Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

ABARES

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 46/2026 26 November 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 25 November 2026, low-pressure troughs brought storms to much of the east and north. Much of the remainder of Australia was comparatively dry.
  - Many New South Wales cropping regions saw between 10-100 millimetres of rainfall over the period, with lower falls of 5-50 millimetres recorded across much of Queensland and Victorian cropping regions.
  - In Queensland, drier conditions compared to the previous week are expected to facilitate field access for summer crop planting and winter crop harvest activities. However, heavy falls across New South Wales and southern Victoria are likely to have led to harvest delays.
- Over the eight days from 26 November to 3 December 2026, rainfall is forecast across much of the eastern two-thirds of Australia. Much of Western Australia is likely to remain dry.
  - Across eastern cropping regions, falls are expected to be considerable, with falls of up to 100 millimetres across Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria.
  - If realised, these falls are likely to continues to support pasture growth and development of summer crops already in the ground in Queensland and northern New South Wales but are likely to delay the further planting of summer crops. These falls are also likely to further delay winter crop harvest activities and increase the risk of grain quality downgrades due to excess moisture at harvest.
- Despite the strong El Niño, the Bureau of Meteorology's December 2026 to February 2027 outlook indicates below average rainfall is likely be restricted to the northern tropics. Above average rainfall is more likely across parts of eastern and central Australia.
  - If forecast December to February rainfall totals are realised, they are likely to support at least average pasture growth across much of eastern and northern Australia. In Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales, forecast rainfall will aid late summer crop planting opportunities and support the growth and yield potential of early planted summer crops.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 27 gigalitres (GL) between 19 November 2026 and 26 November 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 14,685 GL, equivalent to 66% of total storage capacity. This is 2% or 320 GL more 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 decreased from $279/ML on 12 November 2026 to $255/ML on 19 November 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 closed.

1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

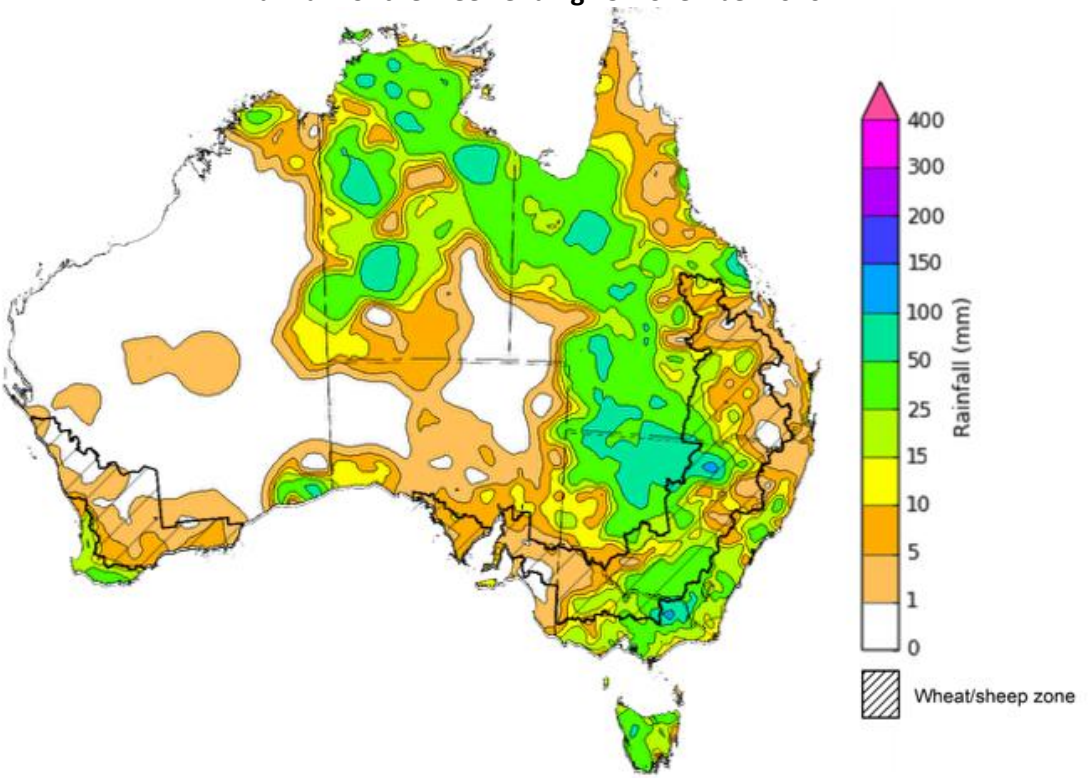
In the week ending 25 November 2026, low-pressure troughs brought storms to much of the east and north. Much of the remainder of Australia was comparatively dry.

- Falls of between 10-100 millimetres were recorded across much of western and parts of eastern Queensland, the north and west of the Northern Territory, much of north-western and south-eastern New South Wales, southern Victoria, and Tasmania.
    - Severe weather has likely disrupted some agricultural activities and caused localised crop damage and losses.
- In contrast, large areas of South Australia, the south of the Northern Territory, isolated areas of eastern Australia, and much of Western Australia recorded little to no rainfall.

Across cropping regions, rainfall outcomes were highly variable.

- Many New South Wales cropping regions saw between 10-100 millimetres of rainfall over the period, with lower falls of 5-50 millimetres recorded across must Queensland and Victorian cropping regions.
    - In Queensland, drier conditions compared to the previous week is expected to facilitate field access for summer crop planting and winter crop harvest activities. However, heavy falls across New South Wales and southern Victoria are likely to have led to harvest delays.
- Falls of between 1-10 millimetres across South Australia and Western Australia are not likely to impede harvest of winter crops.

Rainfall for the week ending 25 November 2026



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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

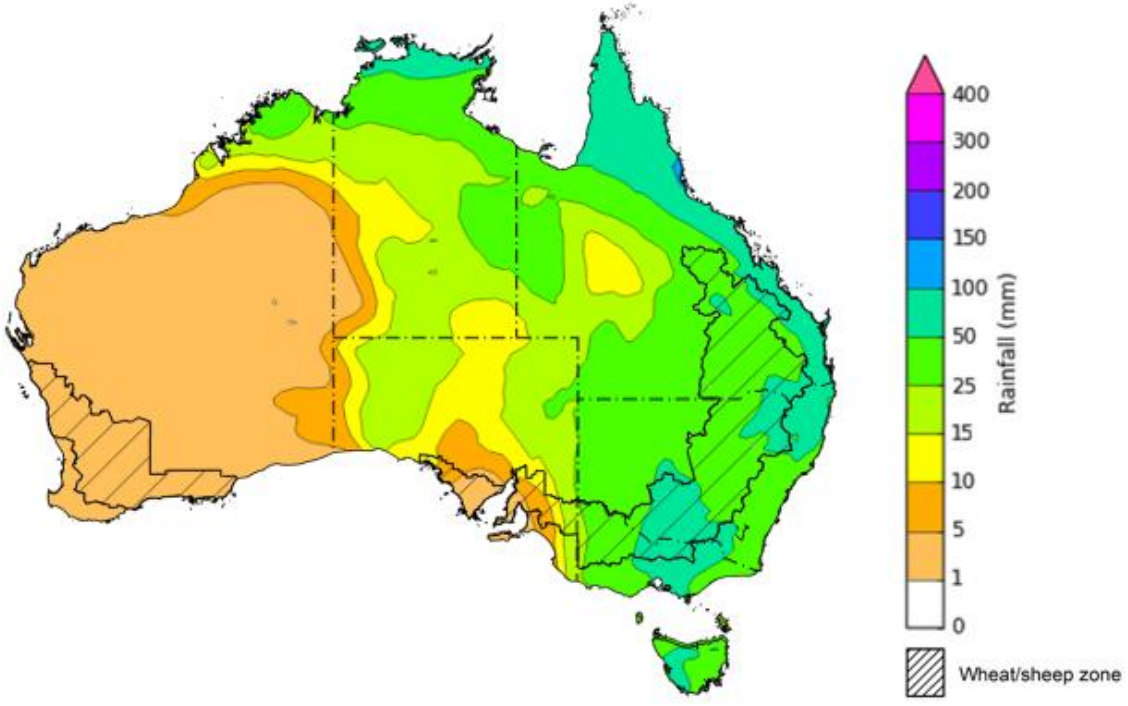
Over the eight days from 26 November to 3 December 2026, rainfall is forecast across much of the eastern two-thirds of Australia. Much of Western Australia is likely to remain comparatively dry.

- Falls of 15-100 millimetres are forecast across much of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, parts of eastern and western South Australia, the far north of Western Australia and most of the Northern Territory.
- Lower falls of 5-15 millimetres are forecast for remain areas in South Australia, the Northern Territory, and parts of central Queensland.
- Little to no rainfall is forecast for much of Western Australia.

Across cropping regions, rainfall over the eight days to 3 December 2026 is forecast to be high in the east, with lower totals expected across the southwest.

- Across eastern cropping regions, falls are expected to be considerable, with falls of up to 100 millimetres across Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria.
    - If realised, these falls are likely to continues to support pasture growth and development of summer crops already in the ground in Queensland and northern New South Wales but are likely to delay the further planting of summer crops. These falls are also likely to further delay winter crop harvest activities and increase the risk of grain quality downgrades due to excess moisture at harvest.
- In Western Australia and most areas of South Australia, lower falls of between 1-10 millimetres are forecast.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 26 November to 4 December 2026



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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

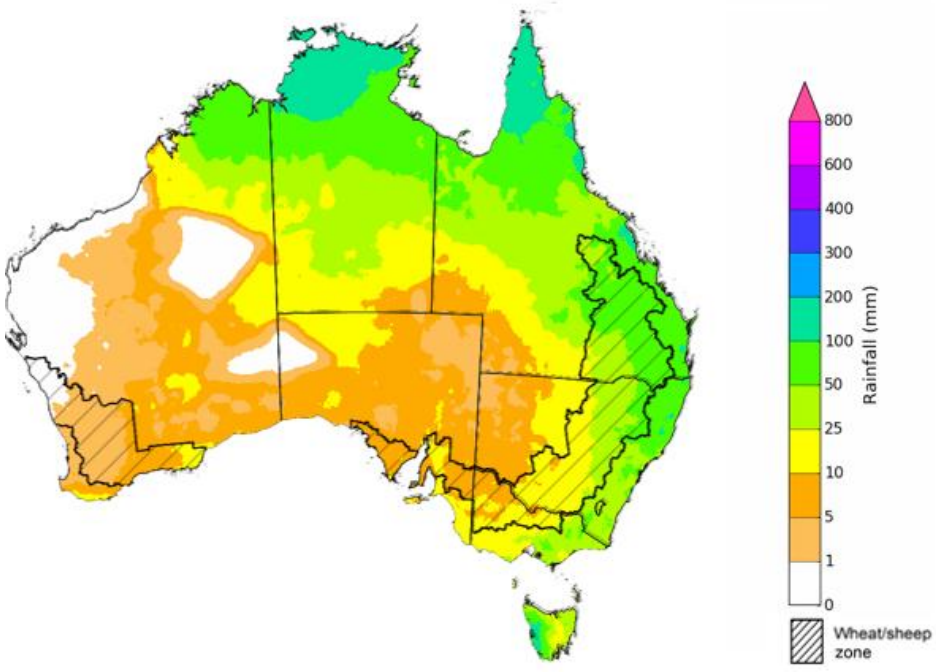
The Bureau of Meteorology indicates that a strong to very strong El Niño is underway in the tropical Pacific. El Niño is likely to continue through summer and into autumn. However, its influence on Australia's rainfall usually reduces around early summer, although rainfall outcomes may vary depending on the strength and interaction of other climate influences. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently positive, while the Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is trending positive and forecast to return to neutral over late November. Sea surface temperatures are forecast to remain warmer than average across much of the globe during December to February, including notably warm waters near south-eastern Australia, increasing the risk of marine heatwave conditions.

The rainfall outlook for December 2026 indicates that below median rainfall is more likely across parts of the northwest and southeast of Australia. Above median rainfall is more likely across much of north-eastern and central Australia, including much of Queensland, north-eastern New South Wales, northern South Australia, , and the south of the Northern Territory. Across remaining areas, the is no strong signal for either wetter or drier conditions for the season, meaning there are roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall. tendency

The Bureau of Meteorology's climate model indicates a 75% chance of December 2026 rainfall totals between 25-200 millimetres across large areas of northern and eastern Australia. Much of southern, central, western Australia is likely to receive 1-25 millimetres of rainfall.

Across cropping regions in Queensland and northern New South Wales, there is a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 10-100 millimetres during December 2026. In southern New South Wales, falls of between 10-50 millimetres are likely, with lower falls of 5-25 millimetres in Victoria and South Australia, and 1-10 millimetres in most of Western Australia. If realised, these expected rainfall totals are likely to support pasture growth across eastern and northern growing regions and provide additional soil moisture to support summer growth and ongoing planting activities across Queensland and northern New South Wales.

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



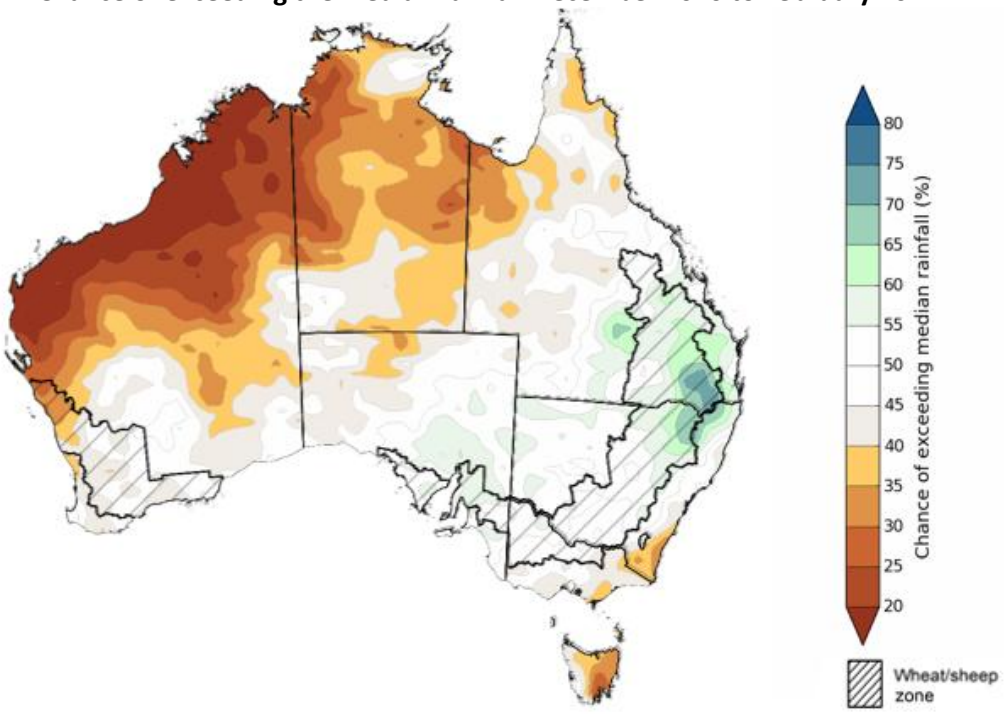
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The rainfall outlook for December 2026 to February 2027 indicates that above average rainfall is more likely across parts of the east and isolated southern areas. Below average rainfall is more likely across much of the northern tropics, including much of northern Western Australia, and the far southeast.

During the December 2026 to February 2027 period, the chance of receiving above median rainfall is highest across cropping regions in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. Meanwhile, remaining cropping regions in Queensland and New South Wales, as well as South Australia, Victoria, and Western Australia have a close to equal chance of above median or below median rainfall, with exceptions in the northwest margins of Western Australia where below median falls were more likely.

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall December 2026 to February 2027



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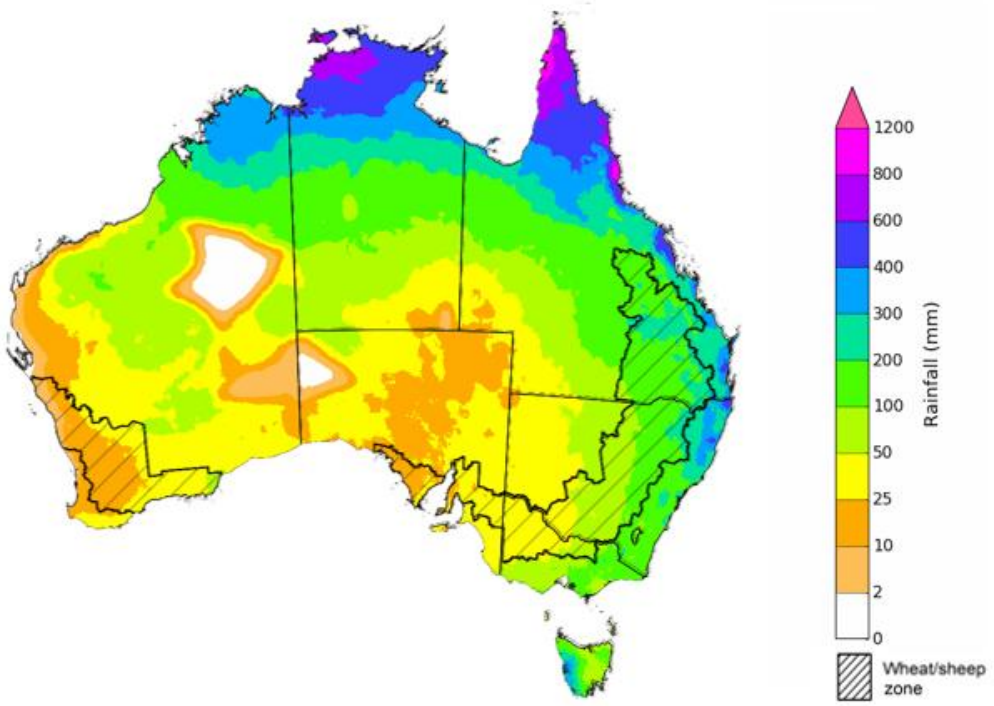
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The rainfall outlook for December 2026 to February 2027 suggests a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 100–400 millimetres across large areas of eastern and northern Australia. Higher falls above 400 millimetres are possible across parts of the northern tropics and scattered eastern coastal regions. Lower rainfall totals are forecast for central and western regions, including much 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 100–300 millimetres across much of Queensland and northern New South Wales, while south-western New South Wales and Victoria are forecast to see 25-100 millimetres. Remaining cropping regions, including Western Australia and South Australia are likely to receive lower totals of 10-50 millimetres.

If these forecast December to February rainfall totals are realised, they are likely to support at least average pasture growth across much of eastern and northern Australia. In Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales, forecast rainfall will aid late summer crop planting opportunities and support the growth and yield potential of early planted summer crops.

Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring December 2026 to February 2027



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2. Water

2.1. Water markets – current week

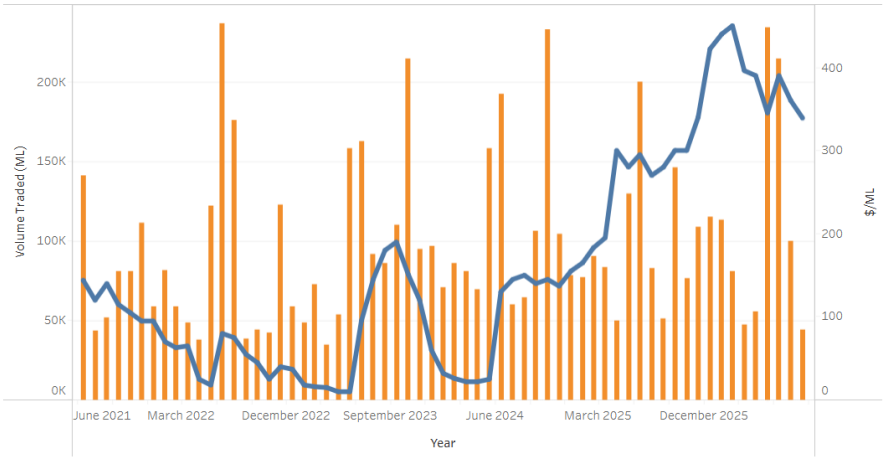
Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 27 gigalitres (GL) between 19 November 2026 and 26 November 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 14,685 GL, equivalent to 66% of total storage capacity. This is 2% or 320 GL more than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).

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



Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke decreased from $255/ML on 19 November 2026 to $218/ML on 26 November 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 closed.

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	170
NSW Murrumbidgee	193
Vic Greater Goulburn	175
Vic Murray Below	218

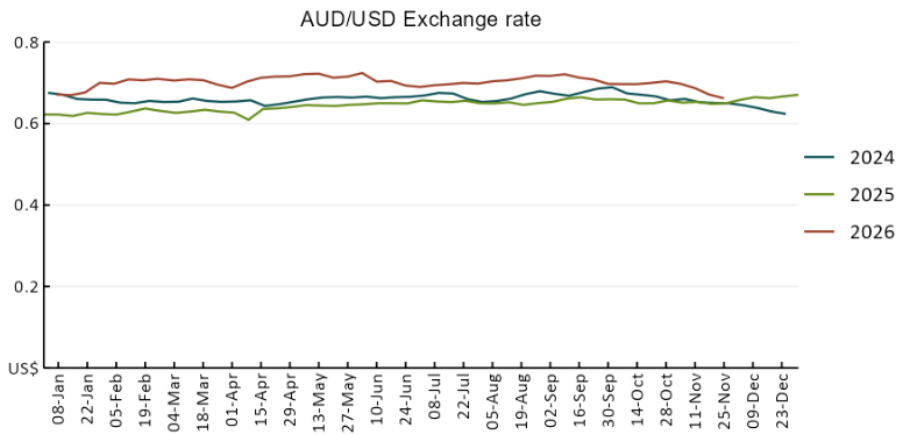
Note: The water allocation prices shown are volume weighted average prices based on the last 10 trades. Price data is sourced from Waterflow and current as at 5 November 2026.

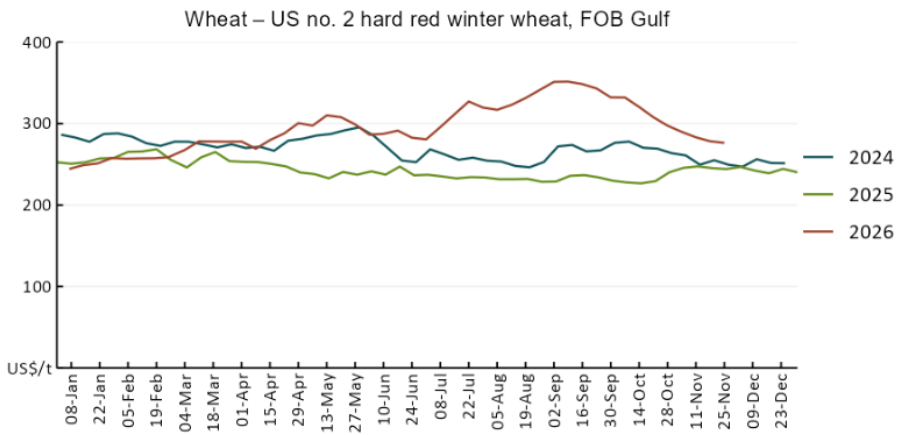
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-261126

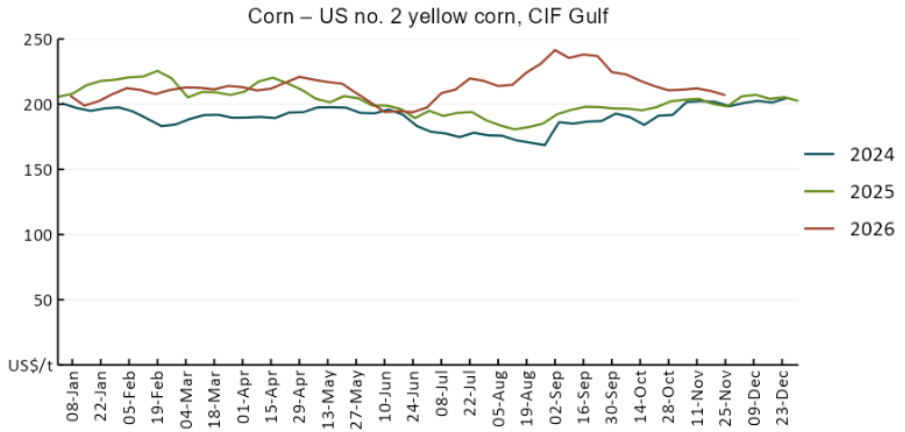
3. Commodities

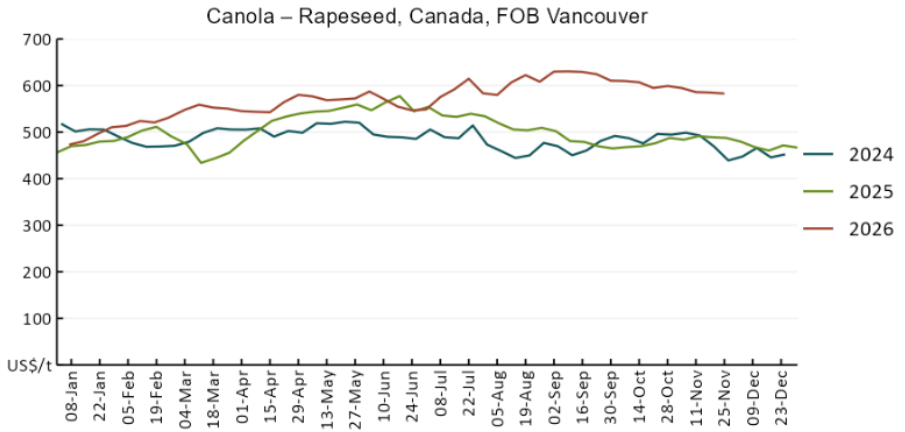
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	25-Nov	A$/US$	0.66	0.67	-1%	0.65	2%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	25-Nov	US$/t	276	278	-1%	246	12%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	25-Nov	US$/t	207	210	-2%	202	3%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	25-Nov	US$/t	583	585	0%	488	19%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	25-Nov	USc/lb	88.8	89.1	0%	75.2	18%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	25-Nov	USc/lb	17.6	17.7	-1%	14.6	20%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	25-Nov	Ac/kg clean	1,769	1,738	2%	1,474	20%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	25-Nov	Ac/kg clean	1,945	1,902	2%	1,637	19%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	25-Nov	A$/t	448	438	2%	373	20%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	25-Nov	A$/t	435	426	2%	370	18%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	25-Nov	A$/t	378	374	1%	348	9%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	25-Nov	A$/t	784	782	0%	820	-4%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	25-Nov	A$/t	462	456	1%	405	14%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	25-Nov	Ac/kg cwt	1,046	1,045	0%	886	18%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	25-Nov	Ac/kg cwt	889	881	1%	741	20%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	25-Nov	Ac/kg cwt	1,142	1,155	-1%	1,132	1%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	18-Nov	Ac/kg cwt	361	361	0%	464	-22%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	11-Nov	Ac/kg lwt	460	460	0%	449	3%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	18-Nov	US$/t	4,081	3,971	3%	3,478	17%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	18-Nov	US$/t	4,187	4,109	2%	2,551	64%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	18-Nov	US$/t	3,815	3,970	-4%	4,389	-13%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	18-Nov	US$/t	4,878	5,306	-8%	6,715	-27%

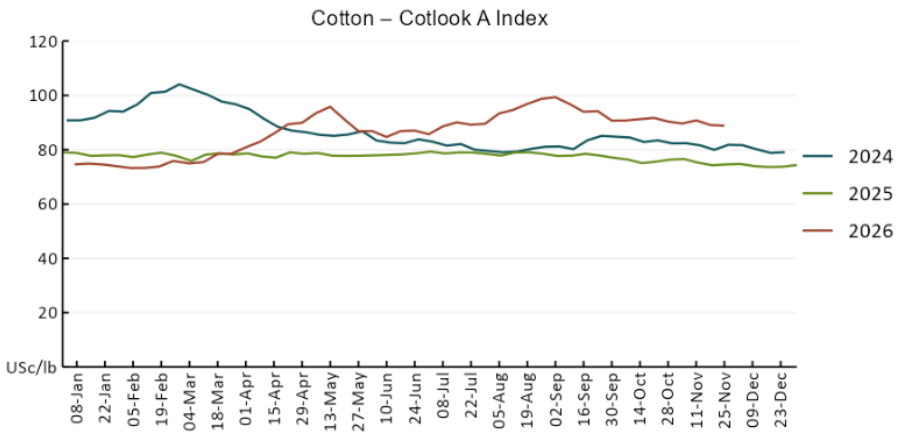
3.1. Selected world indicator prices

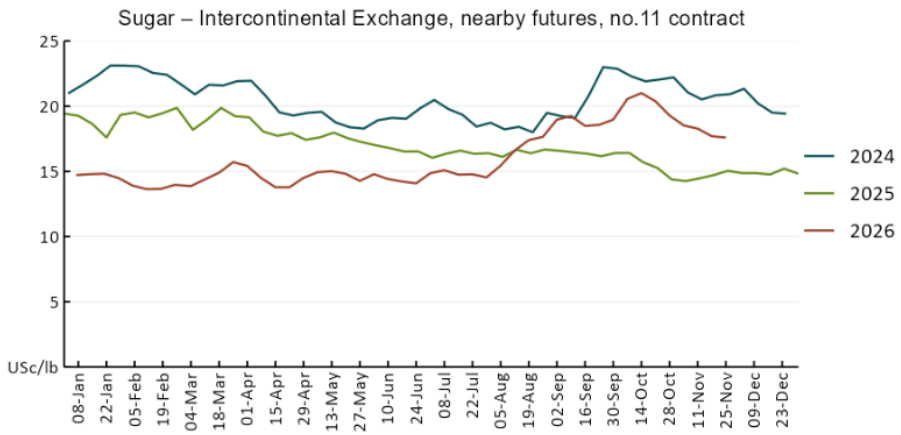


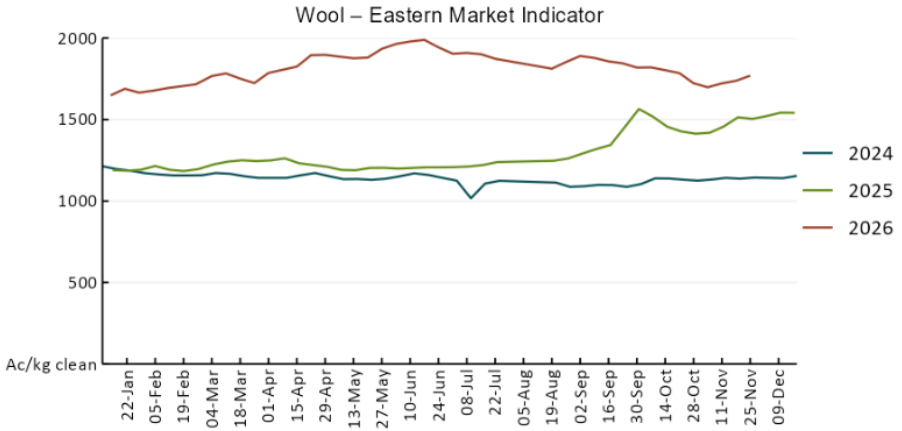


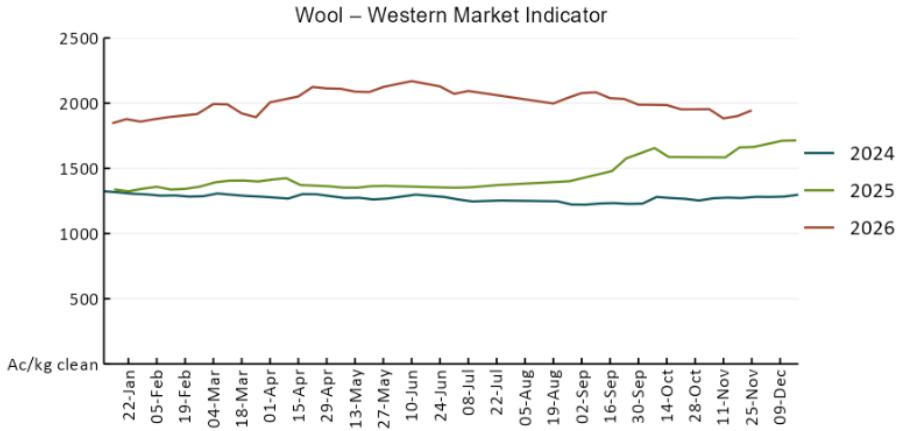




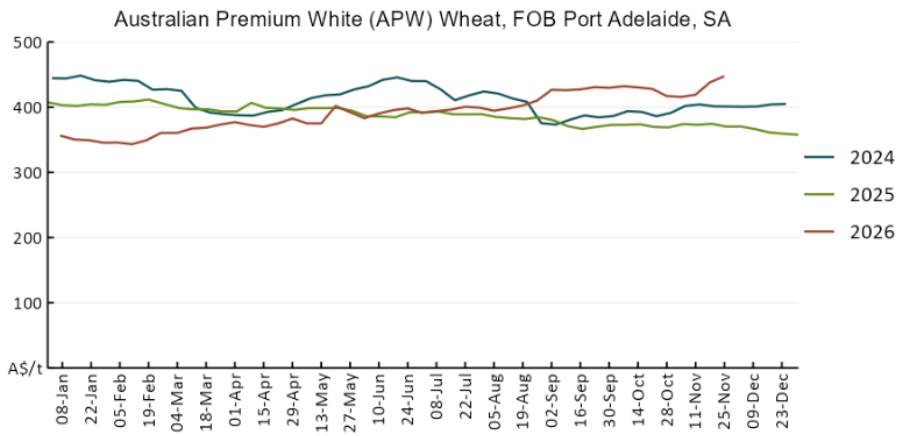

Cotton – Cotlook A Index
120
100
80
60
40
20
USc/lb
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
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23-Dec
2024
2025
2026

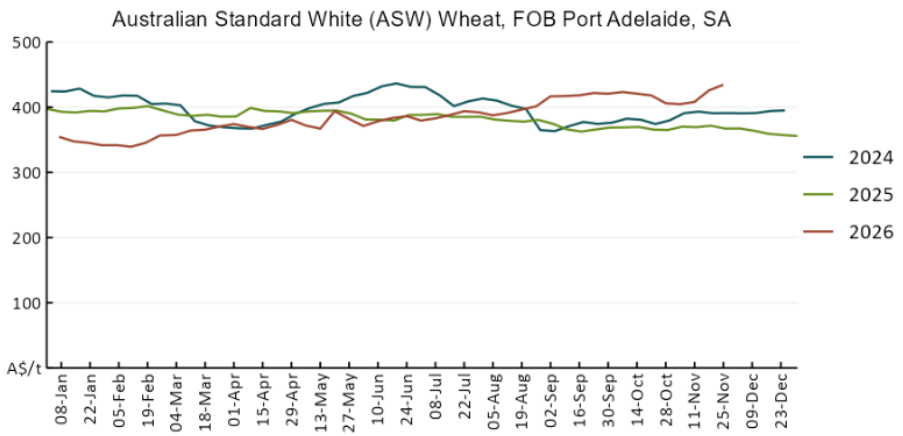

Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract
25
20
15
10
5
USc/lb
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
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23-Dec
2024
2025
2026

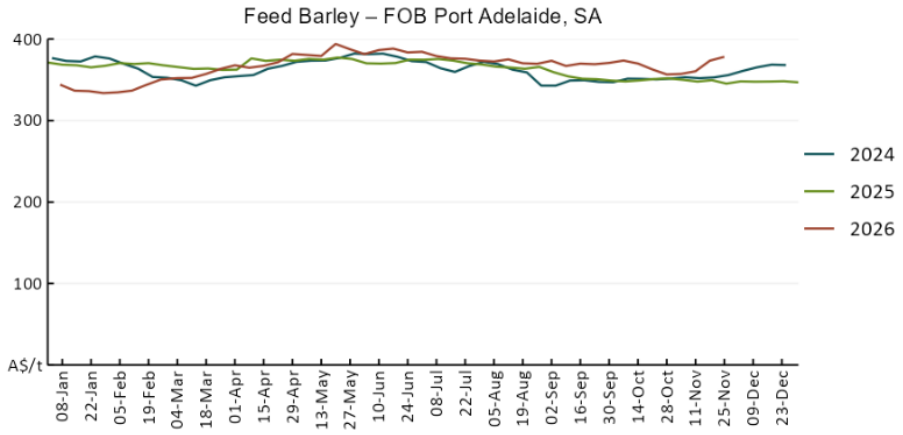

Wool – Eastern Market Indicator
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
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09-Dec
2024
2025
2026

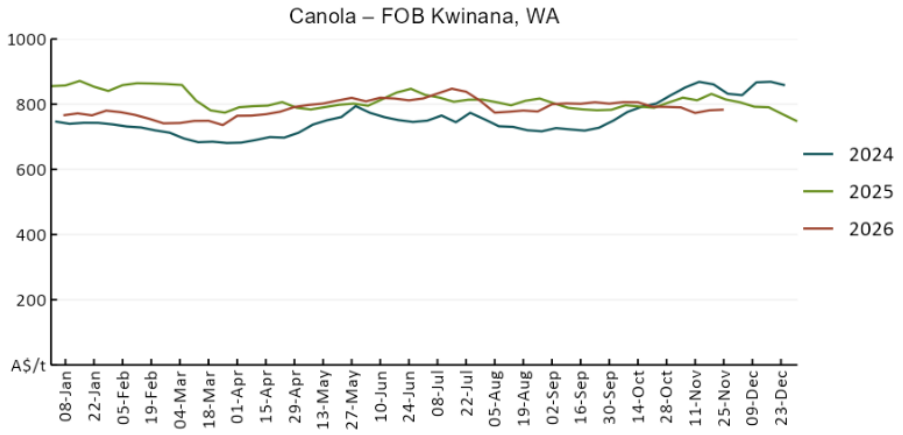

Wool – Western Market Indicator
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
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09-Dec
2024
2025
2026

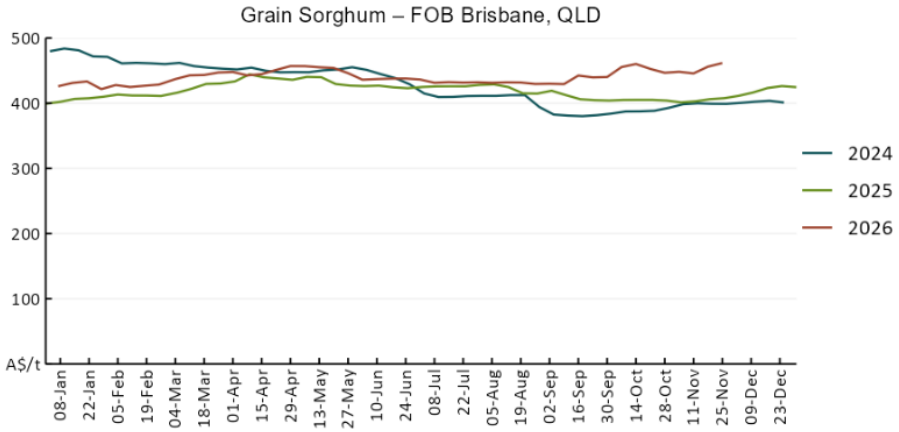
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



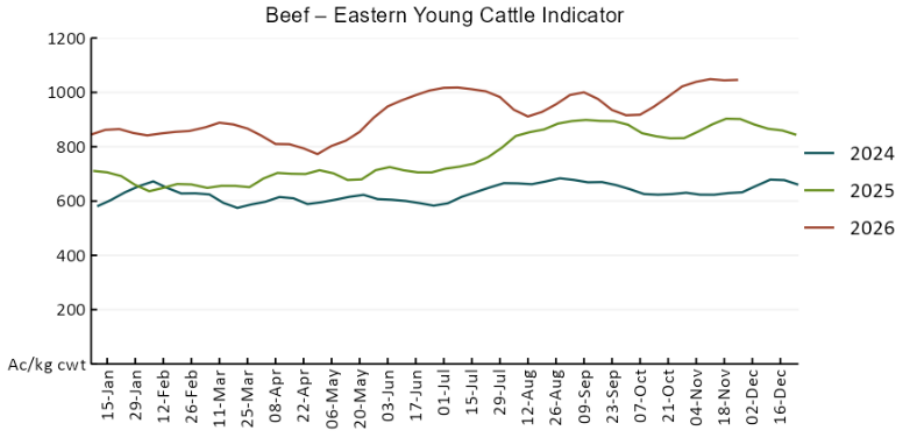


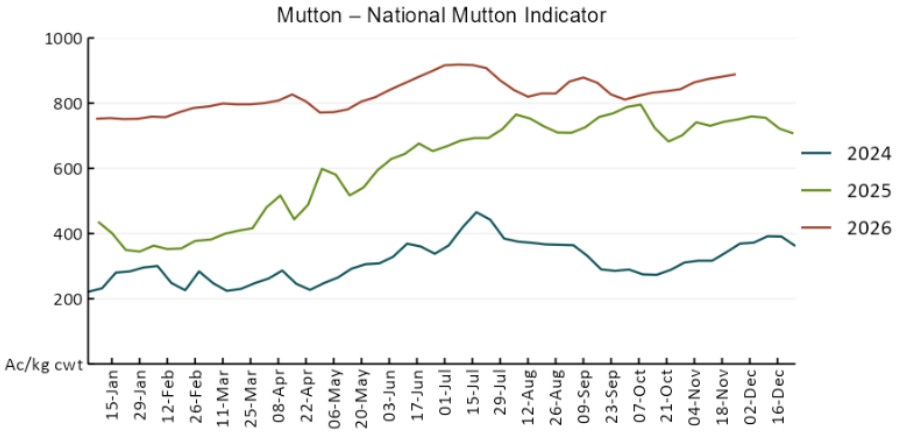


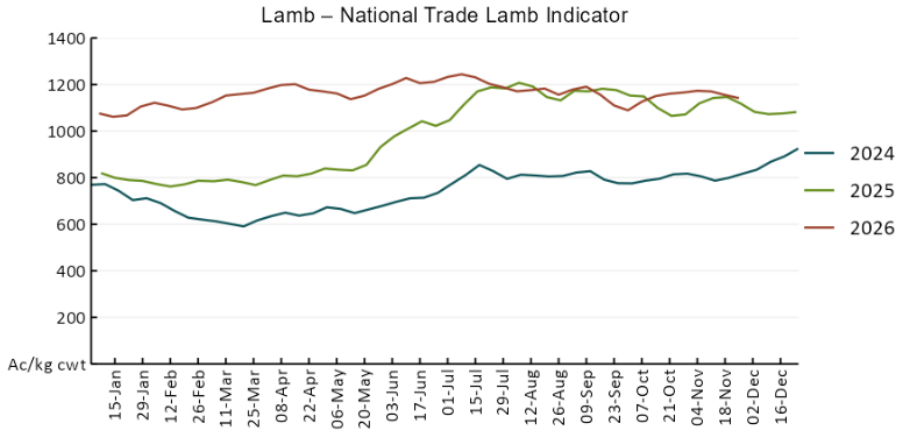


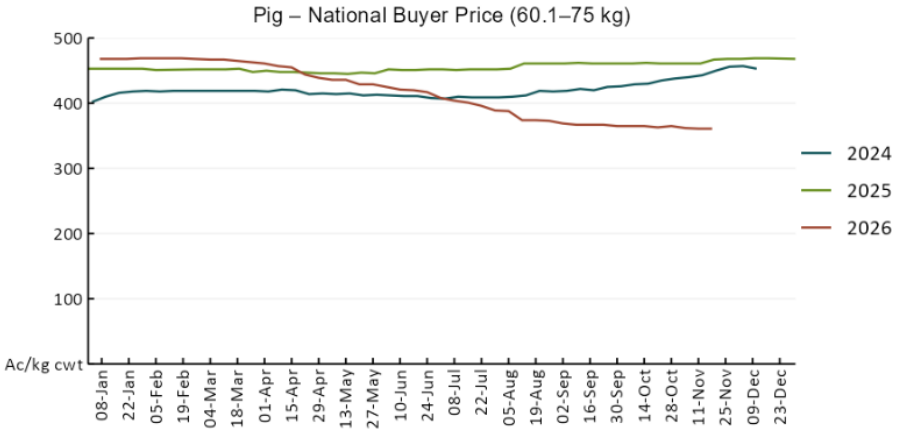

Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD
500
400
300
200
100
A$/t
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
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09-Dec
23-Dec
2024
2025
2026

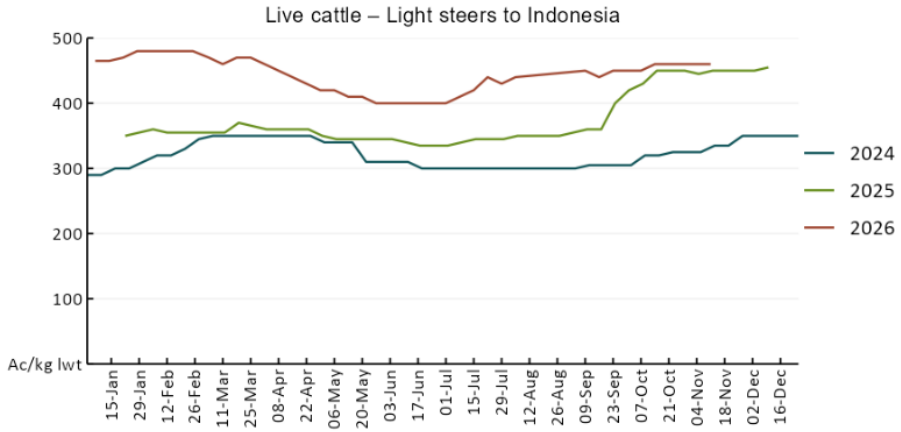
3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices



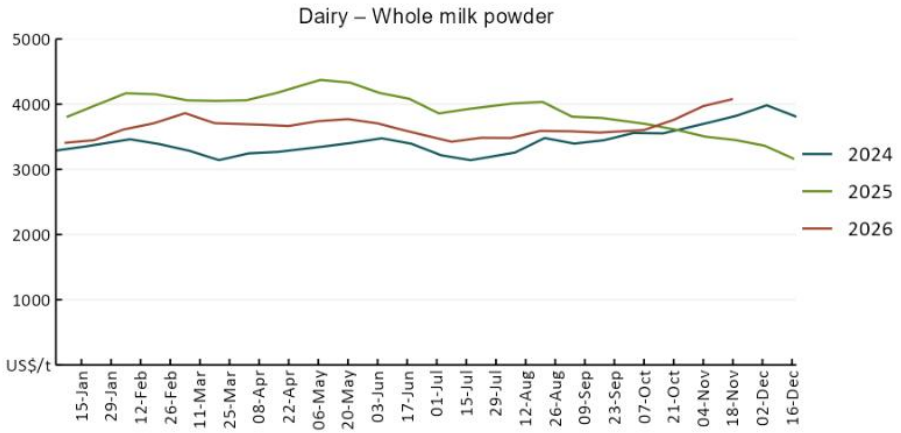


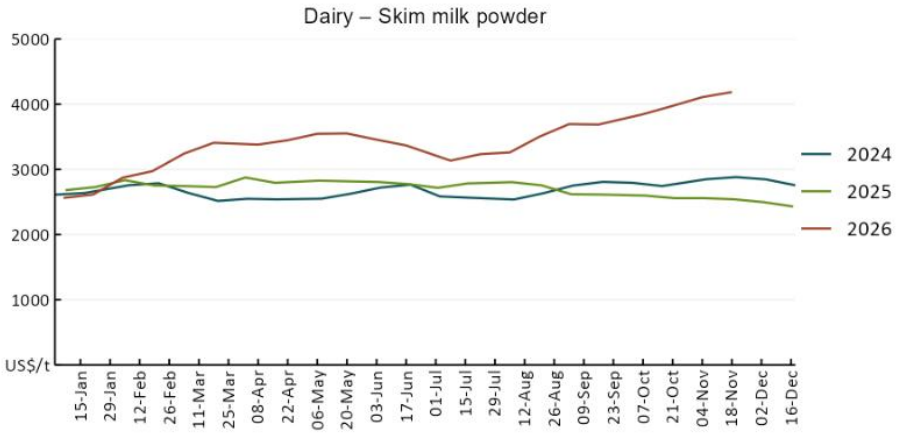


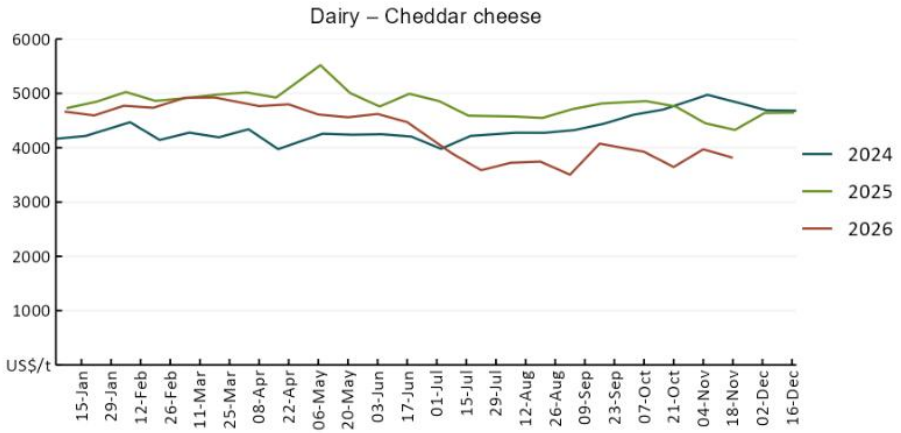


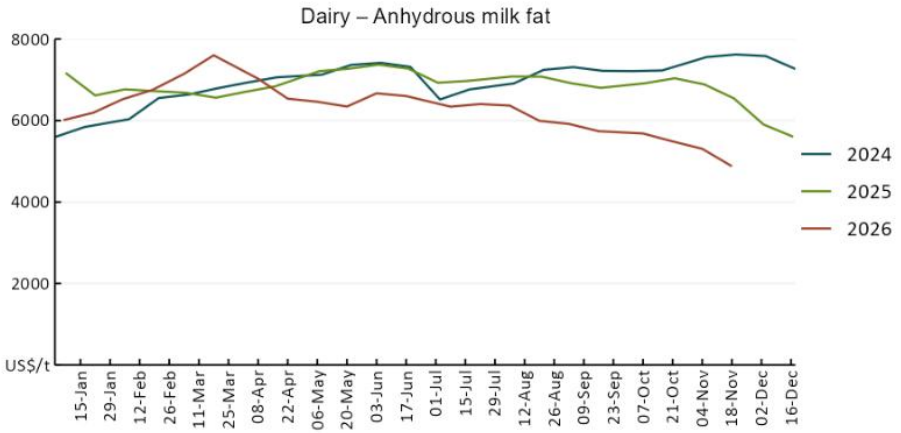

Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia
500
400
300
200
100
Ac/kg lwt
15-Jan
29-Jan
12-Feb
26-Feb
11-Mar
25-Mar
08-Apr
22-Apr
06-May
20-May
03-Jun
17-Jun
01-Jul
15-Jul
29-Jul
12-Aug
26-Aug
09-Sep
23-Sep
07-Oct
21-Oct
04-Nov
18-Nov
02-Dec
16-Dec
2024
2025
2026

3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

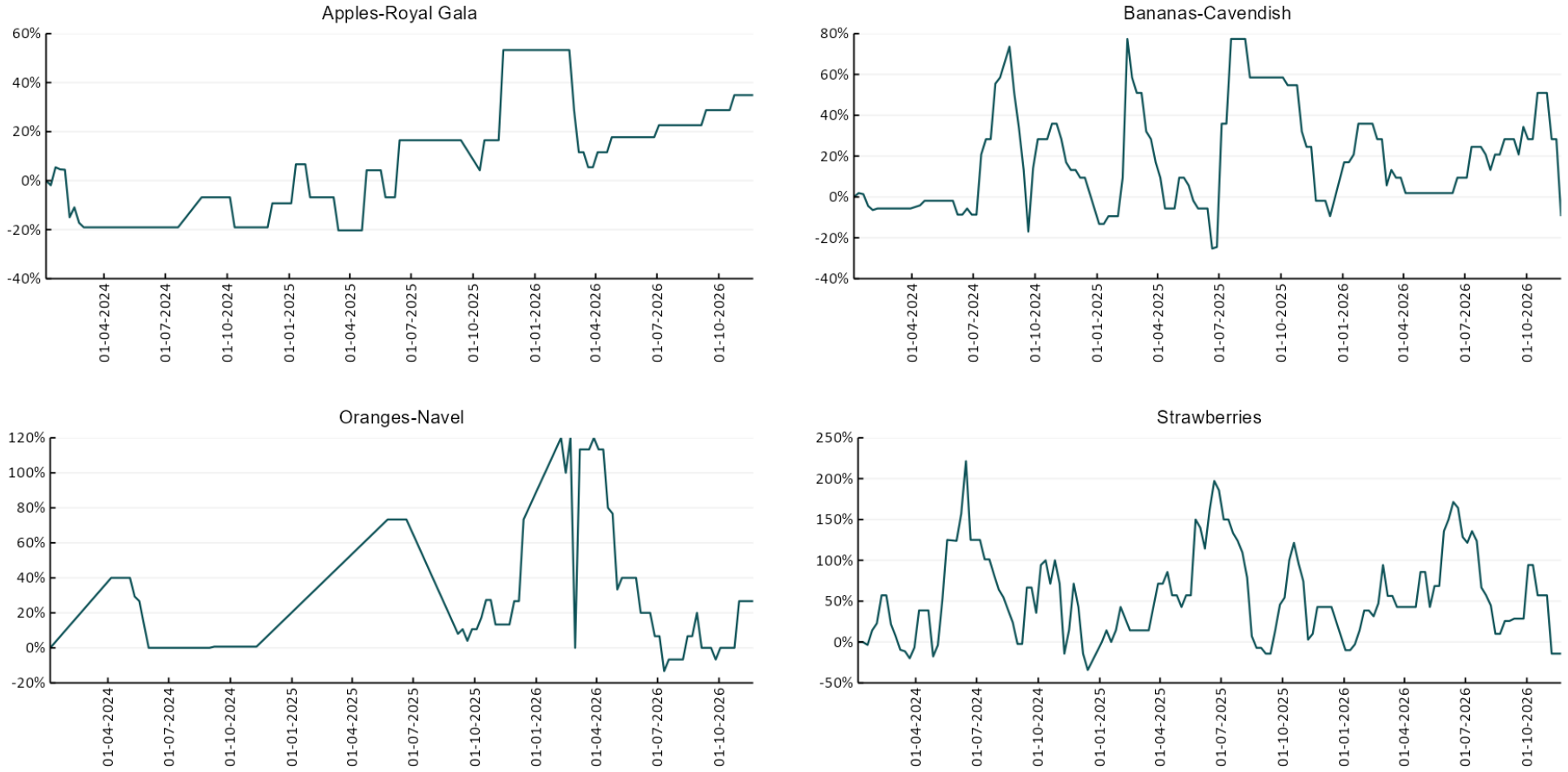


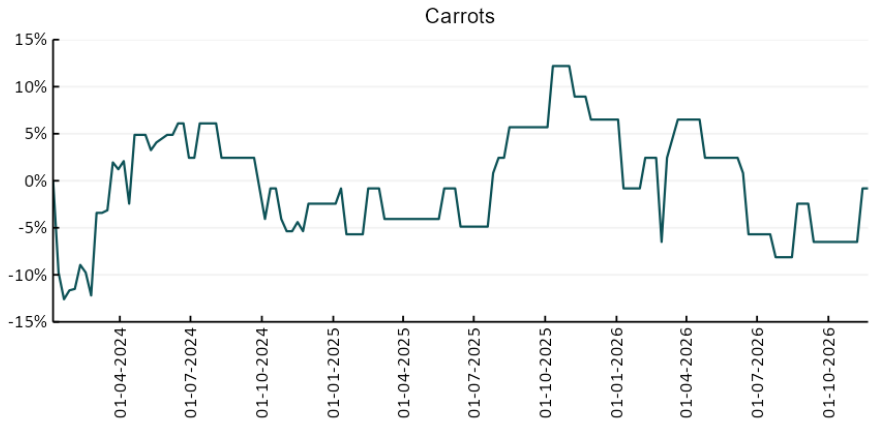


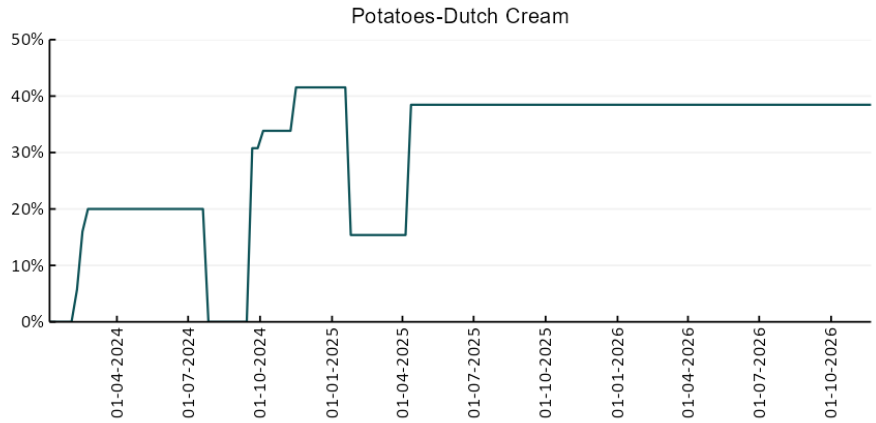


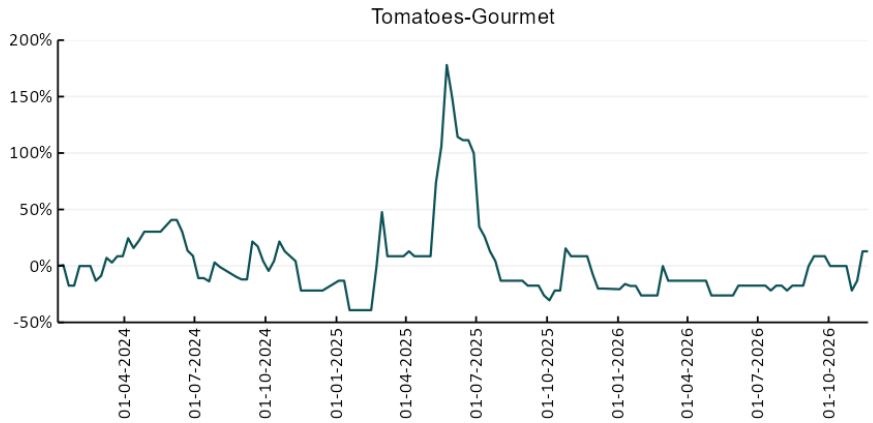


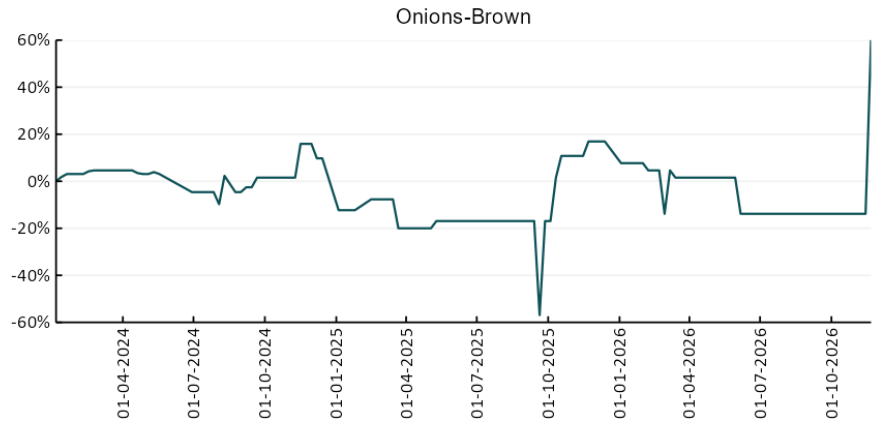
3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices



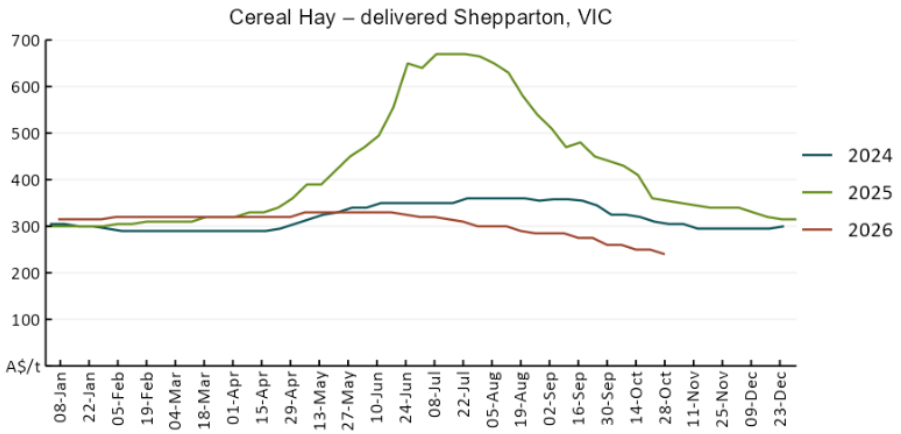

Carrots
15%
10%
5%
0%
-5%
-10%
-15%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026
01-07-2026
01-10-2026

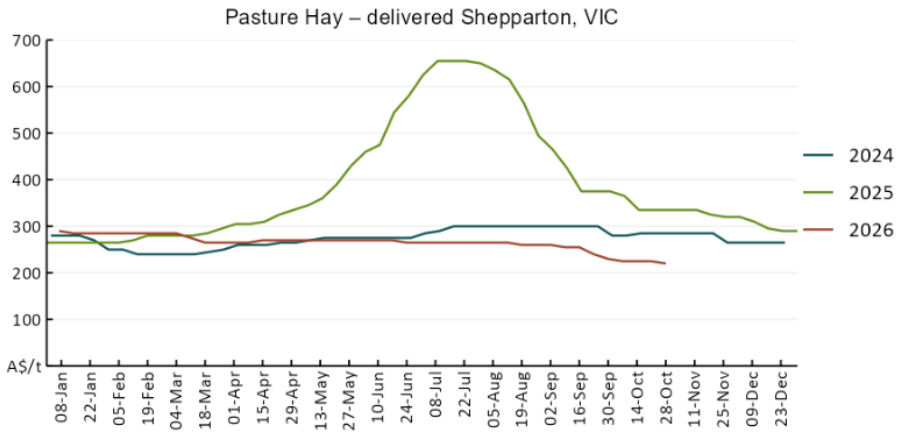

Potatoes-Dutch Cream
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026
01-07-2026
01-10-2026

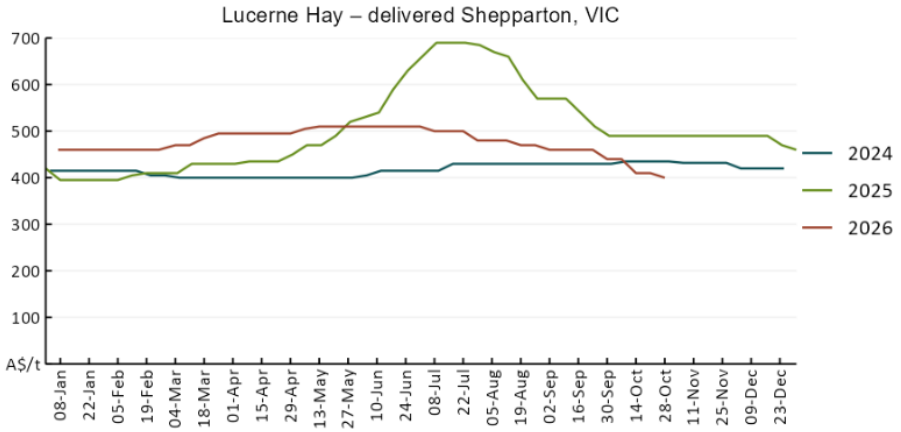

Tomatoes-Gourmet
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
-50%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026
01-07-2026
01-10-2026


Onions-Brown
60%
40%
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
01-10-2026

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) project 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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