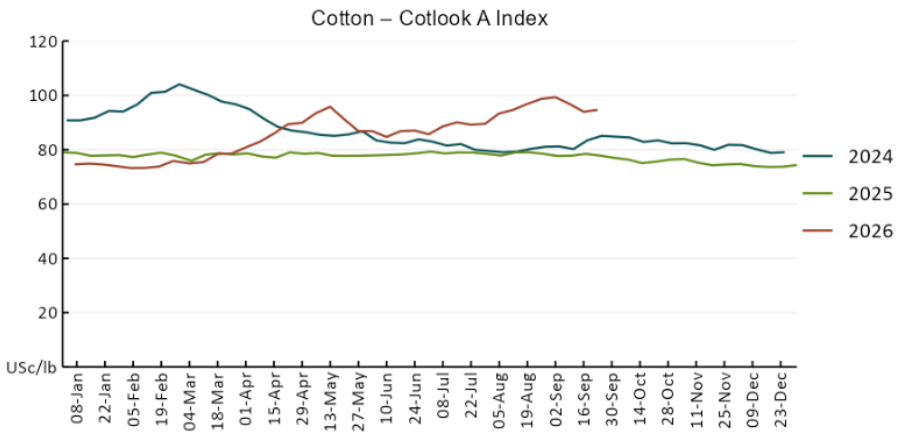
2.1. Selected world indicator prices

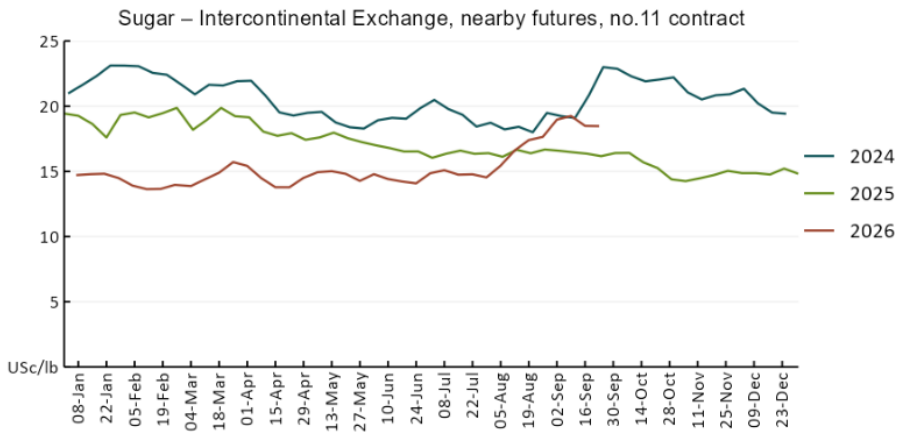









Cotton – Cotlook A Index
120
100
80
60
40
20
USc/lb
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
23-Dec
2024
2025
2026


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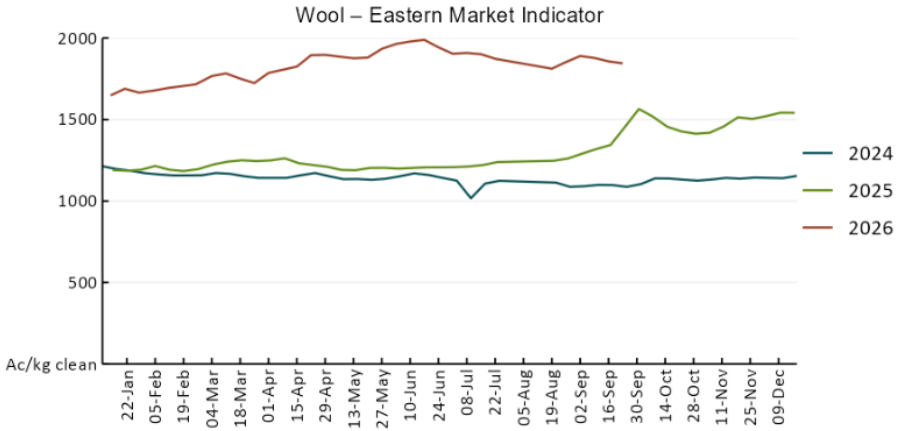
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
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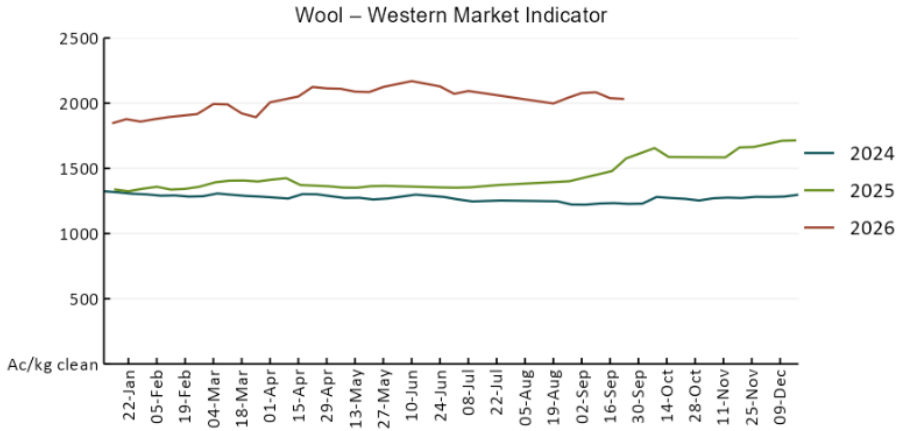
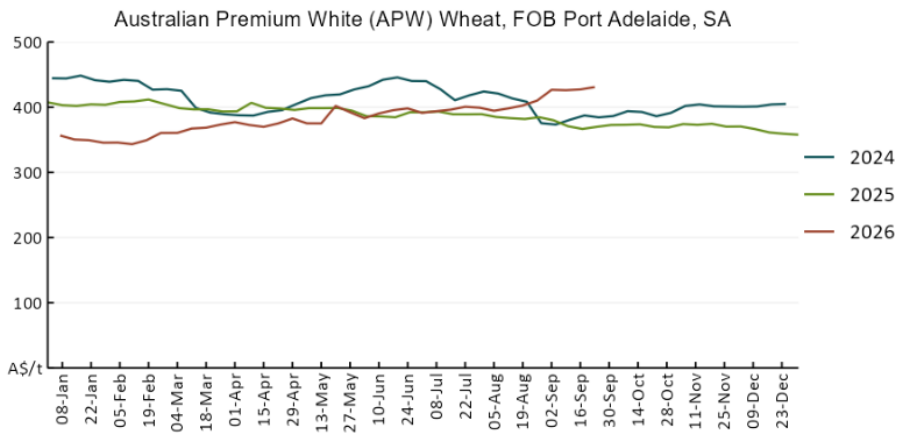
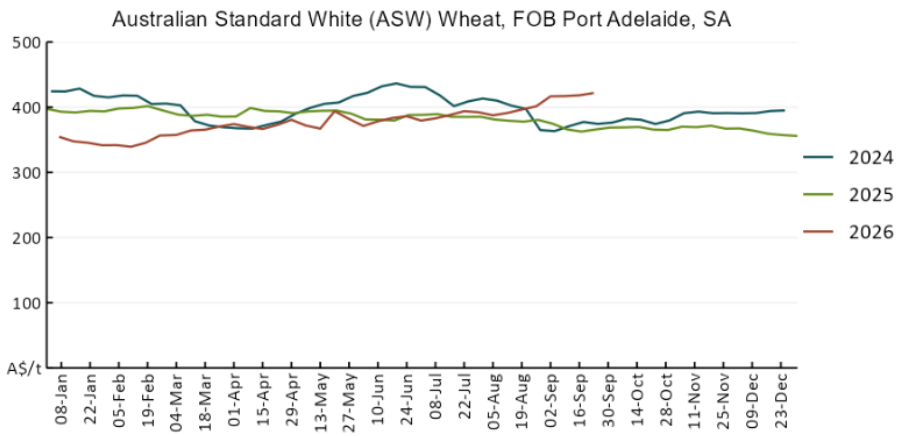
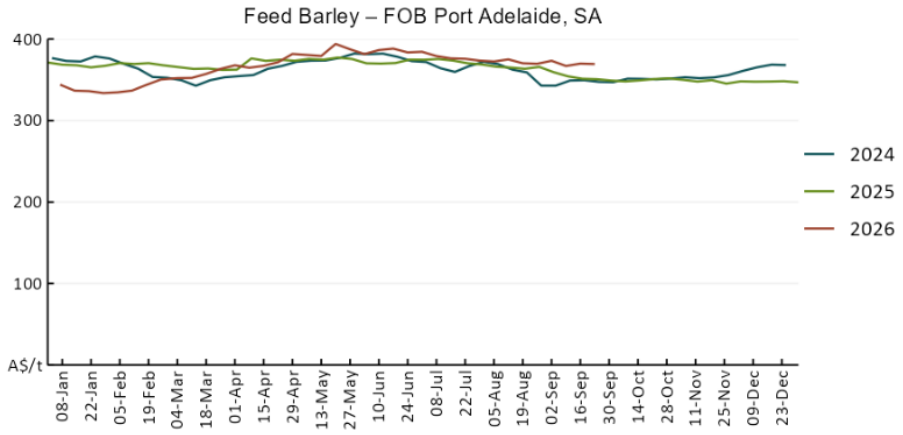
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
2024
2025
2026

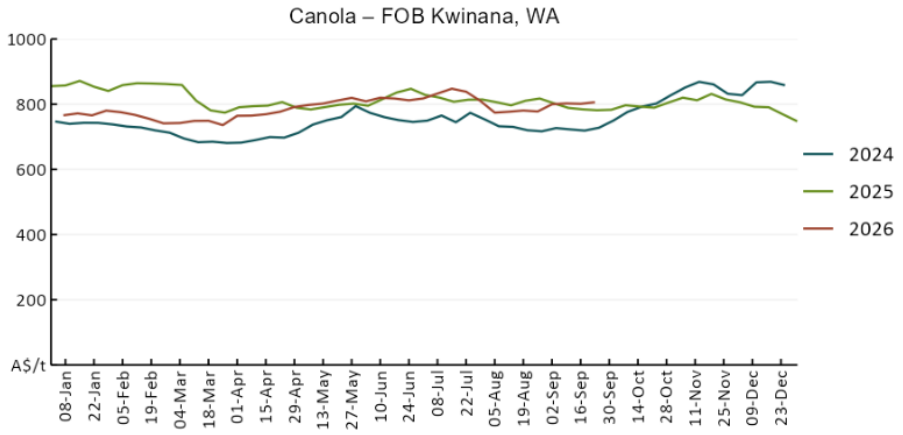

Wool – Western Market Indicator
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
2024
2025
2026

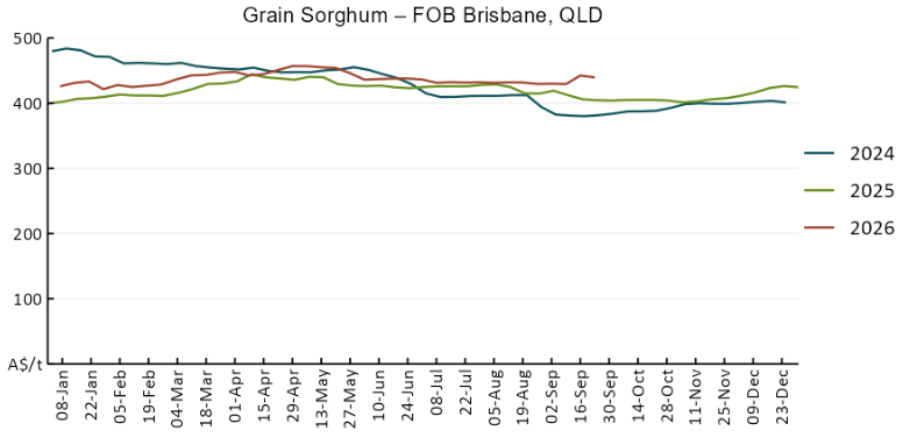
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices










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
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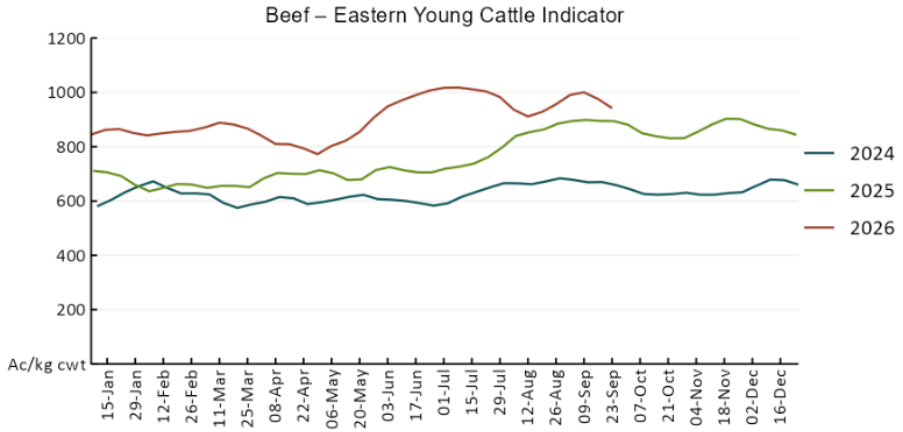
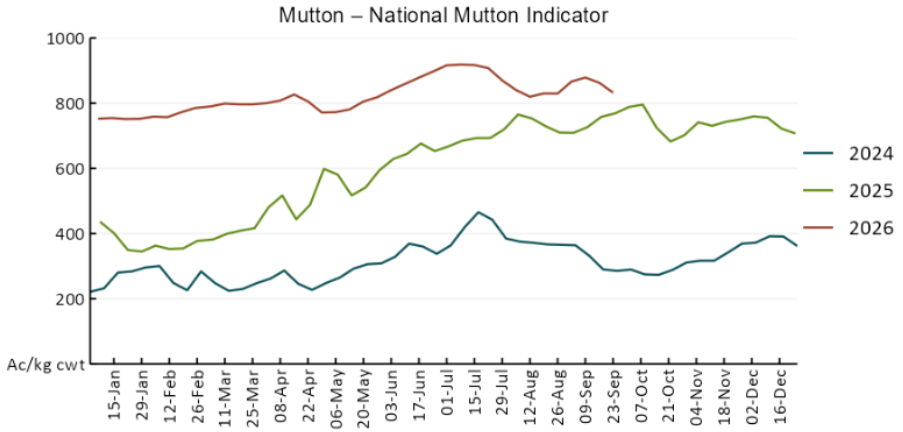
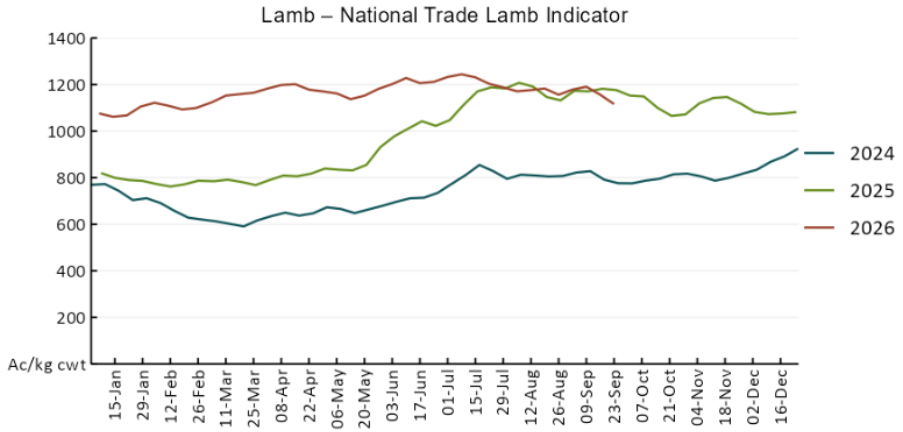
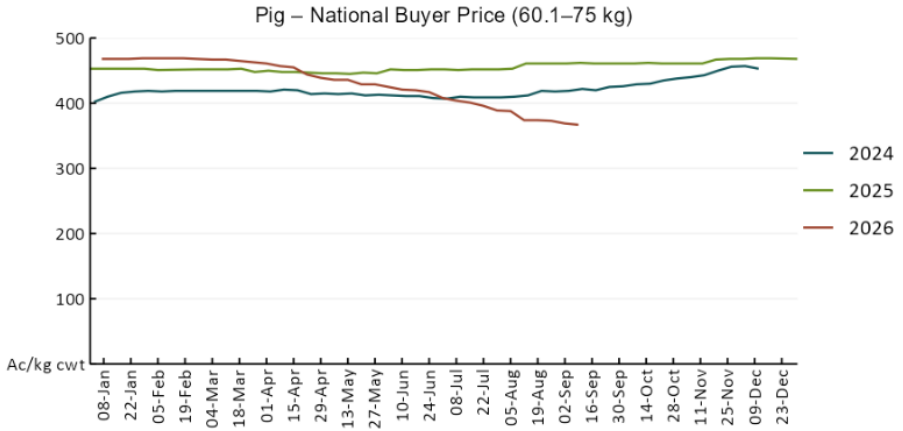
09-Dec
23-Dec
2024
2025
2026

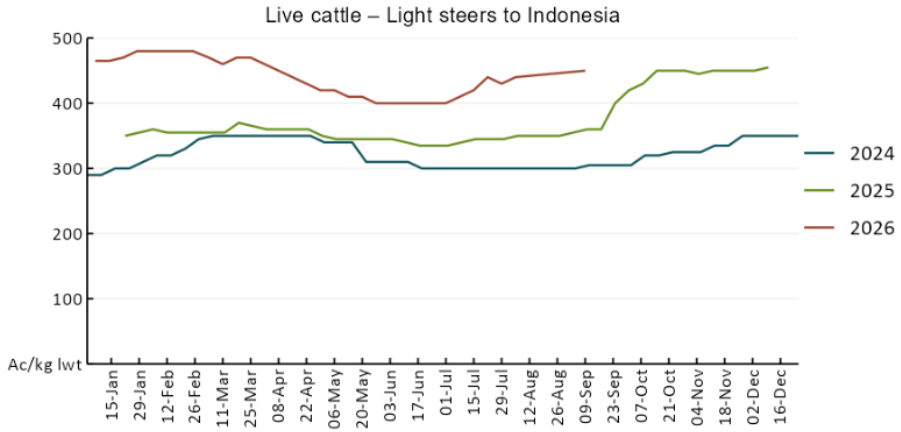
3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices



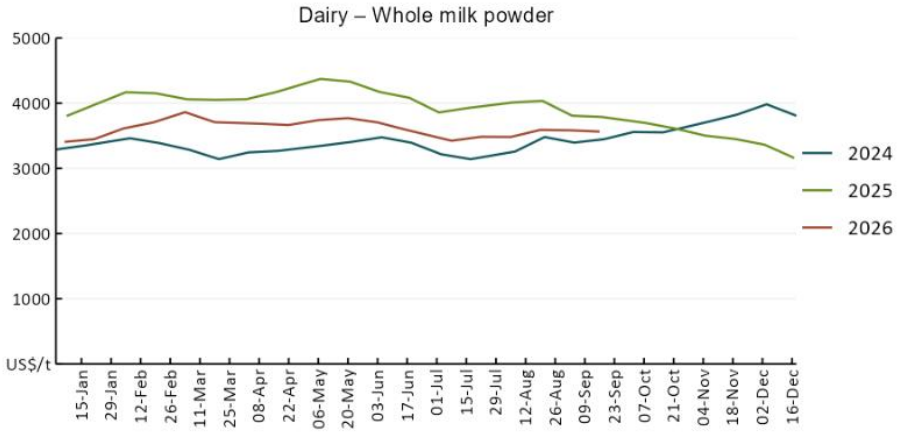


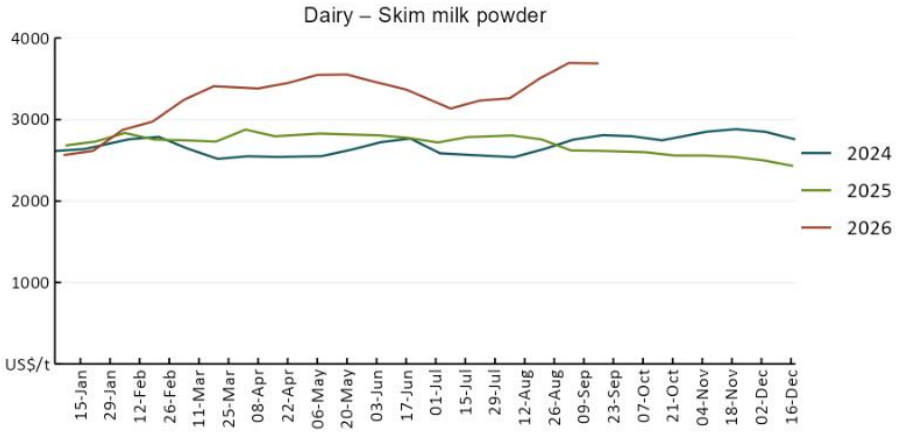


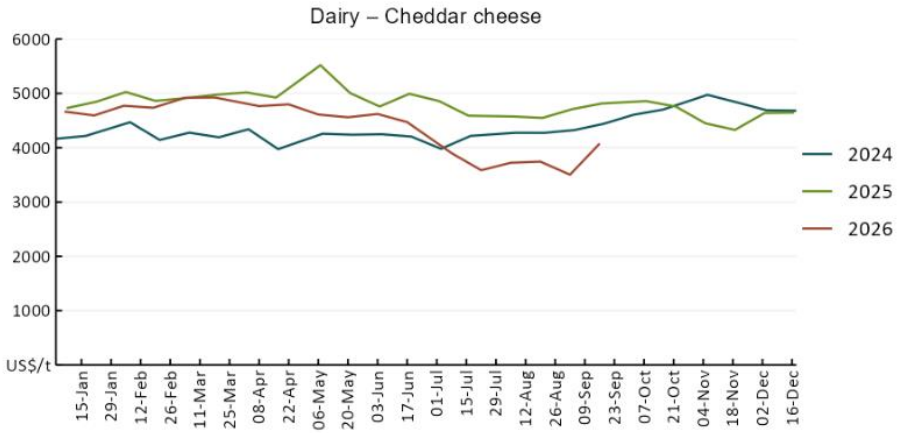


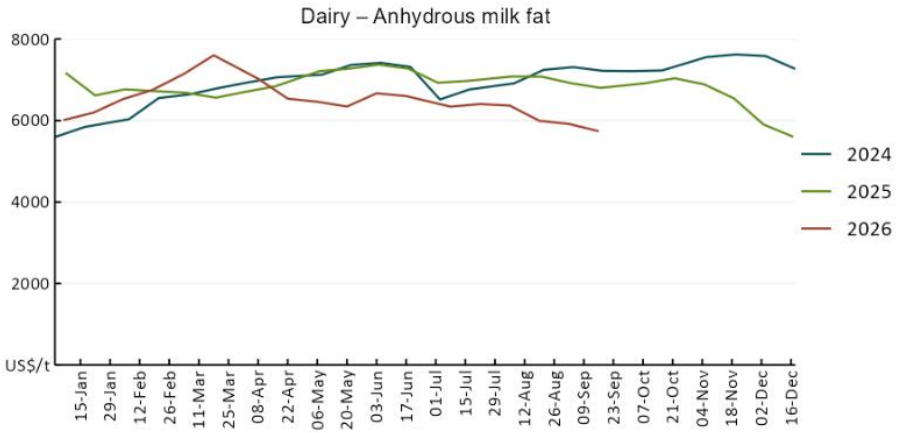

Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia
500
400
300
200
100
Ac/kg lwt
15-Jan
29-Jan
12-Feb
26-Feb
11-Mar
25-Mar
08-Apr
22-Apr
06-May
20-May
03-Jun
17-Jun
01-Jul
15-Jul
29-Jul
12-Aug
26-Aug
09-Sep
23-Sep
07-Oct
21-Oct
04-Nov
18-Nov
02-Dec
16-Dec
2024
2025
2026

3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

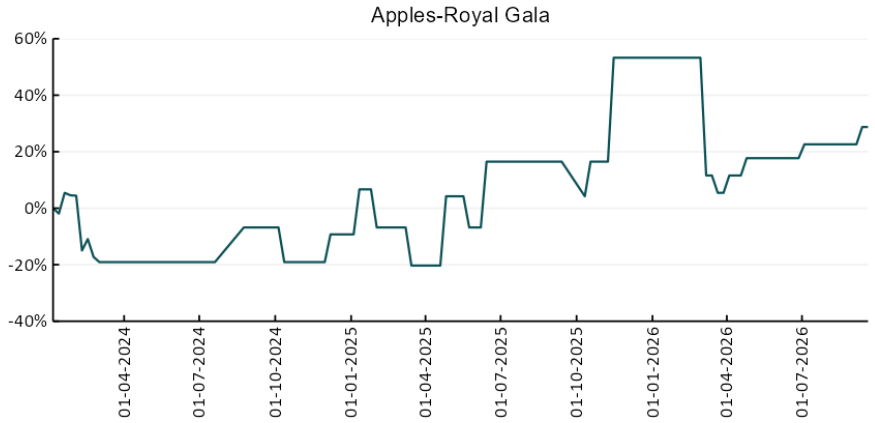


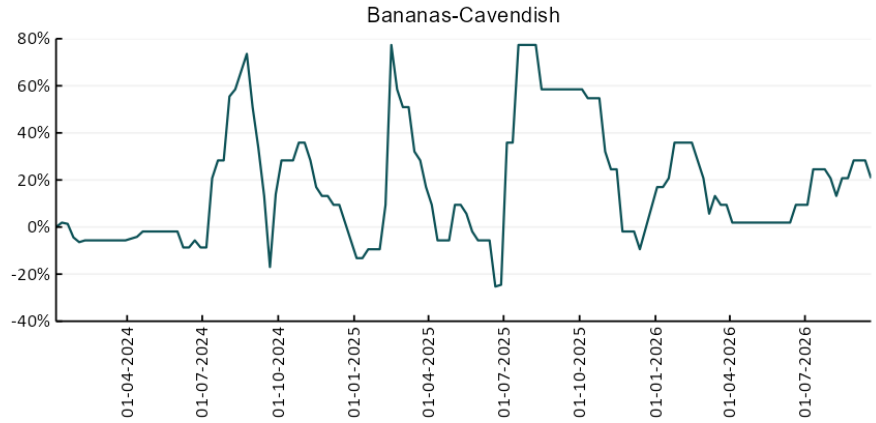


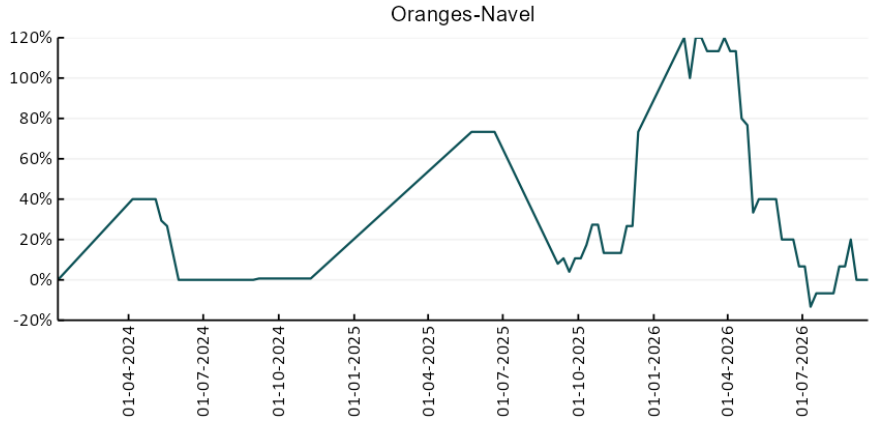


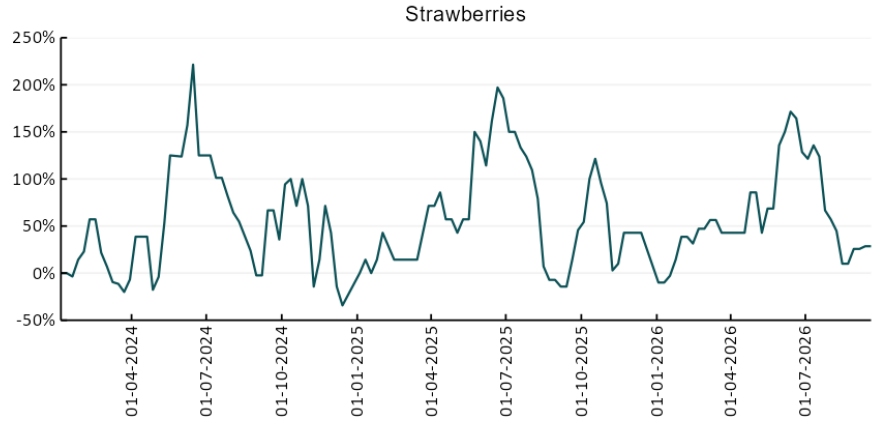


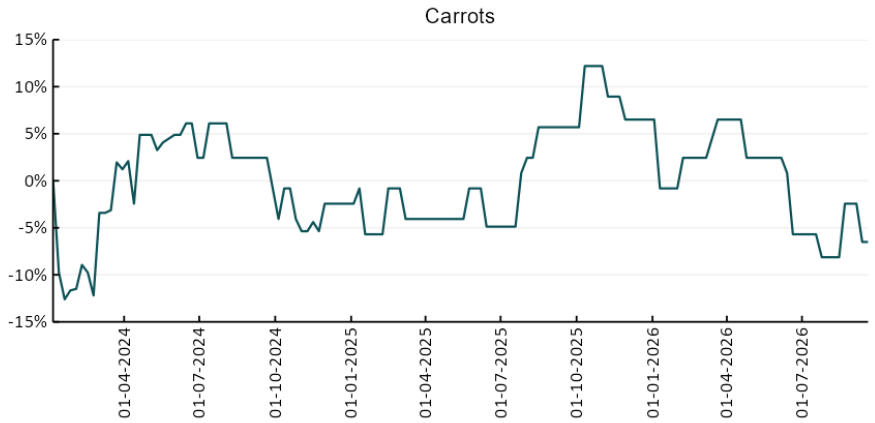
3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices

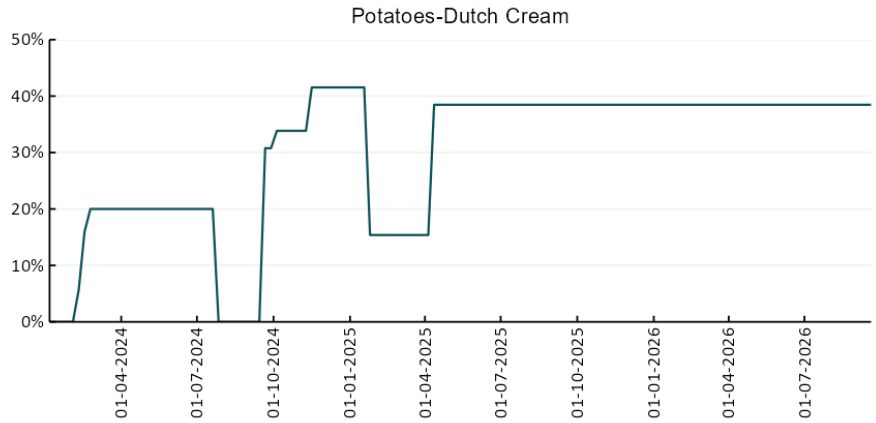


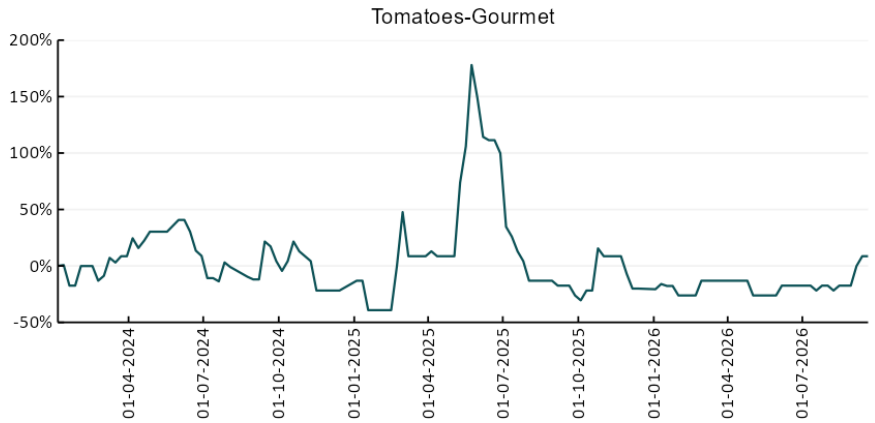


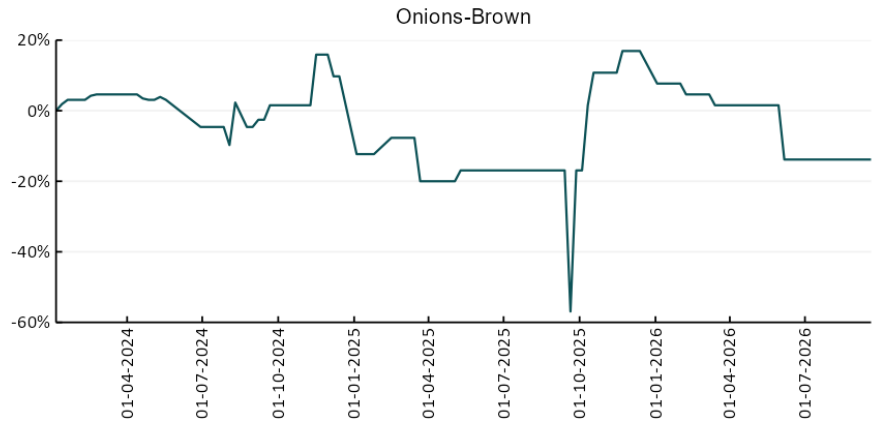




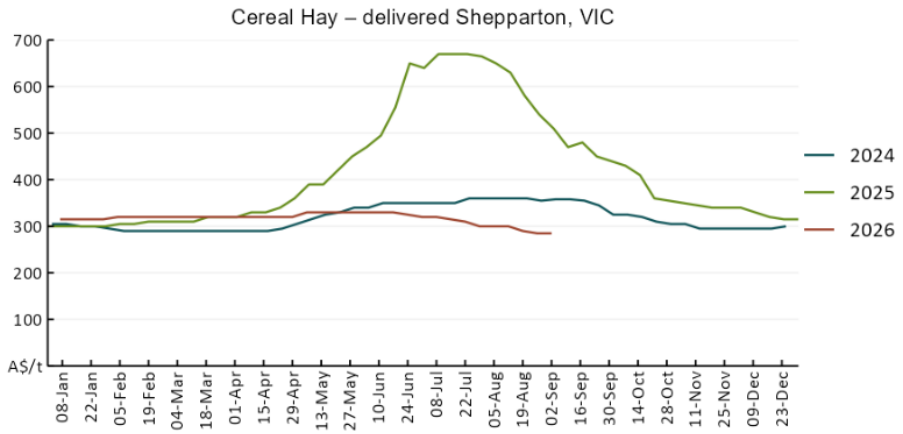

Carrots
15%
10%
5%
0%
-5%
-10%
-15%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026
01-07-2026

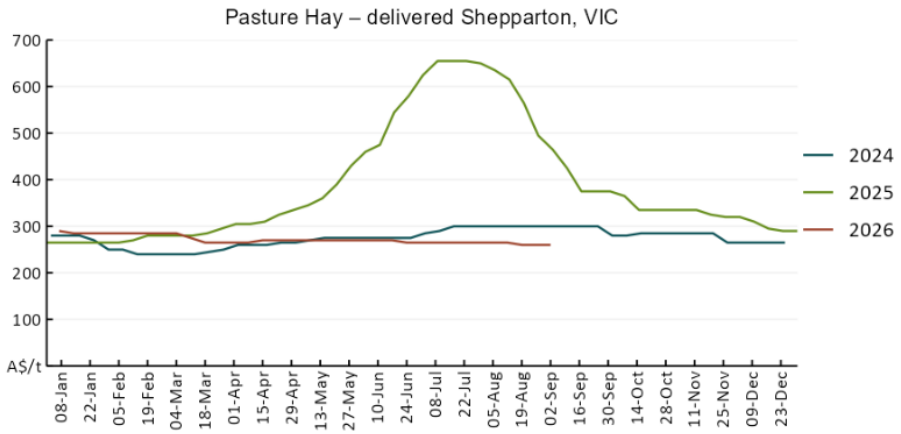

Potatoes-Dutch Cream
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026
01-07-2026

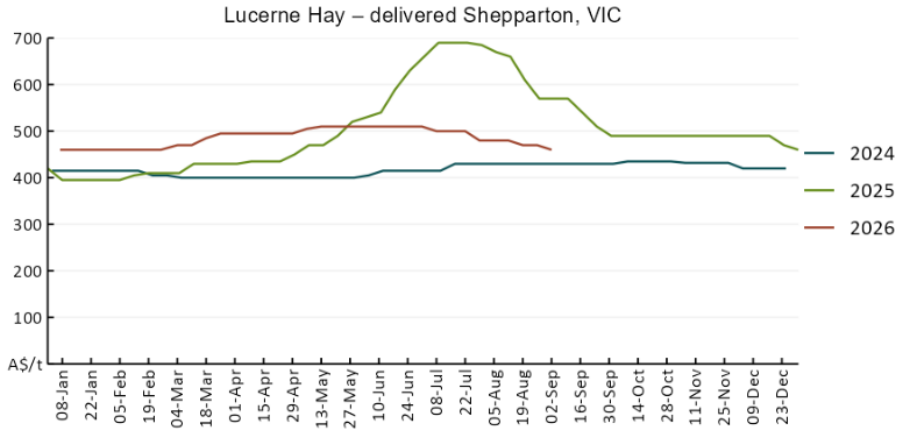

Tomatoes-Gourmet
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
-50%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026
01-07-2026


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
01-07-2026

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.

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