

* * MEDIA RELEASE * *

Monday 13th August

Australian Crop Conditions Slip into August

The WA Department of Agriculture August yield prediction model supports what many would have already suspected. Qld and NSW are finding the going tough as the season progresses, while there has been some respite in WA.

According to ProFarmer Managing Director Richard Koch, 'conditions still suggest that Australia will struggle to achieve an above-average crop size this year'. At the beginning of July, 67% of Australian grain growing regions were rated fair to very good; at the beginning of August, this figure has fallen away to 59%.

Queensland

Things are looking sad in Qld, with little to encourage crops in the past month. In July, 63% of crops were rated fair to very good. Now, only 31% of regions achieve this rating (essentially CQ), even falling below the 43% of August 2006. 'Areas along the NSW border are taking the worst hits; many are looking at a poor crop', added Mr Koch.

New South Wales

A similar tale, yet less daunting, can be told for NSW. Similar to Qld, the northern border region has dropped away, as have regions around the upper Murrumbidgee, while regions in central NSW are enjoying the best going. NSW regions rated fair to very good dropped from 70% in July to 56% in August.

Victoria and South Australia

The large majority of grain growers in Victoria and South Australia are still smiling into August. 'The south-east and Murray regions are arguably experiencing the best conditions in Australia', commented Mr Koch.

Regions rated fair and above in Vic fell slightly, from 86% to 79% in the past month, and in SA, from 88% to 83%. Farmers on the Eyre Peninsula are looking for a bit more rain to maintain an average crop.

Western Australia

Despite the recent rains enjoyed by most of WA in the past month, the crop will be limited by the late breaking rains. It may come as little consolation that WA is the only state to record a positive shift in yield rankings in the past month (mainly due to an improvement through the southern cropping corridor).

Compared to 38% last month, 44% of WA is currently rated fair and above. Mr Koch notes that 'this may look like a minor shift but in August 2006, only 8% of crops were rated fair and above.'

AUSTRALIAN CROP CONDITIONS										
	V Poor (0-30%)*		Poor (31%-50%)		Fair (51%-70%)		Good (71%-90%)		V Good (91%+)	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
QLD	11**	40 (14)	46	29 (23)	37	14 (29)	6	17 (34)	0	0 (0)
NSW	16	12 (7)	33	32 (23)	32	40 (22)	16	15 (45)	3	1 (3)
VIC	26	0 (2)	23	21 (12)	21	31 (38)	28	43 (41)	2	5 (7)
SA	8	3 (2)	39	14 (10)	21	37 (38)	29	43 (47)	3	3 (3)
WA	47	36 (42)	45	20 (20)	4	10 (9)	4	31 (20)	0	3 (9)
Aust.	23	18 (15)	37	23 (18)	22	27 (25)	16	29 (37)	2	3 (5)

State averages = simple average of yield rankings across cropping shires; i.e., not weighted by production
National averages = simple average of state yield rankings; i.e., not weighted by production
*Estimated yield ranking; i.e., 30 = model estimates that this year's crop will rank #30 out of 100 years of adjusted yields (with 1 being the lowest and 100 the highest yield; yields are adjusted for productivity improvements).
**In QLD, 14% of shires measured have model generated yield rankings between 0-30. () = July 2007 ranking

To view maps of 2007 predicted shire wheat yields for Western and Eastern Australia and comparative maps from the 2006 and 2005 seasons, go to our website www.profarmer.com.au to take a FREE four-week trial.

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Background Information:

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